

OHCHR's approach to field work

Background

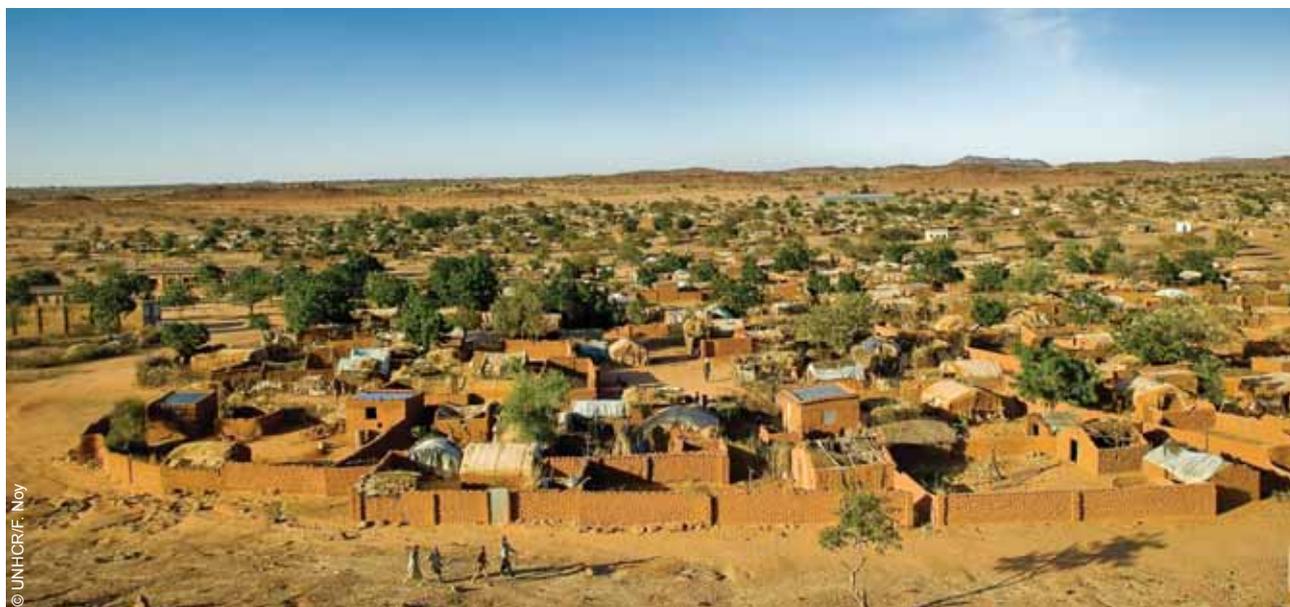
Supporting the work of human rights field presences is the main function of OHCHR's Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division (FOTCD), in cooperation with other parts of the Office.

Based on dialogue with national counterparts, the Office's activities at country level (through headquarters or field presences) focus on the promotion and protection of human rights, including by preventing and reducing human rights violations. This occurs mainly through strengthening national protection systems which involves ensuring that government authorities are aware of their human rights obligations and supporting them in their implementation and by designing effective remedies to overcome obstacles to the realization of human rights. Through its programmes in the field, OHCHR likewise seeks to ensure that national authorities and civil society actors have the capacity to address human rights concerns and are better informed about international human rights standards and how to translate these into laws, regulations and policies so that rights-holders are better protected and empowered. In particular, OHCHR supports efforts to establish or strengthen justice and accountability mechanisms at the national level, including through strengthened monitoring and investigation and redress of violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

In 2012, OHCHR discontinued its operations in Nepal and the Great Lakes and established a new country office in Yemen (March) and a new Human Rights Adviser (HRA) in the Maldives (November). The new Regional Office for North Africa opened in June 2012, temporarily conducting operations from Tunisia. A new peace mission with a human rights component in Syria was operational from May to August 2012. The peace mission in Timor-Leste was closed at the end of 2012 and OHCHR plans to deploy a Human Rights Adviser within the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Timor-Leste during the course of 2013. The deployment of human rights advisers to Malawi and Mali are also envisaged for 2013. At the end of 2012, OHCHR was running or supporting 59 field presences and supported other members of the UN family through rapid deployment.

Types of field presences

OHCHR field presences fall into two categories: stand-alone presences and collaborative arrangements. The first category comprises those offices under the direct supervision of OHCHR, namely country and regional offices. The second category comprises field presences with double reporting lines, namely, human rights components of peace or political missions who report to the head of the mission and the High Commissioner, and human



rights advisers in UNCTs who report to the UN Resident Coordinator and the High Commissioner. The decision to establish an OHCHR country or regional presence is made with the concerned government, taking into account the overall human rights situation, security considerations, the presence and role of other international actors on the ground, as well as available human and financial resources, administrative arrangements and the scope of activities to be undertaken.

Country and stand-alone Offices

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

OHCHR has 13 country or stand-alone offices which are comprised of 12 country offices in Bolivia, Cambodia, Colombia, Guatemala, Guinea, Mauritania, Mexico, State of Palestine¹, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Yemen and one stand-alone office in Kosovo.²

Regional Offices and Centres

Regional offices are similarly established on the basis of an agreement with a host government and in consultation with other countries in the region. These offices focus on cross-cutting regional human rights concerns and play an important role in supporting governments in their engagement with the UN human rights mechanisms (treaty bodies, special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review). They work closely with regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations and civil society. Regional offices complement the expertise of OHCHR country offices by providing support on institutional and thematic issues.

In addition to the regional offices, OHCHR has regional centres that are established in accordance

with a General Assembly resolution and are imbued with a specific mandate. Regional offices and centres are funded by the UN regular budget and voluntary contributions.

OHCHR has 13 regional presences which include 10 regional offices in East Africa (Addis Ababa), Southern Africa (Pretoria), West Africa (Dakar), South-East Asia (Bangkok), the Pacific (Suva), the Middle East (Beirut), Central Asia (Bishkek), Europe (Brussels), Central America (Panama City), South America (Santiago de Chile), a subregional centre for human rights and democracy for Central Africa (Yaoundé) and a Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha). The new Regional Office for North Africa has temporarily been conducting its activities from Tunisia.

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

OHCHR supports human rights components of peacekeeping and political missions by providing strategic and expert advice, technical assistance, operational support and day-to-day backstopping on human rights issues. In this context, the Office participates in interdepartmental technical assessment missions for the design, establishment and reconfiguration of peace missions. Additionally, OHCHR contributes, through its voluntary contributions, to the implementation of technical cooperation activities and projects.

While most of the human rights staff in peace missions are contracted by the Department of Field Support and report to the peace missions, the Head of a human rights component acts as the representative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the country and has a dual reporting line, both to the Head of the Mission and to the High Commissioner. In accordance with UN Security Council Mandates, typical functions of a human rights component may include:

- ▶ Monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation and investigating human rights violations;
- ▶ Advocating for peace processes to be inclusive, addressing past human rights violations and protecting and promoting human rights;
- ▶ Integrating human rights in legislative and institutional reforms, including the rule of law and security sectors reforms;

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

² References to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population shall be understood in the context of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

- ▶ Preventing and redressing violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, with a focus on the protection of civilians;
- ▶ Building human rights capacities and institutions; and
- ▶ Mainstreaming human rights into all UN programmes and activities.

Fifteen UN peace missions have a human rights component and incorporate human rights promotion and protection into their mandated work, namely in: Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iraq, Liberia, Libya, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan (Darfur) and Timor-Leste.

Human Rights Advisers in UN Country Teams

Human rights advisers are deployed at the request of UN Resident Coordinators on behalf of the UNCTs. Advisers support and assist the Resident Coordinators, Heads of UN agencies and members of UNCTs to integrate human rights in their programming strategies and implementation and build and strengthen national human rights capacities. Other functions include:

- ▶ Advising and providing training to independent national human rights institutions and other stakeholders;
- ▶ Advising duty-bearers on how to promote UN normative values;
- ▶ Building networks with, and providing practical support to, civil society actors;
- ▶ Providing operational support to human rights training and/or national capacity-building activities; and
- ▶ When applicable, advising on integrating human rights in humanitarian response and post-crisis recovery processes.

Human rights advisers are normally funded through extrabudgetary contributions. In some instances, cost-sharing agreements have been concluded with UNDP or relevant UNCTs and other UN entities at the country level.

In 2012, new HRA positions were funded through a Multi-Partner Trust Fund established under the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism (UNDG-HRM) chaired by OHCHR, to respond to the requests from Resident Coordinators and UNCTs. In January 2012, the UNDG endorsed a strategy for the deployment of human rights advisers and in December three new deployments were approved by the UNDG-HRM.

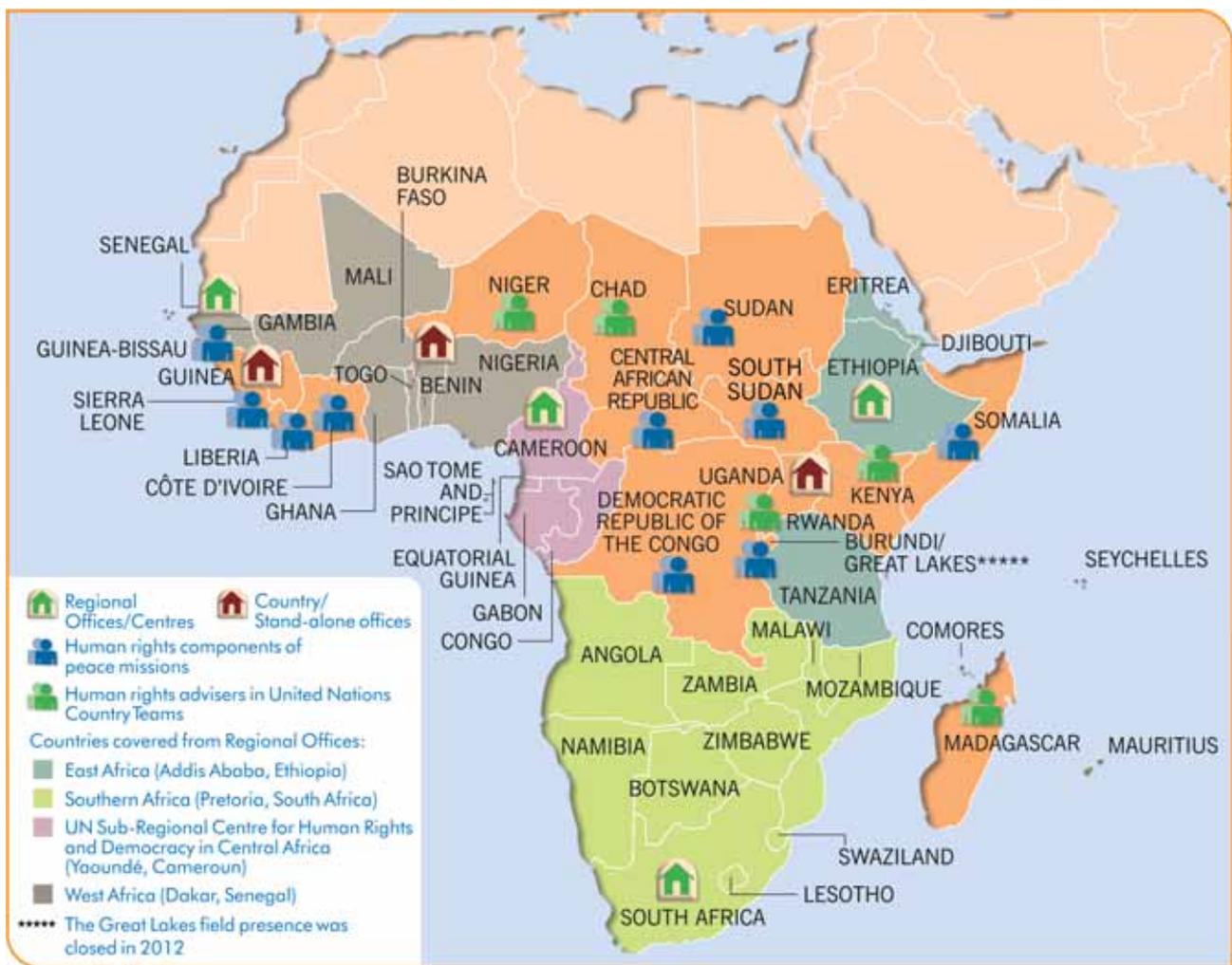
New requests were reviewed by the UNDG-HRM in early 2013.

OHCHR has 18 human rights advisers in Chad, Ecuador, Honduras, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Serbia, Sri Lanka, the Southern Caucasus (based in Tbilisi and covering Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia), Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine. The recruitment of three new HRAs for Timor-Leste, Malawi and Mali is underway.

Engagement in Humanitarian Action

At the global level, OHCHR integrates human rights considerations and advocates for the adoption of a human rights-based approach into the strategies and policies of humanitarian initiatives through its engagement in a number of inter-agency mechanisms. These include the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), particularly its Principals and Working Group and its subsidiary bodies, such as the IASC Sub-Working Group on Preparedness and Contingency Planning, and the Humanitarian Coordinators Group, as well as the Global Protection Cluster Working Group and its Protection Capacity Steering Committee (ProCap). At the field level, as a member of Humanitarian Country Teams and Protection Clusters, OHCHR is increasingly involved in humanitarian preparedness and response activities in both conflict crises and natural disasters, including by participating in the development of Common Humanitarian Action Plans, Flash Appeals and Consolidated Appeals Processes (CAPs). OHCHR's participation in CAPs has benefited from more coordinated support from headquarters and streamlining within budgetary and strategic planning processes. In addition, OHCHR continued to lead Protection Clusters in complex and challenging situations, including Haiti, the Pacific (jointly with UNHCR) and the State of Palestine. OHCHR has recently taken on leadership of the Protection Cluster in Mauritania. Beyond Protection Cluster leadership, OHCHR is actively engaged in field Protection Clusters (formally established or de facto) in Afghanistan, Chad, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, South Sudan, Sri Lanka and Uganda. Six regional offices participate in regional protection mechanisms and/or Protection Clusters in countries under their purview: Central America, Central Asia, the Pacific, Southern Africa, South-East Asia and West Africa. OHCHR continues to work on the implementation of the office-wide Strategy and Four-Year Action Plan on Engagement in Humanitarian Action.

OHCHR in the field: Africa



Type of presence	Location
Country offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guinea Togo 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"> Burundi (BNUB) Central African Republic (BINUCA) Côte d'Ivoire (ONUCI) Darfur (UNAMID) Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) Liberia (UNMIL) Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) Somalia (UNPOS) South Sudan (UNMISS)
Human rights advisers in UN Country Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chad Great Lakes Region (Bujumbura)***** Kenya Madagascar Niger Rwanda

***** Closed in 2012

OHCHR's work in Africa continued in a particularly challenging environment. While progress towards democratization and the consolidation of human rights mechanisms took place in some countries and at the subregional level, a number of serious crises in other places required a response from the Office. The crisis in Mali and the Sahel, as well as the deterioration of the security and the human rights situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), are particularly gruelling examples.

OHCHR continued to support governments, civil society and other actors in responding to the numerous challenges and threats to the enjoyment of human rights, including violence against civilians; discrimination, notably on the basis of gender, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation; attacks against public liberties, in particular in the context of elections; and the absence of the rule of law. State responses to challenges linked to the enjoyment of economic and social rights have often been insufficient and have failed to take into account human rights principles. OHCHR field presences in Africa have been working to support the fight against impunity and strengthen the rule of law, with

a particular focus on transitional justice. Through this support, several countries have taken important steps to advance transitional justice and address the legacy of past violations. While these are welcome steps, the progress is slow and their impact will have to be measured over time.

Progress towards the strengthening of regional and subregional human rights and justice institutions continued in 2012. The Office has, in particular, encouraged greater interaction between the international human rights mechanisms and the African regional human rights system. At the same time, efforts continued towards strengthening national human rights institutions and promoting greater compliance with the Paris Principles. Results are mixed, however, as some leading institutions on the continent faced important challenges to becoming operationally effective. Governments maintained their engagement with OHCHR and the treaty body system resulting in the achievement of some progress on reporting-related requirements. The Universal Periodic Review process raised the profile of human rights issues among many States, United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) and civil society actors resulting in increased requests for support. The Human Rights Council created a new special procedures mandate on Eritrea.

In 2012, OHCHR maintained 23 field presences in Africa: four regional offices (West, Central, East and Southern Africa); three country offices (Guinea, Togo, and Uganda); seven Human Rights Advisers within UNCTs (Chad, Great Lakes Secretariat, Burundi, Kenya, Madagascar, Niger and Rwanda); and 10 human rights components within UN peace missions (Burundi, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, the Republic of South Sudan, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Sudan/Darfur). OHCHR also provided support to the UN Office in West Africa (UNOWA). In an effort to rationalize its presences on the continent, the Office decided to discontinue the Human Rights Adviser position supporting the Great Lakes Secretariat and instead provided support to the Great Lakes Process at the country level through its other presences in this subregion, notably Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, DRC and Rwanda. In addition, OHCHR deployed a Human Rights Officer to the Resident Coordinator's Office in Mali in August to support the UN response to the crisis. A decision was made to establish a Human Rights Adviser position in Malawi to assist during the transition period.

From headquarters, the Africa Branch provided substantive, technical and administrative support

to all presences. It also supported the work of the Independent Experts on the human rights situations in Côte d'Ivoire, Somalia, Sudan and the newly established mandate on Eritrea. The Branch facilitated meetings between the Heads of field presences (HoFPs) at the subregional level in West, Central and East Africa. These gatherings helped the HoFPs to work together as a team to achieve Office priorities in the region. The Branch provided support to various missions of OHCHR Senior Management which, in some instances, led to tangible results in increasing States' compliance with human rights.

Country Offices

Guinea (Conakry)

Year established	2010
Staff as of 31 December 2012	15
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 2,959,992

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ Civil society actors submitted comments on a bill to establish an independent national human rights institution (NHRI) to the National Transitional Council. The Government formally committed to review the bill which is now awaiting promulgation. The OHCHR Office in Guinea undertook advocacy and provided legal advice to national authorities and non-State entities with a view to finalizing and promulgating the bill and promoted the establishment of a civil society thematic group to follow-up on the process. The Government failed to expedite the establishment process due to the political instability and its impact on the completion of institutional reforms.
- ▶ In the area of law enforcement, security forces began to apply international human rights standards in the performance of their functions, particularly in relation to crowd control during public demonstrations, investigation techniques and law enforcement procedures. As a result of training programmes led by OHCHR, UNDP and ICRC on human rights protection, monitoring and advocacy activities, the police and gendarmerie reduced the use of lethal weapons during public demonstrations which resulted in a decrease in the number of reported casualties and arbitrary arrests. The Office observed that a greater majority of law enforcement officers carried truncheons rather than lethal weapons during

demonstrations and the number of documented injuries due to the use of weapons decreased from 36 in 2010 to 18 in 2012.

- ▶ OHCHR-Guinea developed a country-wide training programme on human rights in the administration of justice and particularly on detention-related issues, which, in addition to regular monitoring in detention places, has contributed to reducing the number of persons kept in custody beyond the legal limit of 48 hours. In order to support the integration of human rights in the curricula of key law enforcement institutions, OHCHR held several discussions with administrative authorities of police and gendarmerie schools. Modules are currently being elaborated and will be available in 2013.
- ▶ Two military officials cited as bearing criminal responsibility in the 2009 International Commission of Inquiry's report (18 December 2009, S/2009/693) were indicted. OHCHR contributed to this result by advocating with the Government to allocate adequate resources to the Panel of Judges in charge of investigating the 28 September events and maintaining regular contact with it. During the reporting period, the judges received financial support from the Government which enabled them to carry out the investigations. Furthermore, OHCHR assisted the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict in deploying an expert to the Ministry of Justice to assist the judges in their mandate, especially with regard to victim and witness-protection programmes.
- ▶ A bill on the Prevention of Torture, a Military Justice Code and the Code of Conduct and the Statute of the Armed Forces were drafted in compliance with human rights standards. OHCHR provided expert legal advice during the drafting process.
- ▶ The Tribunal of Conakry referred to torture for the first time during its hearings when it charged five gendarmes officers with torture and sentenced them to 15 years in prison and two-year suspended jail terms. This was due in part to OHCHR's continuous advocacy and legal advice to include commitments to combat impunity and prevent torture in policies and programmes. OHCHR notably organized a country-wide awareness campaign on the prohibition of torture during the celebration of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. The Office also elaborated a report on torture that was shared with judicial authorities, security force officials and the Government.

Transitional justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ Co-chairs of the National Provisional Reconciliation Commission, national actors and civil society organizations have increased their understanding of transitional justice processes. The National Provisional Reconciliation Commission conducted preparatory activities to the national consultations on transitional justice, including consultations with political parties, exchange sessions with financial and technical partners and the preparation of a draft programme for the national consultations. OHCHR supported this through capacity-building activities and the deployment of a consultant who assisted the co-chairs in establishing a plan of action towards the organization of national consultations.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- ▶ The *Coalition des ONGs pour la protection des droits de l'enfant* submitted a report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. OHCHR supported this through the provision of technical assistance in the elaboration of the report.
- ▶ OHCHR continued to equip national human rights NGOs with methodologies and tools in conducting human rights investigations, monitoring and reporting, including through training seminars organized in different regions of the country. As a result, following the Zoghota incident of 4 August (the killing of six persons by security forces during clashes with the population after protesting local residents destroyed the premises of the mining company, Vale, in Zoghota, Forestry Region), a coalition of four local human rights NGOs, who had previously participated in OHCHR trainings, conducted a fact-finding mission and prepared a comprehensive report on the incident. The report was widely disseminated during a press conference held in Conakry and sent to relevant special procedures mandate-holders for information and action.

Police marechal is imprisoned for torture and ill-treatment

On 25 February 2012, Moussa Dine Diarra, a 19-year old student in Kindia was arrested for stealing a motor bike. Detained at the Escadron mobile No 7 in Kindia for interrogation, Moussa denied having stolen the bike which had been given to him by a friend. He stated that he parked the bike in a room in the compound where they lived and went to bed, but in the morning discovered it had been stolen. The Marechal de logis chef in charge of investigating the case did not believe him and began using other means to extract a confession, including alleged torture and other ill-treatment. The boy died. The Marechal and eight others were subsequently arrested and detained at the Kindia prison.

OHCHR conducted a fact-finding mission to Kindia to ascertain the facts. The investigations culminated in a report on torture with recommendations that the Office transmitted to authorities, including the public prosecutor, gendarmerie officials, and the Minister of Justice. The Office also advocated with national authorities to ensure that the perpetrators were brought to justice. On 19 December 2012, the Conakry Court of Appeal found the Marechal guilty of torture and sentenced him to a 15 year jail term. Four of his accomplices were sentenced to two-year suspended jail. This was the first time the word torture was used during hearings and the first time perpetrators were convicted.

Togo

Year established	2006
Staff as of 31 December 2012	6
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 1,492,158

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ The Togolese Government drafted a National Human Rights Action Plan in line with Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations. The draft Plan is the result of a participatory process involving the Government, media, civil society, the National Human Rights Commission and the United Nations. The Office advocated for the development and adoption of the Plan through workshops and meetings with the members of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on treaty body reporting and the staff of the Human Rights Ministry.
- ▶ OHCHR accompanied the drafting process of the new Penal Code and the Code of Penal Procedure and provided comments to increase their compliance with international human rights standards. The new Penal Code, adopted in November, defines and criminalizes torture and is significantly more compliant with the Convention Against Torture.
- ▶ In 2012, high-level representatives from the Judicial Branch, including State Ministers, adopted a roadmap to address constraints and capacity gaps identified in the handling of criminal cases in accordance with international human rights standards. OHCHR supported the adoption of the roadmap, the establishment of a committee tasked to oversee its implementation and the publication of a reference book containing all the materials relevant to the roadmap for judges, magistrates and criminal investigation police.

Justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ The Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission officially submitted the main volume of its final report and recommendations to the President of the Republic. OHCHR has accompanied the truth and reconciliation process by providing guidance and technical support to the Commission and civil society organizations since 2009, in close cooperation with UNDP and the Human Rights Ministry. The Commission ensured the wide dissemination of its outcome document and that the implementation of its recommendations remained on the agenda of the Togolese Government. At the end of the year, the President of the Republic announced the decision to

Guinea: Expenditure in 2012

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	2,001,667
Consultants	-	6,000
Official travel	-	64,199
Contractual services	-	16,000
General operating expenses	-	177,630
Supplies & materials	-	134,084
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	219,882
Subtotal	-	2,619,462
Programme support costs		340,530
GRAND TOTAL	-	2,959,992



OHCHR staff monitoring a demonstration in Togo.

Advocating for human rights in Togo

Advocacy interventions by OHCHR with relevant authorities have proven successful in Togo. In a context of political polarization, the Office maintained close communication with the Ministries of the Interior, Territorial Administration, Justice, and Human Rights, and also with the opposition. This helped diffuse tension in favour of strict and effective implementation of the law and human rights standards, as illustrated by the following examples:

- Ten detained persons who were allegedly arbitrarily arrested during a demonstration were set free following demand by the opposition. The Head of OHCHR-Togo and the former chairman of the Commission of Truth, Justice and Reconciliation (CVJR) had launched a joint appeal to the Government to satisfy this demand in compliance with the existing legal framework and to avoid a march by women who had threatened to walk naked in protest against the arrests. This march, which could have been perceived as demeaning and degrading for women, was cancelled following the release of the men.
- Law and order forces have made efforts to show a satisfying level of professionalism in the area of crowd control during protest demonstrations, avoiding excessive use of force and

provocations in situations that demand high levels of discipline and self-control. This was made possible as a result of constant dialogue with the Ministry of the Interior and frequent monitoring of protest events by Office staff, but also thanks to a cooperative attitude of the organizers of the protests. Thus, most Saturday demonstrations by the *Front Républicain pour l'Alternance et le Changement* (FRAC) went ahead peacefully, while mediation undertaken ahead and during protests organized by the wider CST (“Collectif Sauvons le Togo”, which includes the FRAC) often helped to diffuse confrontational developments. As a result of the Office’s intervention, the situation of three CST leaders detained for “voluntary violence, damages and destruction” was resolved by the judiciary in compliance with legal procedures.

- A National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) report on torture allegations relating to detainees in the case of the 2009 attempt against state security aroused controversy when a first public report denied such allegations whereas a second version confirmed them. Following the active advocacy of the Office, the Prime Minister

accepted to meet the CNDH Commissioners and was informed about the authenticity of the second version. The new CNDH members, elected already in late 2011, were finally sworn in on 6 November 2012, after the Office intervened through a letter to the Government pointing to the negative consequences of further procrastinations.

- Several developments concurred to call the attention of the Government on the unsustainable and precarious conditions in Togolese prisons and the excessive use of pre-trial detentions i.e. the examination of Togo’s 2nd periodic report to the CAT; the Atlas project on torture implemented by the former Special Rapporteur on torture and his team; the prison monitoring of OHCHR-Togo staff; and the repeated advocacy measures undertaken by the Office pointing to the urgency of Government action. Two visits by the former Special Rapporteur resulted in the release of 421 persons and a project suggested by the Office (a special mission of the Inspector General of the jurisdictional and penitentiary administrations to Lomé’s civil prison to review the situation of all inmates) led to the freeing of another 500 at year-end.

create the Office of the High Commissioner for Reconciliation and the Strengthening of National Unity which will have responsibility for the implementation of the Commission's recommendations.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ The Togolese media increased its engagement in the promotion of human rights and democracy in anticipation of the legislative and local elections. The Office contributed to this through awareness-raising workshops and the establishment of a partnership with Togo's main radio, television, print and online media to roll out a large education campaign on democratic principles and human rights, including the active participation of women in political processes. A total of 27 radio stations broadcast programmes on human rights and democratic principles from August to December 2012. While the overall impact of these efforts cannot be measured at this stage, the response of journalists and the media in general has been encouraging, as evidenced by the increased number of journalists writing about human rights issues and the wider dissemination of human rights issues in local languages.

Togo: Expenditure in 2012

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	698,211
Consultants	-	54,910
Official travel	-	41,436
Contractual services	-	87,191
General operating expenses	-	131,692
Supplies & materials	-	37,244
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	269,810
Subtotal	-	1,320,494
Programme support costs		171,664
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,492,158

Uganda

Year established	2005
Staff as of 31 December 2012	49
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 3,603,560

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ The Bill on Prevention and Prohibition of Torture, compliant with the Convention Against Torture and Uganda's Constitution, was approved by the Parliament on 27 July 2012. OHCHR was part of the drafting team and also appeared before the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee (LPAC) on 13 February 2012 to provide additional comments to improve the text. A number of specific recommendations from OHCHR, including in relation to the definition of torture, reparations for victims of torture and the non-transfer of persons where there is likelihood of torture, were fully adopted.
- ▶ A Human Rights Committee was established in Uganda's Parliament in June. OHCHR contributed to the increased capacity of this new Committee by organizing, together with the Uganda Human Rights Commission, a workshop on human rights concepts and principles for its members. The workshop served as a forum to share information on the current human rights situation in Uganda and familiarize members of the Committee on the work of other human rights institutions and entities, in particular the Uganda Human Rights Commission, judicial courts, civil society organizations and OHCHR. Strategies for collaboration between these institutions were proposed and developed into a workplan.
- ▶ During 2012, OHCHR conducted numerous trainings throughout the country to increase the awareness of and compliance with human rights standards by security forces and prisons. As a result of these trainings, OHCHR noted an increased response by State institutions to reports of violations. For example, out of the 51 complaints monitored by OHCHR and raised with the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) and the Uganda Police Force (UPF) in North Karamoja, both institutions took action on at least eight cases. Out of 16 cases raised by OHCHR with UPDF in Moroto, four perpetrators were arrested, tried and convicted and five other were investigated, although no arrests were made. Furthermore, police forces noted that, in some districts, more complaints were brought to their attention which enabled them to respond more quickly.



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- ▶ Uganda's Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) developed and piloted, with the technical support of OHCHR, a methodology to document and investigate serious cases of human rights violations. A total of six investigators were trained on the use of the methodology and were tasked with documenting cases in Gulu, Lira and Pader. The JLOS adopted the methodology and has developed a project proposal to implement a two-year human rights documentation project in the context of the Lord's Resistance Army conflict, in accordance with the Government's commitments under the Juba Peace Agreement.
- ▶ OHCHR, jointly with UNICEF and UNFPA, developed a Training Manual on Human Rights, Gender-Based Violence and Child Protection, which was tested and validated in two training sessions with the UPF in Northern Uganda and through consultations with the UPF Personnel and Training Directorate. The Manual is expected to be approved and adopted by the Police Advisory Council in 2013.

Justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ Uganda's Amnesty Act was revised in May 2012 to eliminate provisions relating to the granting of blanket amnesties and to ensure the Act is compliant with international standards on the right to truth, justice and reparation for victims. OHCHR, along with UN Women, the Uganda Human

Rights Commission, JLOS, and the Refugee Law Project, organized national consultative workshops targeting members of the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary branches, civil society and victims' groups, to discuss the Amnesty Act. Outcomes of these meetings were consolidated into a report with concrete recommendations for the Government, some of which were cited in the JLOS Policy Brief which informed the Government's decision to revise the Act in line with international human rights norms and standards.

Uganda: Expenditure in 2012

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	2,027,901
Consultants	-	68,030
Official travel	-	133,756
Contractual services	-	97,670
General operating expenses	-	367,033
Supplies & materials	-	187,139
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	307,462
Subtotal	-	3,188,991
Programme support costs		414,569
GRAND TOTAL	-	3,603,560

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 2012	12
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 1,577,812

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ Cameroon is in the process of enacting a law on the promotion and protection of indigenous peoples. The Sub-Regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (CARO) organized several sensitization activities on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in Cameroon, the Republic of the Congo and Equatorial Guinea (for police and gendarmerie). In Cameroon, CARO also organized two sensitization seminars on indigenous peoples for the Government and other stakeholders.
- ▶ The Governments of Cameroon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon are taking measures to increase the compliance of their national human rights institutions (NHRIs) with the Paris Principles. In Cameroon, CARO provided advice, training and relevant documentation to all members and secretariat staff of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to ensure the consolidation of its “A” status with the ICC. As a result of this support, the NHRC of Cameroon secured funds to build its headquarters and establish more regional offices. This will ensure improved access to people requesting protection and advice from the Commission. In addition, CARO forwarded more than 10 cases of protection to the Commission and contacts have been established to monitor these cases. In Gabon, the newly established NHRI advocated for the revision of a law so that its Chairperson is no longer the Adviser to the President of the Republic. CARO provided advice in this regard. The Office also forwarded a case on protection to the Commission which is taking steps to address the case. In Congo, CARO contributed to building the capacities of members and staff of the NHRI.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ Cameroon submitted its overdue reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination as well as its national report under the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Gabon presented its reports to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), the Committee against Torture (CAT) and the UPR and hosted a visit from the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children. Equatorial Guinea presented its overdue reports to CEDAW and Congo reported to CESCR and CAT. CARO advocated with the Governments of Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tomé-et-Principe to increase their engagement with the international human rights bodies and provided training to the drafting committee of Cameroon, United Nations Country Teams, NHRIs and civil society organizations. The Office also provided the relevant documentation to the drafting Committee of Congo for the preparation of its report under the second cycle of UPR.

Participation in electoral processes

Progress was made in Cameroon with regards to the participation of Persons with disabilities (PWDs) and women in electoral processes. Through the platform Inclusive Society for Persons with Disabilities, advocacy and dialogue with Government and civil society stakeholders on disability issues, training on gender and participation in public life, CARO along with its partners (including the election management body – ELECAM) placed PWDs in priority at the centre of the recompilation exercise of electoral lists.

The members of the newly established journalists' network for human rights in Congo were gathered for three training sessions on human rights and elections in order to efficiently contribute to inclusion and participation of the most marginalized including women, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples. Human rights-based approach checklist for media coverage during electoral processes was developed by CARO and validated by media professionals in Burundi, Cameroon and Congo. This checklist was implemented with the purpose of a more inclusive local election in Congo (July) and a debriefing session also took place just after the elections (August).

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ NGOs in Cameroon working with the national electoral commission succeeded in establishing a platform for accessible elections following capacity-building support provided by CARO and other actors.
- ▶ In Congo, CARO organized a pool of journalists for human rights and democracy during a seminar organized in July for media professionals. A checklist related to the electoral process was distributed and used by the journalists. At a follow-up seminar, journalists provided feedback on the checklists which enabled CARO and the journalists to draw lessons from their use.

United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa/OHCHR Central Africa Regional Office: Expenditure in 2012

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	775,406	108,068
Consultants	-	-
Official travel	20,596	78,176
Contractual services	12,000	9,377
General operating expenses	126,671	32,941
Supplies & materials	12,000	30,234
Seminars, grants & contributions	147,000	169,646
Subtotal	1,093,673	428,442
Programme support costs	-	55,697
GRAND TOTAL	1,093,673	484,139

Regional Office for East Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2012	9
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 1,082,892

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ Both Ethiopia and Tanzania have finalized their National Human Rights Action Plans (NHRAP) which included recommendations issued by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the human rights treaty bodies. During the preparation phase of the two NHRAPs, the Regional Office for Eastern Africa (EARO) provided technical support.

Ratification (EA 2)

- ▶ None of the targeted treaties and conventions were ratified in 2012. The regional training for civil society organizations (CSOs) on human rights mechanisms of the UN and the African Union built the capacity of CSO participants from the subregion to advocate for the ratification of treaties and conventions.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ In 2012, the Government of Djibouti submitted an overdue report to the Human Rights Committee and is in the process of finalizing the overdue report to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). Since 2011, EARO has provided technical and financial support to the inter-ministerial committee in charge of the preparation of the report.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- ▶ East-African CSOs in seven East African countries (Burundi, Ethiopia, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda) increasingly made use of regional and international human rights mechanisms. EARO, in collaboration with other partners, supported this result by raising their awareness of opportunities to engage with the two systems through a joint training workshop, by facilitating meetings with the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and supporting the participation of two NGO representatives at the 51st Ordinary Session of the ACHPR and the NGO Forum. According to a survey conducted to identify the short-term impact of the training, some participants used their newly gained



Participants of the OHCHR workshop on human rights and elections for journalists in Congo.



Children attend class in a refugee camp in Ethiopia.

skills in promoting human rights by celebrating Human Rights Day; drafting a road map for UPR follow-up (Rwanda); and engaging with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons during his recent visit to Sudan. Furthermore, one participant from Tanzania designed and facilitated a human rights training programme for clan leaders who planned to participate in a mass female genital mutilation ritual which would have affected 4,000 girls. Various actors mounted a large-scale awareness-raising campaign and the training programme contributed to convincing a number of practitioners to abandon the practice.

International and regional laws and institutions (EA 8)

- ▶ The African Union Commission (AUC), through its Department of Political Affairs, established the African Governance Platform as part of the implementation of the Human Rights Strategy for Africa. The Platform has a human rights Sub-Cluster which is co-chaired by OHCHR and the AUC Department of Political Affairs. EARO provided advisory services and input during the series of consultations to elaborate the agenda, rules and procedures of the Platform.
- ▶ The AU Convention for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa as well as the African Charter on Democracy, Good Governance and Elections in Africa entered into force in 2012 due to the advocacy efforts of several stakeholders, including EARO.
- ▶ The special rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council and the ACHPR established a road map

to encourage the exchange of information, the sharing of best practices and the undertaking of joint activities. In addition, a joint working group was established to implement the road map. Moreover, EARO provided technical support and advisory services to the Department of Political Affairs of the AUC, other organs of the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and organized a series of regional workshops and dialogues. Following these efforts, the UN and AU Special Rapporteurs on human rights defenders undertook a joint country visit to Tunisia.

- ▶ The role of African CSOs in providing input about their human rights concerns to the AU human rights institutions has improved. EARO, in collaboration with other actors, supported the organization of a NGO Forum that attracted more than 220 CSOs to deliberate on contemporary human rights issues affecting the continent. This resulted in the preparation of resolutions and recommendations; most of which were adopted by the ACHPR during its 51st and 52nd Ordinary Sessions. The participation of African NGOs in AU processes, mainly through the NGO Forum, will strengthen the ACHPR's institutional capacity to fulfil its mandates and contribute to improved policy dialogue on human rights developments.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ UNECA's programmes on anti-corruption were approved. They incorporated human rights language as a result of EARO contributions during the regional consultations at which the

Office demonstrated the added value of a human rights perspective in preventing and combating corruption.

- ▶ EARO continued to mainstream human rights in United Nations Country Team (UNCT) Inter-agency working groups in Ethiopia and Tanzania. Specific interventions included human rights training for the implementation phase of the United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP) in Tanzania and guidelines for a human rights-based approach to the preparation of Annual Work Plans of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) in Ethiopia. As an illustration of the good performance in Tanzania, the United Nations Development Group Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism (UNDG-HRM) selected Tanzania as one of the best examples of how the UN system can successfully incorporate Universal Periodic Review recommendations into its planning work. For example, EARO provided training on a human rights-based approach in relation to the implementation phase of Tanzania's UNDAP and ensured that human rights principles were included in the checklist tool for the preparation of its annual work plan. In Djibouti, EARO was not requested to contribute to the UNCT's Inter-agency dialogue and only received planning documents on a periodic basis for which it provided comments.

Regional Office for East Africa (Addis Ababa; Ethiopia): Expenditure in 2012		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	571,922
Consultants	-	26,474
Official travel	-	94,075
Contractual services	-	12,600
General operating expenses	-	76,644
Supplies & materials	-	8,400
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	168,197
Subtotal	-	958,312
Programme support costs		124,580
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,082,892



Gay and lesbian participants in the annual Gay Pride March, in Johannesburg, South Africa, 6 October 2012.

Regional Office for Southern Africa (Pretoria, South Africa)

Year established	1998
Staff as of 31 December 2012	7
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 1,097,017

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ In July, one year after the adoption of the law by Parliament which benefited from OHCHR's comments, the National Human Rights and Liberties Commission of Comoros took up its function. In Mozambique, the President swore in members of the National Human Rights Commission in September, two years after its creation. OHCHR, together with UNDP, conducted an induction course for the newly appointed Commissioners. The Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission Act was published in the official journal, thereby making the Commission operational more than two years after the Commissioners were appointed.

Ratification (EA 2)

- ▶ Following advocacy undertaken by the Regional Office, the Government of Mozambique ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ The Regional Office advocated with Angolan authorities to ensure respect for human rights in the elections that took place in August. The

Office also liaised with the United Nations Country Team, international partners, political parties, media and civil society to enhance their capacity to conduct human rights monitoring and report their findings to the National Electoral Commission. The elections were peaceful and civil society organizations made use of existing legal instruments to report allegations of human rights violations during the process, including in relation to freedom of expression and of assembly.

Regional Office for Southern Africa (Pretoria, South Africa): Expenditure in 2012		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	664,122
Consultants	-	-
Official travel	-	69,737
Contractual services	-	5,600
General operating expenses	-	61,197
Supplies & materials	-	13,356
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	156,800
Subtotal	-	970,812
Programme support costs		126,205
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,097,017

Regional Office for West Africa (Dakar, Senegal)

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2012	10
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 905,147

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ In Senegal, the National Cell on the fight against trafficking in persons, especially women and children, was strengthened and received financial support from the Government and other partners. The Cell developed a communication plan and organized a number of workshops to raise awareness and train stakeholders on human rights issues related to trafficking. The Regional

Office contributed to the work of the Cell by, for instance, facilitating a training session on the human rights-based approach to trafficking organized in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Labour Organization.

- ▶ The Governments of Burkina Faso and the Gambia developed national action plans for the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 and 1820. In both cases, the Regional Office provided comments on the draft action plans and participated in the validation workshops.

Ratification (EA 2)

- ▶ The Regional Office continued advocating for the ratification of international human rights instruments by countries of the region. Following a regional conference on the ratification of international human rights instruments, organized in partnership with the United Nations Office for West Africa and UN Women, gathering together representatives from ministries of justice, foreign affairs, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations from Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Mali and Senegal, roadmaps were developed towards the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OP-ICESCR) and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. On 24 September, Burkina Faso signed the OP-ICESCR.

Participation (EA5)

- ▶ Senegalese civil society organizations created a women's platform for peaceful elections in Senegal to oversee women's participation in the presidential and legislative elections in 2012. OHCHR contributed to the successful work of this platform by facilitating training of observers on the Election Code and providing legal analysis and advice on the information gathered by observers.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ Following the Regional Office's technical assistance on reporting to treaty bodies, including by the organization of a workshop in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso submitted its Common Core Document, as well as its initial reports to the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and the Committee Against Torture and its 12th periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. In addition, the Gambia submitted its initial report to



Image of one of the activities carried out by the Regional Office for West Africa to commemorate Human Rights Day, December 2012.

the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

- ▶ The Governments of Senegal and Mali, in broad consultation with local stakeholders, developed national action plans to follow-up on recommendations from human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). OHCHR provided technical and financial assistance in the elaboration and validation of these national action plans.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ Senegal's United Nations Country Team has increasingly incorporated human rights principles into its work as reflected in the elaboration of a joint programme on the fight against sexual and gender-based violence and the promotion of human rights. The programme aims at strengthening legal, institutional and operational frameworks to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, including through the implementation of recommendations of UN human rights mechanisms. The Regional Office participated in the elaboration of the joint programme in the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.
- ▶ Human rights standards were broadly taken into account in the UN humanitarian planning and response to the crisis in Mali following OHCHR's support to the work of the Mali Protection Cluster and its participation in regional humanitarian coordination structures. The Regional Office also ensured that human rights standards were integrated into Inter-agency strategies responding to the Sahel crisis, such as the UN Integrated Strategy on the Sahel.

Regional Office for West Africa (Dakar, Senegal): Expenditure in 2012

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	454,638	94,071
Consultants	-	-
Official travel	10,000	15,036
Contractual services	9,300	-
General operating expenses	33,545	67,040
Supplies & materials	26,500	-
Seminars, grants & contributions	16,110	138,060
Subtotal	550,093	314,207
Programme support costs	-	40,847
GRAND TOTAL	550,093	355,054

Human Rights Components in UN Peace Missions

United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi

Year established	1995 (since 2006 as part of the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi)
Staff as of 31 December 2012	38

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ In 2012, the newly established Independent National Human Rights Commission (INHRC) submitted its request for accreditation to the ICC and its contribution to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) for the upcoming review of Burundi. The ICC noted the important work accomplished by the INHRC in one year and recommended that the institution be granted "A" status. Throughout the year, the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) provided technical and financial assistance to the INHRC in order to strengthen the institution and enable it to perform effectively. BNUB trained the Commissioners on the accreditation process to the International Committee for the Coordination of National Institutions and on the UPR. BNUB

also supported the INHRC in its national sensitization campaign focusing on its role and mandate and the establishment of its three regional offices to facilitate increased access by the population.

- ▶ Human rights education programmes have not yet been incorporated into school curricula. Although BNUB elaborated a joint programme with the Government on human rights education in schools and proposed the creation of a structure for its coordination, the programme was put on hold due to changes within the Government and particularly the Ministry of Education. BNUB will continue to advocate for the adoption of a decree to ensure the follow-up and implementation of the activities of the action plan on human rights education in schools.
- ▶ On 12 June, the Prosecutor-General established a commission of inquiry to investigate allegations of serious human rights violations. The Human Rights Section of BNUB shared a copy of the detailed tables (matrix) on cases of alleged violations it had documented for 2011 and the first semester of 2012. These tables indicated that few of the perpetrators of grave human rights violations had been arrested and brought to justice. In November 2012, BNUB received

a document from the Prosecutor-General informing BNUB that a judicial file had been opened for each of the documented cases. In addition, the inquiry led to the arrest of nine people, including several police officers, alleged to have been involved in killings and torture.

- ▶ In July, the Head of State signed a decree granting a Presidential pardon to certain categories of prisoners, primarily those serving a maximum sentence of five years for minor crimes as well as minors, nursing mothers, elderly persons and those who were physically unwell. The Minister of Justice granted a conditional release to all prisoners who met these conditions. This came about following the deterioration of detention conditions due to overpopulation. The implementation of this measure has nearly halved the prison population. In addition, prisoners who had been sentenced to death before the 2009 abolition of the death penalty had their sentences commuted to life in prison. Technical assistance was provided by BNUB and the Belgian Cooperation to the judicial institutions responsible for detention practices through the elaboration of a national policy which is currently being finalized.



Women and their children at a hospital in Burundi.

Increased engagement by States with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

▶ As a result of continuous advocacy by BNUB, an ad hoc committee was created for the drafting of the Government's initial and periodic reports to the human rights treaty bodies. The ad hoc committee includes members from several key ministries, including Human Rights, Justice, Foreign Affairs, Public Security and Interior. The INHRC and civil society have been invited to contribute to the work of the ad hoc committee on several occasions, including at the pre-validation workshop for the report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. BNUB continued to advocate for the permanence of the ad hoc committee with an appropriately resourced secretariat and for the expansion of its role to encompass follow-up on the recommendations issued by regional and international human rights bodies. BNUB also provided financial and technical assistance to facilitate the drafting of reports.

- ▶ The Law on the principles of compliance with international standards by penitentiary administration in CAR was adopted in 2011 and disseminated throughout the country in 2012. The HRJS printed and distributed the text to all relevant stakeholders, including prison registrars, lawyers and human rights defenders. In December, a number of supportive decrees related to its implementation were issued. The HRJS is currently assisting the Government with the reorganization of its penitentiary administration. In order to assist the Government in the management of detainees, the HRJS produced and distributed 2,500 forms designed for the identification and registration of detainees.
- ▶ As a result of advocacy efforts undertaken by the HRJS, the amendment of the Law prohibiting all forms of violence against women (2006) now incorporates the provisions of the Great Lakes Protocol on the prevention and repression of sexual violence against women and children.

United Nations Integrated Peace-building Office in Central African Republic

Year established	2000
Staff as of 31 December 2012	20

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ The Government of Central African Republic (CAR) established a committee to abolish the death penalty and the draft law is currently before the Parliament. This has been the result of advocacy efforts undertaken by the Human Rights and Justice Section (HRJS) of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA). During a presentation at a university, HRJS took the opportunity to open a discussion on the matter with the Minister of Justice.
- ▶ The draft law establishing the national human rights institution (NHRI) is in compliance with the Paris Principles. The HRJS advocated for this result and worked with OHCHR headquarters to propose relevant language. The draft law was submitted to Parliament for adoption on 27 December 2012. It is hoped that the NHRI will be formally established in 2013 after promulgation of the law by the President.

United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

Year established	2004
Staff as of 31 December 2012	53

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ A new national human rights institution was established following a consultative process which included civil society organizations and community leaders. The Human Rights Division (HRD) of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) supported the process through the provision of legal advice to the Government on international standards and good practices in the establishment of NHRIs. Despite advocacy efforts by the HRD, the enabling legislation is not fully in line with the Paris Principles.
- ▶ The capacity of national actors was strengthened through more than 250 OHCHR-organized human rights training sessions for 1,232 Ivoirian military, 900 police and gendarmerie and 100 judicial personnel, 800 civil society activists and 50 journalists. This enabled national NGOs to issue credible reports on the human rights situation in the country. During the year, at least 12 human rights reports and 15 statements were issued by various human rights organizations on the human rights situation in Côte d'Ivoire.

- ▶ With HRD support, the Ministry of Education introduced a course on human rights and civic education into school curricula, which was formalized by decree.
- ▶ Throughout the year, various milestones were achieved in terms of creating a conducive environment for the protection of human rights. New laws were enacted to that effect, including the National Human Rights Commission Act, the Law on Marriage which recognizes equal rights for married women and men, and a constitutional amendment to recognize the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court. In addition, the revision of the national strategy document on the fight against sexual and gender-based violence was finalized in April 2012 and the Government adopted a plan of action in July. The HRD contributed to these changes through advocacy efforts and the provision of training and advisory services to encourage the Government to address the issue of discrimination against women, strengthen the national protection system and fight against impunity.

Transitional justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ Although the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (DTRC) is not yet fully in line with international standards, the technical support and trainings provided by the HRD to the DTRC and national judicial institutions led to greater engagement between the DTRC and NGOs, the launching of national consultations at the end of the year and the holding of the two first trials on offenses committed during the post-electoral crisis. The HRD supported the *Cellule Speciale d'Enquêtes* through the establishment of a coordination platform between the judiciary and the DTRC in order to strengthen cooperation and information sharing between the judicial and non-judicial transitional justice mechanisms in Côte d'Ivoire.
- ▶ The report of the National Commission of Inquiry on investigations of human rights violations committed after the 2010 elections was officially presented to President Ouattara on 8 August and subsequently submitted to the Special Investigation Cell to bring the perpetrators to justice. Due to the technical support and trainings provided by the HRD, the DTRC was able to launch the national consultations in December.



State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ The HRD supported the reactivation of the human rights focal points system which consists of civil servants working in relevant ministries. OHCHR trainings increased their knowledge on treaty body reporting and implementation of recommendations, including those of the Universal Periodic Review and the African regional human rights system. A timetable was agreed on with the Ministry of Human Rights to prepare the outstanding reports, including the initial report to the Human Rights Committee which has been overdue since 1993. The Government also submitted a report to the 52nd session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.
- ▶ Of the 108 UPR recommendations accepted by Côte d'Ivoire, 15 have been implemented with the support of OHCHR.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ UNOCI and UN Agencies began actively implementing the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) as a result of advocacy efforts of the HRD. A standard operating procedure, detailing the implementation framework of the policy in Côte d'Ivoire, was adopted by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Côte d'Ivoire and a HRDDP Subcommittee was created to provide advice to the Senior Management Group on any request for support coming from non-UN security forces. The HRD serves as Secretariat to the Subcommittee.

African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2012	115

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ The West Darfur State Ministry of Social Affairs created a rehabilitation programme for children victims of human rights violations. This followed the implementation of a seminal programme introduced by the Human Rights Section (HRS) of the African Union - United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) which brought together 180 destitute children in Darfur in two training sessions to address issues related to the various human rights abuses to which they are subjected. At the end of the sessions, the children told the local media that they had learned that corporal punishment was cruel treatment, that sexual violence was a human rights violation and that they would report any incidents to trusted adults and seek redress. UNAMID's Sector West immediately created a quick-impact project to renovate the foster home in West Darfur. Children are more frequently speaking to UNAMID Human Rights Officers in the street and are willing to discuss some of their experiences.
- ▶ One of the major achievements carried out by the UNAMID Human Rights Section in 2012 was the launching of capacity-building activities on sexual violence for government police investigators. Senior officers, including the Head of Family and Child Protection Unit, are now recommending mandatory human rights training, with an emphasis on sexual violence, for all police investigators. The Family and Child Protection Unit has taken steps to be more gender sensitive through the establishment of a help desk in the Foro Baranga locality of West Darfur.
- ▶ The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) was established by a Presidential decree issued on 11 January. This was in keeping with the provisions of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur (DDPD) and the result of continuous advocacy carried out by a variety of stakeholders, including the HRS. UNAMID initiated a working relationship with the Chairperson and members of the NHRC and assisted them on their first visit to four of the five states in Darfur.
- ▶ As a result of consistent advocacy undertaken by the HRS and other partners on justice and accountability for human rights violations and



Internally-displaced persons wait to receive medical assistance in Kutum, August 2012.

serious crimes, the Special Prosecutor for Crimes Committed in Darfur began investigating 20 cases in 2012. The HRS has been monitoring and reporting on most of those cases since 2007.

- ▶ The HRS's capacity-building and advocacy efforts contributed to some improvements in ensuring women's access to justice in South Darfur State, where law enforcement officials are bringing perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) to justice. For instance, one man was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment in Kass for the attempted rape of a four-year-old girl on 27 January; two men accused of raping six girls in Graidia were brought before the Buram General Court on 24 February; and on 16 December, a Criminal Court in Nyala sentenced a man to 10 years imprisonment for sexual abuse of a minor.
- ▶ On 26 November, the South Darfur legislature adopted the State Act for Disabled Persons following the signing and ratification of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2008 and the adoption of the Disabled Act in 2009. The HRS contributed to this result through training programmes organized for the South Darfur Human Rights Commission and awareness-raising on the rights of persons with disabilities.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ A mechanism for promoting opportunities for women in the context of the DDPD was established following a seminar organized by the HRS in December in South Darfur on the empowerment of women and girls through the DDPD. The exercise has led to a number of follow-up activities aimed at promoting women's rights and women's economic empowerment to assist Darfuri women in creating and sustaining their own businesses.

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)
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Staff as of 31 December 2012	154
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Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ The United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (UNJHRO) issued a public report on 14 November 2012 concerning the human rights situation in southern Masisi. The report highlighted the arbitrary execution of at least 264 civilians, including 83 children by armed groups in more than 75 attacks carried out between April and September. The report concluded that many armed groups took advantage of the security vacuum left by the redeployment of army units to expand their areas of influence and often carried out violent attacks against civilians.
- ▶ A national law establishing the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in compliance with the Paris Principles was adopted by the Parliament on 6 December. The adoption of the Law (which has yet to be promulgated) is the result of years of advocacy undertaken by the UNJHRO along with its partners. The Office provided support to civil society organizations (CSOs), thereby increasing their understanding of the Paris Principles and enhancing their advocacy capacity for the establishment of the NHRC. A legal brief produced by OHCHR on the draft law helped CSOs to propose relevant amendments; most of which were integrated into the final version. The UNJHRO also directly advocated with Members of the National Assembly to ensure that the core standards contained in the Paris Principles were reflected in the draft law. In addition, the Office distributed a set of relevant documentation to the National Assembly Commissions in charge of examining the draft law.

Access to justice and basic services (EA 4)

- ▶ Community leaders increased their understanding of legal proceedings and strengthened their capacity to support victims of sexual violence in exercising their rights and cooperate with

justice institutions to bring perpetrators to justice. OHCHR supported this, along with its partners UNICEF, UNFPA, judicial authorities and NGOs, through numerous community-based awareness sessions organized during International Women's Day and the 16 days of activism against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

- ▶ Eighteen specialized units were established for women and children within police offices and specialized cells in the offices of civilian and military prosecutors in Kinshasa, Matadi, Bandundu, Mbuji-Mayi, Kananga and Katanga. These specialized units are dedicated structures to provide a response to sexual violence cases. They were established following concerted advocacy efforts undertaken by UNJHRO and training sessions that were co-organized by UNJHRO, UN Police (UNPOL), European Union Police (EUPOL) and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights for the benefit of magistrates and judicial police officers.
- ▶ From January to December 2012, the Office assisted 1,608 victims of sexual violence through 29 judicial clinics which resulted in the rendering of 324 judgments.
- ▶ A pilot project in South Kivu on access to justice, reparations and remedies for victims of sexual violence is aimed at providing medical, psychosocial and economic assistance to victims with a view to encouraging government action towards reparations. The project has already yielded positive results with the assistance and placement of 80 girls with host families and their facilitated access to food, education and medical facilities. Extensive consultations with victims and victims' associations were conducted by the UNJHRO. To date, four pilot projects have been funded to respond to the needs of victims.



The Assistant-Secretary General for Human Rights visits Shabunda in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, May 2012.



Displaced families find shelter at an orphanage in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo, November 2012.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ Victims' associations in three provinces increased their knowledge of transitional mechanisms, particularly related to effective redress for victims. The UNJHRO contributed to this result by organizing three workshops on transitional justice in coordination with the *Coalition congolaise pour la justice transitionnelle*. The workshops were preceded by consultations with civil society organizations which allowed the UNJHRO to conduct a map of victims' associations and conduct a needs assessment. These activities are an essential first step towards advocacy with provincial authorities for transitional justice mechanisms.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ The DRC Common Core Document was updated and submitted to the treaty bodies. The UNJHRO provided technical and financial support to the inter-ministerial committee in charge of drafting the report.

Responsiveness of the international community (EA 10)

- ▶ During 2012, human rights concerns were integrated into various international resolutions, decisions and statements on the DRC, such

as the Security Council resolution 2053 (2012) and Security Council resolution 2076 (2012) which, inter alia, strongly condemn human rights violations committed by the 23 March Movement (M23) armed group and calls for accountability. This was achieved as a result of regular public reporting efforts of the UNJHRO and its inputs into briefing notes, background notes, press releases and other documents aimed at informing discussions and decisions of OHCHR and the senior leadership of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ MONUSCO military observers and UNPOL officers gained knowledge on key human rights issues, particularly the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy, through systematic pre-deployment briefings on human rights delivered across the country by the UNJHRO. The participants showed an increased level of understanding of and commitment to human rights standards during and after joint protection missions. The trainings were jointly organized by the Joint Protection Teams, Human Rights Officers and the MONUSCO Civil Affairs Section and focused on protection of civilians.

United Nations Peace-building 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 2012	10

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ Law enforcement institutions increased their awareness of human rights standards and the obligation to comply with international standards as a result of support provided by the Human Rights Section (HRS). In collaboration with the Security Sector Reform (SSR) Section of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) and UNDP, the HRS provided five training sessions throughout the country for the police on criminal procedures, international principles for the protection of witnesses and victims and a human rights-based approach to public security. In addition, training on minimum standards for the treatment of prisoners for all prison personnel, including prison managers and guards, was conducted in 2012.
- ▶ The Imams of Guinea-Bissau signed a declaration on the abandonment of female genital mutilation (FGM) following a conference organized by a national NGO, Djinopi, in October. The HRS supported and provided technical assistance to the NGO. The involvement of international Islamic Professors was crucial for the sensitization of the national Islamic community and local communities. Following 18 years of efforts to combat FGM in Guinea-Bissau, the conference resulted in the clarification of the Islamic position on FGM for the first time and the withdrawal of the arguments in its favour. To reinforce the outcome of the conference and the Declaration, the NGO published a “Golden Booklet” containing short Islamic studies and statements against FGM which is being widely distributed. The booklet has been printed in Arabic, English, French and Portuguese and could be used to support the fight against FGM in other countries. In addition, and as a result of UN concerted efforts and support provided to NGOs, including Tostan and Djinopi, more than 80 local communities publicly declared themselves free from FGM, thereby supporting the recently promulgated law on FGM.

- ▶ As a result of a conference held in Praia in October, the Guinea-Bissau National Human Rights Commission identified existing gaps in terms of structure and functioning. OHCHR contributed to the conference and participated in the identification exercise.
- ▶ The instability which began in December 2011 affected the regular functioning of national institutions, particularly the Government and Parliament. As a result, a National Policy on Human Rights and the Human Rights Action Plan could not be implemented. Furthermore, no new laws could be discussed, revised or adopted (including the draft domestic violence law), no conventions could be ratified and the report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which was due in June 2012, could not be submitted.
- ▶ The OHCHR Human Rights Case Database was successfully established following a training session on monitoring provided to all human rights officers in Guinea-Bissau by OHCHR headquarters.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ Knowledge and awareness of basic principles of human rights monitoring and reporting were enhanced within civil society. HRS carried out a series of training on these issues for 140 community-based human rights focal points within CSOs, including religious leaders. The training reinforced focal points’ ability to monitor and report on human rights in an effective and focused manner. It was aimed at the establishment of a human rights monitoring network covering the entire country in 2013.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ The HRS ensured the mainstreaming of human rights into security sector reform and presented the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) and the Human Rights Policy in Peace Missions to the Human Rights Working Group. As Guinea-Bissau is a sample country for the HRDDP, the Section prepared, in cooperation with the SSR Section, the first report on HRDDP implementation. The report describes the steps taken to share and discuss the Policy with the Government, UN partners and civil society organizations and the support provided by the UN to security and defence forces. The report also outlines the risks and operational challenges which are being faced. The HRS also provided human rights training seminars for the military in various regions of the country. A key recommendation of the report was that a holistic, integrated and multidisciplinary approach to combating impunity be adopted as a priority within the national strategic programme.

Promoting human rights through cultural activities

Guinea-Bissau faces enormous challenges in combating harmful traditional practices which affect mainly women and children. The Human Rights Section decided to make use of the powerful role culture plays in African society to tackle this issue and promote human rights. In cooperation with other partners, the Section initiated in 2012 a series of art competitions, with special attention paid to a music contest. Participants were encouraged to produce songs reflecting day-to-day life, which would in turn help raise awareness of and change mentalities in relation to complying with national law and international human rights standards. This first attempt was coordinated by renowned Bissau-Guinean film producers and composers, which allowed for a first selection of nine music pieces, dealing with topics such as impunity, SGBV, child exploitation, economic, social, civil and political rights, as well as peace and reconciliation. The best three songs received a prize and will be played at the opening of all human rights activities and other UN programmes in 2013, including a planned TV programme on human rights. CDs will also be produced and distributed. Given the success of the 2012 initiative, the Section intends to extend the experience to theatre and film documentary in 2013.

United Nations Mission in Liberia

Year established	2003
Staff as of 31 December 2012	33

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ A bill to protect the rights of children was passed into legislation. With the technical assistance of the Human Rights and Protection Section (HRPS) of the United Nations Mission in Liberia, the Liberia Legislative Association reviewed the draft legislation and promoted the incorporation of human rights standards.
- ▶ The National Human Rights Action Plan was not fully elaborated in 2012, but the HRPS provided advice and assistance in relation to consultations held in various counties to engage communities in its development. Following the consultations, technical working sessions were conducted with the Steering Committee and its Subcommittees to prepare a working draft of the Action Plan that will be

reviewed in a validation workshop. The validation workshop will be supported by the HRPS to finalize the Plan in early 2013.

- ▶ While implementation of the provisions of the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) has not been achieved, the HRPS is providing technical support and advice in the development of initiatives and strategies involving State and civil society actors, including the National Commission on Disabilities and the Task Force for Persons with Disabilities.

Ratification (EA 2)

- ▶ The CRPD was ratified following advocacy by the HRPS. With technical assistance from the Section, the Law Reform Commission continued to review the ratification status of human rights conventions and will inform the Legislature on their status for domestication purposes.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ Civil society organizations (CSOs) monitored and reported on the national budget in accordance with a human rights-based approach that considers budgetary support to health care and education. The HRPS continued to provide technical assistance to relevant stakeholders in building capacity and organizing the process of budget monitoring.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ As part of the strategy to implement Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations, the National Human Rights Action Plan Steering Committee established a Technical Committee on UPR to promote and monitor implementation of the recommendations, with technical assistance



Liberian citizens participate in a workshop organized by Liberian and UN Police on women's security in the community in Kakata, Liberia, November 2012.

and advice from the HRPS. In the development of the National Human Rights Action Plan, UPR recommendations have been incorporated for follow-up and implementation.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ The HRPS has been active in ensuring the integration of a human rights-based approach in the development of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2013-2017 and the monitoring and evaluation programme agreed to by the United Nations Country Team. Human rights issues relating to poverty, delivery of services, security and the administration of justice were addressed and the protection and empowerment of vulnerable/marginalized groups were also incorporated as a cross-cutting issue.

United Nations Integrated Peace-building Office in Sierra Leone

Year established	1998
Staff as of 31 December 2012	16

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ Parliament passed a Legal Aid Law in May, establishing an Independent Legal Aid Body to provide free legal advice and representation to the under privileged. Furthermore, in August, the Sexual Offences Act, noted as a progressive piece of legislation, was adopted. In addition, the Ministry of Social Welfare launched a National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence and a National Referral Protocol in October. The Human Rights Section (HRS) of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Mission in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) provided assistance and technical support to these three processes.
- ▶ The quasi-judicial capacity of the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone was further developed in 2012 and the HRS provided technical assistance to enable it to conduct a second public inquiry into violations committed in April by the police in Bumbuna.
- ▶ A National Commission for Persons with Disabilities was formally launched in August. The establishment and operationalization of this Commission has been a main focus of the HRS' efforts, inter alia, by advocating for the implementation of the recommendations of the



Sierra Leone votes in the third General Election since the end of the civil war in 2002, November 2012.

UNIPSIL/OHCHR public report on the rights of persons with disabilities (issued in 2011).

- ▶ Knowledge on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) was increased among 146 traditional leaders through training provided by the HRS. This training also strengthened their ability to respond to community needs in addressing violations.

Access to justice and basic services (EA 4)

- ▶ The National Commission on Persons with Disabilities was established which also included the creation of a Technical Committee on Disabilities and the drafting of a roadmap which was endorsed by the Minister of Social Welfare, Gender and Children Affairs (MSWGCA). The HRS provided technical support to the MSWGCA and other relevant actors.
- ▶ Throughout 2012, the HRS raised knowledge and awareness of human rights issues through a weekly "human rights hour" on radio programmes in the northern, eastern and southern regions, with the aim of popularizing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Disability Act and the Public Report on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as fostering knowledge on SGBV and the available means to address violations. The local radio broadcasts and phone-in programmes have become very popular with positive response from the audience.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ The Government, with technical assistance and support of the HRS, submitted its initial report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Reports on the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or



Traditional women leaders from Liberia collaborate with the UN in combating Female Genital Mutilation.

Punishment (CAT) are nearly ready for submission and are under review by the Attorney General.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- ▶ The HRS trained 23 members of selected civil society organizations on drafting and submitting reports to the treaty bodies. As a result, a roadmap has been agreed upon for the drafting and submission of reports in 2013 particularly those under ICCPR, CAT and ACHPR.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Sierra Leone is in the process of completing its strategic plan 2009-2012 known as the United Nations Joint Vision (UNJV) for Sierra Leone to support the Government's Agenda for change. As UNIPSIL prepares to exit Sierra Leone, the UNCT agreed on a Transitional Joint Vision (TJV) that will guide its work in 2013-2014. The UNJV included human rights as a cross-cutting issue and was part of Programme 2 on Access to Justice and Human Rights. The new Transitional Joint Vision reorganizes the work of the UNCT in seven Clusters instead of the previous 21 programmes. Human rights is not only maintained as a cross-cutting issue in the TJV but is also included as part of Cluster 4 on "Social Protection, Child protection, Gender Equality and Human Rights."

Upholding the rights of the child in Sierra Leone

During the voter registration process for the November 2012 general elections, 10 girls aged 14 to 16 were arrested in Mendekema, Kailahun District for allegedly attempting to register on false pretence that they were 18 years old. The girls were held in prolonged police custody (6 days) without charges and were not given food for long periods of time. Two of them were also locked in the boot of a car for a 30 mile ride to the detention premises. Six others were handcuffed and conveyed to the chiefdom headquarters town and later taken to Daru and Kenema, alongside their teacher. This development was considered to be a violation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as the 2007 Child Rights Act by the UNIPSIL Human Rights Section (HRS), the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone and other human rights groups working on children's rights. Following several engagements between the police, the HRS and the Human Rights Commission, the girls were granted bail and handed over to their parents in presence of the school authorities. The HRS closely followed the trial which also saw the arrest of a Member of Parliament who allegedly masterminded the fraud although he was later release.

United Nations Political Office in Somalia

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2012	14

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ The Government adopted the Provisional Constitution in August. It contains important human rights guarantees and the mandates for a national human rights institution (NHRI) and a truth, justice and reconciliation commission. In cooperation with the Ministry of Constitutional Affairs and Reconciliation, the Human Rights Unit (HRU) of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) supported the governmental bodies tasked with developing the draft Constitution through advice on human rights provisions in relation to international human rights law.
- ▶ The HRU continued to mainstream human rights in the development of the Somali police and military sectors. Upon the request of the Ministry of Defence and the Military Technical Working Group, which includes the United Nations and

donors, the Unit developed a draft code of conduct for the Somali defence forces, which is now being reviewed by relevant national stakeholders.

- ▶ The HRU supported the establishment of the Justice and Corrections Technical Working Group (JCTWG) and hosts its Secretariat. The JCTWG is the structure established by the Somali Government and the international community, chaired by the Minister of Justice, to ensure the coordination of support. Through monitoring undertaken by the JCTWG, the Unit raised awareness on human rights shortcomings and promoted a coherent approach to addressing challenges to the justice and corrections system. A joint UN assessment on the Mogadishu Central Prison brought international attention to the sub-standard facilities of the correctional system and mobilized international assistance.
- ▶ A human rights curriculum for members of the legal profession that brings together Islamic perspectives on human rights with international human rights standards on the administration of justice was developed. The curriculum was developed by the HRU through a series of trainings and consultations with law professors, judges and lawyers from Somaliland, Mogadishu and Puntland. It will be used in UN sponsored human rights training for legal practitioners.

Ratification (EA 2)

- ▶ The former Transitional Government of Somalia committed to the ratification of several human rights instruments during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). However, as the transitional period ended in September and the Cabinet was not complete until mid-December, the authorities

were unable to take more tangible steps towards ratification and implementation of human rights treaties. The HRU conducted several trainings on human rights instruments and law for Government officials and civil society.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ The HRU, in cooperation with civil society, organized a series of consultations to promote awareness of the UPR procedure and Somalia's engagement in the process, which included the participation of both Government and civil society representatives. All documentation related to the UPR, including the national report and the report of the Working Group, was translated into Somali, published and disseminated and is now available on the internet.

Responsiveness of the international community (EA 10)

- ▶ The Human Rights Unit worked closely with the European Union (EU) to mark Human Rights Day 2012 in Mogadishu, Somaliland and Puntland, with high-level diplomatic visits during which the Heads of Mission discussed with journalists and Government the situation of the media, the need for development and the need to address repression of freedom of expression and against the media in Somalia.
- ▶ The HRU regularly briefs the EU Human Rights Working Group (as well as Norway, Switzerland and the USA) and other international stakeholders on the human rights situation in Somalia. These briefings have enabled members of the diplomatic corps to engage with authorities and other



The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) conducting a training programme in criminal investigation for 160 policemen and policewomen of the Somalia Police Force, October 2012.

stakeholders to advocate for increased protection of journalists and women from sexual violence, for example. They also resulted in commitments to support the development of the justice and corrections sectors and to swiftly implement the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on UN Support to non-UN Security Forces in Somalia.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) issued various statements urging the Federal Government to fully investigate attacks against journalists and ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted. Similar statements and press briefings were also issued by several Member States and the High Commissioner. The HRU, supporting these developments, has been particularly active in securing the international community's engagement in the area of freedom of expression and related rights.
- ▶ During its visit in December, the Working Group on the Use of Mercenaries examined the use of private contractors by the United Nations and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). It welcomed the UN's efforts to ensure that these providers have a clean human rights record and encouraged all elements of the UN to take a proactive approach to the issue and fully implement the recently-launched initiative to conduct human rights due diligence.

United Nations Mission in in South Sudan

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2012	96

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ Human rights have become a cross-cutting theme in police training in South Sudan following efforts undertaken by the Human Rights Division (HRD) and the UN Police component of the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) to ensure human rights modules were incorporated at the national training centre. This marks a significant development in the wake of the human rights abuses that occurred in the same facility in 2010. In this regard, work is ongoing to establish oversight and complaints mechanisms.
- ▶ Ongoing national consultations for the development of a constitution are being conducted by the National Constitutional Review Commission in South Sudan. The HRD has advocated for the development of a bill of rights to be included in the Transitional Constitution, which comprises a coherent and comprehensive charter, and for the strengthening of its application and enforcement.



South Sudanese women meet the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Bor, South Sudan, May 2012.



A human rights resource centre is inaugurated by the Human Rights Division of UNMISS in Bentiu, South Sudan.

- ▶ Efforts to advance the national Human Rights Commission's (HRC) compliance with the Paris Principles were largely thwarted by a national austerity programme that proved especially devastating for the Commission. Its budget was reduced to bare minimum operating costs and salaries, with no allocation available for programming. State offices were closed and only the Head Office remained open. This situation seriously diminished the Commission's ability to fulfil its monitoring activities. Support from OHCHR in the form of an embedded consultant for institutional capacity-building offered one of the few opportunities for development.

Ratification (EA 2)

- ▶ UNMISS and OHCHR joined UNICEF and UN Women in working with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare to promote ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Simultaneously, work has proceeded within the Ministry of Justice for the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Human Rights Advisers in UN Country Teams

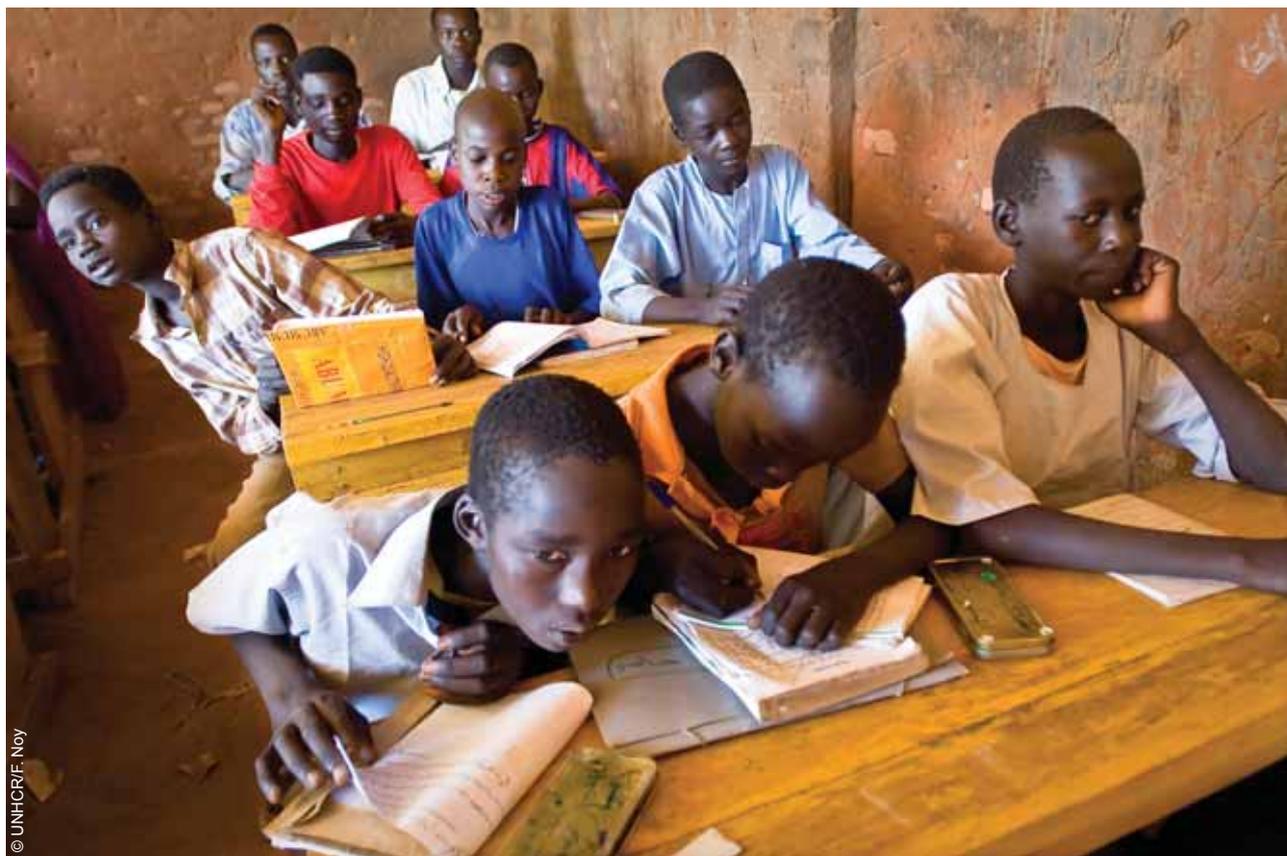
Chad

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2012	1

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ As a result of technical advice provided by the Human Rights Adviser (HRA), draft legislation on national human rights institutions (NHRIs) is now in line with the Paris Principles. In March, OHCHR organized a workshop on this issue which included participants from human rights NGOs, UN agencies, the Ministry of Human Rights, Justice and Social Affairs, Members of Parliament, the Prime Ministers' Office and women's associations. OHCHR's comments and recommendations were subsequently integrated in the draft legislation which is currently being considered by the Cabinet of the President before being presented to the Parliament for adoption.
- ▶ A National Human Rights Action Plan has been developed. OHCHR advocated to ensure that the recommendations issued by the Universal Periodic Review, treaty bodies and special procedures were integrated into the Plan. In April, a workshop was organized for this purpose and gathered together representatives from the 22 regions of Chad, human rights NGOs, civil society organizations, women's associations, UN agencies, the Ministry of Human Rights, Justice and Social Affairs, Members of Parliament and the Prime Ministers' Office. In 2013, the HRA will advocate for the development of a national strategy to implement the Plan at all levels.
- ▶ Chad's national strategic development plan incorporates a human rights-based approach. This resulted from a workshop organized for members of relevant ministries and institutions involved in the drafting of the plan and comments provided by OHCHR on the first draft.
- ▶ The capacity of the judiciary, the NHRI and other institutions has been strengthened through collaborative efforts undertaken by the HRA and the European Union (EU). The training of all stakeholders organized by the HRA was complemented by the EU's ongoing capacity-building project which enabled Chad's NHRI to receive and document cases of individual human rights violations. This collaborative effort also



raised awareness about the issue of impunity due to lack of knowledge by people of their rights.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ OHCHR facilitated a meeting in Ndjama on the issue of cooperation between the Ministry of Human Rights and 25 NGOs. Following the meeting, the NGOs established a network which is currently elaborating its terms of reference. The HRA provided guidance, advice and technical support to the NGOs.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ An Inter-Ministerial Committee on drafting reports to treaty bodies and to the African Commission on Human and People's Rights was established by the Prime Minister and received training from OHCHR in December. The Committee includes representatives from all relevant Ministries, the Office of the President as well as NGOs.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ Throughout the year, the HRA participated in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2012-2013 preparation process and ensured that its development framework was drafted in accordance with a human rights-based approach.

- ▶ Following a recommendation from the HRA, participants at a roundtable established a working group with the mandate to disseminate information regarding the adoption of the *Code des personnes et de la famille*. The event was organized in May and included representatives from NGOs, Members of Parliament, the Ministries of Justice, Social Affairs, Human Rights, Defence and the Prime Minister's Office. The HRA also contributed by organizing a roundtable on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which included the participation of NGOs. Due to a lack of funding, the Family Code has not yet been reviewed, however, advocacy efforts influenced the decision of the new Prime Minister to make the Family Code one of the priorities for 2013.

Kenya

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2012	2

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ The Prevention, Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons and Affected Communities Bill (IDP Bill) was adopted into law. The Bill provides for a rights-based response to internal displacement and imposes an obligation on everyone involved in the protection of and assistance to IDPs to act in accordance with the Great Lakes Protocol and Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. OHCHR supported the process through its membership of the Protection-Working Group on Internal Displacement which worked on its preparation.
- ▶ The three Article 59 Commissions, together with the other 11 Constitutional Commissions, came together for the first time to create a common platform for the complementary implementation of their respective mandates to protect the rights and sovereignty of the people, as envisaged under Chapter 15 of the 2010 Constitution. OHCHR supported this by convening the first Constitutional Commissions Retreat during which participants mapped out and addressed areas of overlap for optimal realization of rights as enshrined in the Constitution, particularly in relation to discrimination.
- ▶ The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is now a Standing Member of the 18 Sector Working Groups involved in the preparation of Kenya's Medium Term Plan II (MTP II). This came about following inputs made by OHCHR to the MTP II Concept Note, which comprised a recommendation to include members of the NHRC in the preparation of the Plan. To boost the NHRC's capacity to respond to this additional responsibility, the Office will conduct training on a human rights-based approach for staff of the Commission.
- ▶ The Ministry of Justice, National Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs and the Commission on the Implementation of the Constitution (CIC) began developing a framework on public participation. The framework is geared towards ensuring that marginalized and minority groups participate in governance issues affecting both them and the country. OHCHR supported this initiative through its dialogue with the Ministry and the Commission on the implementation of the Constitution. OHCHR also convened an inter-ministerial and

multisectoral meeting to prepare the policy on public participation.

- ▶ OHCHR was unable to effectively engage with the judiciary of Kenya, particularly the newly created Supreme Court, as it was overwhelmed with the ongoing reform process supported by other UN and donor agencies, including the World Bank. The reform efforts of the judiciary, however, have created huge public confidence in the justice system and resulted in a properly functioning judiciary in line with international human rights standards.

Transitional justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ The report of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission, which was due in August, was not finalized. Parliament granted the Commission an extension until May 2013. The report is expected to recommend the establishment of a tribunal that would implement the Commission's recommendations. In anticipation of the report's release, the Office supported the Commission with data collection and the report writing process through regular liaison and the placement of several expert consultants with the Commission.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ The capacity of 120 staff of community and vernacular media stations was strengthened through training on a human rights-based approach to reporting with a focus on how negative reporting can contribute to violence. This training was part of efforts to avoid a repeat of the 2008 post-election violence in which community and vernacular media stations were noted to have fuelled the conflict. The training also increased the awareness and understanding of journalists about their roles in promoting the rights of vulnerable persons, particularly in the lead up to the 2013 general elections. OHCHR collaborated with the Media Council of Kenya to conduct the training and is currently working with it to develop a handbook on media and human rights which will be given to journalists by the Media Council as part of the accreditation process.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ The Ministry of Justice, National Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs completed the report for the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) which will be submitted to the Human Rights Council in 2013. OHCHR supported the Ministry in preparing the report and with implementation of the UPR recommendations.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- ▶ In 2012, civil society groups, the Kenya National Human Rights Commission and individuals engaged more effectively with treaty bodies and the special procedures. OHCHR supported civil society groups (representing several interest groups, including women, children, marginalized, minority and disability groups) in preparing and submitting an alternative report to the Human Rights Committee and participating in the reporting process. OHCHR also provided technical support in the preparation and launch of the 2nd Annual Progress Report on the UPR Recommendations by civil society groups. The report serves an advocacy tool to ensure that the Government implements the UPR recommendations in a timely fashion.
- ▶ The Human Rights Committee, during its 105th session, considered the 3rd periodic report submitted by Kenya under article 40 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Unprecedented involvement of the citizenry and growing awareness of Kenya's State Party obligations resulted from the live broadcast of the Human Rights Committee's review of the report. OHCHR initiated and supported the live telecast which was seen by over two million Kenyans.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ As part of efforts to increase the integration of human rights standards and principles into the policies and programmes of United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) and individual agencies, the Office established the UNCT Human Rights Focal Points representing the 19 UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes operating in Kenya. The Office developed generic Terms of Reference for the focal points which were adopted by the UNCT. The focal points were officially nominated by their respective Country Representatives and countersigned by the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator.



Madagascar

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2012	3

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ The draft bill establishing the national human rights institution (NHRI), which is in conformity with the Paris Principles, is currently before Parliament. Various stakeholders have been involved in the process of drafting the law establishing the NHRI, including Government departments, Parliament and representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs). The Human Rights Adviser (HRA) met with the Legal Parliamentary Committee tasked with preparing the bill and commented on the draft bill to ensure its compliance with the Paris Principles.

Transitional justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ The Malagasy Amnesty Law, integrating some of OHCHR's recommendations, was promulgated on 3 May 2012. The Office took an active part in the drafting of the Law to ensure its compliance with international human rights principles and standards.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ CSOs that are tasked to monitor and follow-up on the implementation of the Roadmap for a Resolution of the Malagasy Crisis, signed in

September 2012, increased their capacity to deal with the upcoming elections and ensure effective human rights monitoring and reporting. OHCHR, in coordination with the *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie*, organized capacity-building workshops in July and November on human rights and elections where all 22 regions of Madagascar participated.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ The Operationalization Plan for Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations was developed and endorsed by the Government in March. The HRA supported the Government in the process of drafting this plan of action. The UPR recommendations were transformed into nine thematic priorities and the Plan lists concrete actions to be taken with the support of different agencies.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ Human Rights principles were integrated in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2014-2018 programming process. The process was launched by a series of trainings, including a presentation of a human rights-based approach by the HRA to UN staff, Government partners and CSOs.

Niger

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2012	2

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ The President promulgated the Law establishing the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in compliance with the Paris Principles in August. The Human Rights Adviser (HRA) provided support to civil society organizations by enhancing their advocacy capacity for the establishment of an independent NHRC. The consultation process leading to the adoption of the draft law by Parliament in July involved a broad range of stakeholders, including the Government, civil society organizations and trade unions.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ Further to training seminars focused on reporting guidelines and techniques for drafting and validating reports facilitated by the HRA and, in one case, UNICEF, reports under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Covenant on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial



The former Deputy High Commissioner meets with the UN Country Team in Niger, April 2012.

Discrimination and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as well as a new Common Core Document (CCD), were drafted by the Government and are ready to be submitted to the treaty bodies. The CCD was adopted by the Council of Cabinet on 1 February 2013. In addition, the initial report under the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography was drafted and validated.

- ▶ The HRA facilitated the drafting of a national plan of action for following up on Universal Periodic Review recommendations by organizing two workshops for its elaboration in Niamey, in April and August. The process involved several stakeholders, including civil society organizations, national authorities, trade unions and UN agencies.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ The United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2014-2018 and the Country Programme Document integrated human rights elements as a result of the HRA's participation in and advice provided during the drafting process.

Rwanda

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2012	3

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ Draft laws related to human rights issues under review by the Parliament could not be followed

up on during 2012. The Human Rights Adviser (HRA) and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) decided to postpone training for selected committees and commissions of the Parliament and Senate on the application of international laws in policymaking given that the Parliamentary elections are scheduled for September 2013.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ The capacity of the authorities to follow up on the recommendations of treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) was strengthened with technical assistance provided by the HRA, who worked closely with the Government to establish a task force to follow up on treaty body and UPR recommendations. As a result of the HRA's advocacy efforts, civil society organizations (CSOs) were also included in the task force. A roadmap for the implementation of the recommendations was drafted with technical support from the HRA.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- ▶ The capacity of civil society and the media community to monitor the implementation of the UPR and treaty body recommendations was strengthened. The HRA provided technical assistance through workshops and training activities for human rights organizations, the media, legal practitioners and staff of the National Human Rights Commission. As a result, national human rights organizations are preparing a project proposal for the UPR Trust Fund to mobilize more grassroots constituencies; increase their understanding of Rwanda's obligations under UPR; and request the Government's follow-up in implementing the recommendations it has accepted.

OHCHR in the field: Americas



Type of presence	Location
Country offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bolivia ● Colombia ● Guatemala ● Mexico
Regional offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Central America (Panama City, Panama) ● South America (Santiago de Chile, Chile)
Human rights component in UN Peace Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Haiti
Human rights advisers in UN Country Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ecuador ● Honduras ● Paraguay

OHCHR's work in the Americas continued within a background of overall stable democracies, solid human rights protection frameworks and an active and engaged civil society. Nevertheless, high levels of insecurity and violence, including against women, posed increasing threats to democratic and human rights gains and political stability. Exclusion continued to disproportionately affect Afro-descendant populations and indigenous peoples.

The impact of the global economic and financial crises was less prevalent in the Latin American region as poverty and inequality have been reduced in many countries. This has primarily been the result of sustained commitments to implement policies that privilege social investment. OHCHR

continued to support data collection and the use of indicators to promote and monitor equality and non-discrimination in the region in the context of pursuing economic, social and cultural rights and combating discrimination and poverty.

Impunity and strengthening the rule of law remained priorities for OHCHR in the Americas, with a particular focus on transitional justice and freedom of expression. Work on protection mechanisms for journalists and human rights defenders was a major focus of attention, mainly in Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico. Transitional justice continued to register gains, especially in South America, but judiciaries and law enforcement agencies throughout much of the region are in need of strengthening. Most of the work programmes of the field presences, supported by headquarters, therefore include a substantive component in supporting efforts to strengthen justice and the rule of law with an emphasis on transitional justice, impunity, the functioning of the justice system and harmonization of legislation and jurisprudence with human rights standards.

In the light of rising violence in much of the region, its impact on a wide range of rights and State responses that are often at odds with human rights principles, OHCHR advocated for the strengthening of State ability to protect their populations. The Office promoted the adoption of human rights-based laws and policies to prevent the further erosion and violation of rights in the name of security. The Office also continued its work with the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and the Central American Integration System (SICA) on security, as well as with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). Closely linked to its work on issues related to violence and insecurity and the rule of law, OHCHR has undertaken efforts at different levels to prevent torture, improve the situation of those deprived of liberty and promote penitentiary reform. The project initiated by IACHR, the Special Rapporteur on torture, the Committee against Torture and the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture to compile and analyse all recommendations to American States, continued in 2012 and is expected to be concluded in early 2013.

In Latin America, where there is a high rate of ratification of international human rights treaties, OHCHR has promoted wider use of UN human rights mechanisms. In the Caribbean and the

United States, where ratification rates are lower and few national human rights institutions operate in compliance with the Paris Principles, the focus has been on encouraging engagement with human rights mechanisms. Solid partnerships with United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) in the Caribbean were established following the first visit of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the region in April. OHCHR's Americas Section is now a full member of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Human Rights and regularly participates in its meetings. The Section also continued its support to the transition from emergency to development status in Haiti.

The Section supported and accompanied the visits of the High Commissioner to Guatemala (March) and Barbados (April), and the Assistant Secretary-General's visit to Haiti (September). It maintained close contacts with regional organizations, in particular the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, as well as with UN departments and agencies, governmental institutions, national human rights institutions, members of parliament, civil society organizations, academia and human rights activists. In particular, the Section maintained very close links with the Inter-American system, which came under strong attack from countries in the region, including by issuing three press statements by the High Commissioner in support for the Inter-American system.

During 2012, OHCHR maintained 10 field presences in the Americas region: two regional offices (Panama City and Santiago de Chile); four country offices (Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico); three Human Rights Advisers (Ecuador, Honduras and Paraguay); and one human rights component in a peace mission (Haiti), where OHCHR continued its leadership of the Protection Cluster in the context of the humanitarian response. In countries where OHCHR is not present, it follows human rights issues from its regional offices and through support to UNCTs. In collaboration with the UPR Section, and by using UPR funds, a national human rights officer has been deployed in Barbados since mid-November to assist the UNCT and the Government to implement UPR recommendations at the request of the Government. The Americas Section provided substantial and administrative support to all the field presences and supported the work of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti.

Country Offices

Bolivia

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2012	16
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 1,577,768

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ In October, the Plurinational Constitutional Court (PCC) ruled that the offence of defamation against civil servants (*desacato*) is unconstitutional on the grounds that it infringes on the right to freedom of expression. This decision came after repeated recommendations from the High Commissioner to eliminate this offence from Bolivian criminal law and followed concerted advocacy work undertaken by the Office in 2012 with the media and the three branches of government. Many actors in the country view the decision as a major step forward in ensuring the independence of the judiciary.
- ▶ On 30 June 2012, the PCC issued a decision regarding the right of indigenous peoples to consultation, specifically in relation to the indigenous communities living in the Isiboro Secure National Park and Indigenous Territory (TIPNIS). The decision outlined the nature and scope of the right to consultation and the applicable principles and requirements that are necessary for the enjoyment of this right, in accordance with international standards. OHCHR contributed to enhancing the awareness of some 130 judges and magistrates on this matter through the organization of training sessions and a seminar with international experts.
- ▶ The Plurinational Legislative Assembly adopted two important laws related to the rights of women, namely Law 243 on Harassment and Political Violence against Women and the Comprehensive Law 263 against Trafficking of Persons, in line with the national Constitution and international human rights conventions. OHCHR supported this achievement by providing technical assistance to the Alliance for the Legislative Agenda for Women, a network of legislators and civil society organizations, in the drafting and revision of the laws in conformity with international human rights standards. The adoption of these laws contributed to the fulfilment of recommendations made by CEDAW to the Bolivian State.
- ▶ The National Committee against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination adopted an action plan, the implementation of which requires the allocation of appropriate resources. Throughout the adoption process, OHCHR advocated with relevant authorities, including by supporting an official visit in September of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. In addition, OHCHR provided advice to departmental committees in Tarija and Chuquisaca related to the continuing development of their respective action plans.
- ▶ In 2012, OHCHR-Bolivia promoted the conclusion of a cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Justice and the National Institute of Statistics for the joint development of human rights indicators that are based on OHCHR methodologies. Both institutions prioritized the following six human rights for the first phase of project: right to food, education, health, labour, housing and the right of women to live free of violence. The development of the indicators was carried out by six technical committees comprised of representatives of relevant State institutions. Following a number of workshops that were supported by OHCHR and included close to 300 participants, the Ministry of Justice and the National Institute of Statistics presented a final proposal at the end of 2012.
- ▶ On 30 November, the National Action Plan on Human Rights Education was adopted by the National Human Rights Council, an inter-institutional organ responsible for the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan, which was mandated by the Ministry of Education to develop a human rights education plan. The elaboration of the Human Rights Education Plan was the result of a two-year participatory process which involved staff from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Justice



Indigenous children at the Isiboro Secure National Park and Indigenous Territory (TIPNIS) in Bolivia looking at material on the right to prior consultation.

Developing human rights indicators in Bolivia

The Ministry of Justice and the National Institute of Statistics INE, initiated the development of human rights indicators with the technical assistance of OHCHR-Bolivia. This turned out to be a successful experience on how to coordinate an institutional process to establish a set of indicators.

The Office organized a number of workshops to highlight the importance of developing indicators.

Based on the Office's Methodological Guide on human rights indicators and at the suggestion of the Office, six human rights were prioritized for the first phase of the process: food, education, health, labour, housing and the right of women to



live free of violence. Six technical committees, one for each right, were established with representatives of the key governmental institutions

related to the prioritized areas and accompanied by technical staff of the INE, the Ministry of Justice and OHCHR-Bolivia. A participatory methodology was also jointly designed. The six committees prepared the initial documents that were disseminated in national workshops with the participation of other relevant actors and shared with the UN agencies, headquarters and other governmental institutions. At the final stage, the indicators were made available through a website which was officially launched on 10 December 2012, during a public event in presence of several Government and State institutions. OHCHR-Bolivia will follow up on implementation of the system in 2013.

and the Office of the Ombudsperson, as well as approximately 1,000 representatives from the nine departments of Bolivia, including indigenous communities, human rights organizations, educational institutions, persons with disabilities, women, elders, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, national, departmental and municipal governments, the police and the armed forces. OHCHR closely followed the process and provided technical assistance and advice.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- Civil society organizations drafted the first alternative reports to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. OHCHR contributed to this result by training approximately 150 representatives of these organizations on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, its reporting cycle and the guidelines for preparing reports.

Bolivia: Expenditure in 2012

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	952,464
Consultants	-	148,975
Official travel	-	64,833
Contractual services	-	25,200
General operating expenses	-	97,840
Supplies & materials	-	7,900
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	99,043
Subtotal	-	1,396,255
Programme support costs	-	181,513
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,577,768

Colombia

Year established	1997
Staff as of 31 December 2012	66
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 8,389,400

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

► Information collected by the Office through its monitoring work was the basis for the production of a number of leading human rights reports such as the 2011 Annual Report of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Colombia, presented to the Human Rights Council in 2012. Additionally, recommendations, thematic reports, analytical notes and briefings on land restitution and victims' rights, among other topics, were prepared and shared with relevant governmental institutions and other stakeholders. These reports, which led to the identification of patterns and trends of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, aimed at increasing the State's responsiveness and accountability for these violations through changes in legislation, policies and practices. An example of the impact of OHCHR monitoring work in 2012 involved indigenous communities in the Cauca region, which denounced the negative impact that the intensification of the armed conflict had on their rights and daily lives and demanded that the State and illegal armed groups respect their territorial authority. This demonstration, followed by concrete actions such as removing barriers from police and military installations and arresting and judging members of the FARC-EP using traditional justice mechanisms or physically removing soldiers from their territory increased the risk of violent suppression. This risk was neutralized by the interventions of OHCHR, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, the UN Resident Coordinator and other partners, through their presence, written communications, press releases and op-eds. After some weeks of discussion, the President of Colombia met with indigenous authorities from the region, apologized for the human rights violations they had suffered during the conflict and established a high-level process with indigenous authorities to review the situation. Over several months, indigenous authorities met with Ministers, Vice Ministers and other high-level officials to discuss recognition of and respect for autonomy, property, territorial control and self-government, in addition to prior consultation, health, education and communication. This process has contributed

to increasing the trust of indigenous communities towards State institutions and to the Government's understanding of the needs of indigenous peoples.

- A constitutional reform that expands military criminal jurisdiction to investigate and decide cases of human rights violations, which should be under the authority of the ordinary justice system, was passed by Congress and promulgated by the President in December 2012. Some of the elements most detrimental to human rights were changed as a result of international and national pressure, yet concerns persist that this reform will lead to impunity in cases of serious human rights and humanitarian law violations. The reform passed and is currently under review by the Constitutional Court, despite advocacy efforts undertaken by the Office, the High Commissioner, 11 special procedures mandate-holders, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, as well as embassies and national and international civil society organizations.
- The National Human Rights Education Plan (PLANEDH), developed with the support of OHCHR, was integrated into the National System of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law. The System was created to coordinate regulations and policies, as well as national and territorial entities, with the purpose of promoting human rights. PLANEDH integrated teacher training policies and human rights education programmes into municipal and departmental development plans. Furthermore, the capacity of 250 teachers belonging to 125 educational institutions was strengthened through three training cycles on human rights and human rights education carried out by the Office. As a result, these teachers were able to influence their institutions' Educational Projects by introducing a human rights-based approach. Additionally, The Ministry of Justice created a programme



OHCHR staff undertaking a consultation with the Chimila indigenous population in Colombia, April 2012.

called “Eduderechos,” based on quality standards developed by the former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to education. This programme offers practical means to include a human rights-based approach into teacher training programmes, which is considered an added value to PLANEDH.

- ▶ The Office conducted an assessment on the functioning of the Ombudsman’s Office and presented its recommendations to the new Ombudsman, who took office in August. During the first few months of his mandate, the Ombudsman began to implement some of the recommendations made by OHCHR, including on strengthening support to victims at the national, regional and municipal levels.
- ▶ As a result of support provided by the Office to the National Working Group on Guarantees to Human Rights Defenders, a coordination mechanism that includes key State institutions, such as the Ministries of Interior and Defence, as well as NGOs, acknowledged the importance of the Early Warning System of the Ombudsman’s Office and committed to its strengthening. OHCHR also promoted strengthening its risk-assessment and response-capacity to ensure more effective protection measures for human rights defenders at risk. In particular, OHCHR’s advocacy contributed to the prioritization of urgent cases by the Committee for Risk Assessment and Recommendation of Protective Measures and the granting of urgent measures.
- ▶ A seminal nationwide human rights process enabled the Government to collect inputs for developing a national public policy on human rights and international humanitarian law. The process, led by the country’s Vice-President, was accompanied and supported by the Ombudsman’s Office, the Public Prosecutor’s Office, the National Congress and representatives of civil society and the international community. Overall, approximately 12,000 persons and 8,000 social organizations participated in 25 forums held across the country. OHCHR was part of the technical team in charge of designing and monitoring the methodology of the process and was responsible for moderating almost all 25 forums to collect inputs on topics, including human rights education, victims’ rights and violations of the right to life, which will serve as a basis for designing relevant public policy. The process for collecting inputs culminated in a three-day National Human Rights Conference in Bogota in December 2012.
- ▶ In its judgment regarding statutory provisions to ensure the full realization of the rights of persons with disabilities, the Constitutional Court ruled that the related legislation collects

and systematizes existing developments in relation to these rights, including the standards of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was ratified by Colombia and incorporated into domestic legislation. The Office advocated for the ratification of the Convention and provided technical assistance on the preparation of implementing legislation, which includes the creation of an independent mechanism for the promotion, protection and monitoring of the rights of persons with disabilities.

- ▶ As a result of recommendations made by OHCHR in 2011, the Ministry of Defence held a three-day event on strengthening the role of operational legal advisors as prevention mechanisms and another workshop on the integration of human rights in operational documentation processes to identify shortcomings, solutions and best practices. During 27 joint missions to military units carried out in 2012, OHCHR facilitated the identification of solutions with regard to obstacles and advances in the implementation of internal control mechanisms to prevent and respond to alleged extrajudicial executions and other human rights violations.

Ratification (EA 2)

- ▶ On 11 July 2012, Colombia deposited the instrument of ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, becoming the 34th State Party. The Convention entered into force in the country on 10 August 2012.

Justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ The concept of protection has changed for victims and public institutions from being an issue restricted to the police towards an enhanced concept of security and sustainability which also contemplates the full realization of victims’ rights to truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-repetition. OHCHR played a crucial role in this change by monitoring, reporting and advising authorities to take prompt and effective action in cases of threats, attacks and persecution of persons, in particular those involved in land restitution processes (in the context of the implementation of the Victims’ and Land Restitution Law 1448 /2011) and provided support to authorities to ensure more effective protection. For instance, in the department of Bolivar, protection measures were granted by the National Protection Unit to a land restitution claimant whose life was threatened by post-demobilization groups. In another case, the intervention of OHCHR in Becerril helped a group



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OHCHR staff carrying out awareness-raising activities with children in Guania, Colombia.

of investigators and journalists working on cases related to land grabbing to receive protection from the police to carry out their work.

- ▶ In the context of the peace process that began in 2012, the Head of the Colombia Office published three op-eds and was interviewed numerous times by the media on human rights issues related to the process. OHCHR held an ongoing dialogue with Government representatives and sent messages through various interlocutors to the FARC-EP regarding the need to confront their past human rights violations in order for the process to meet international standards. The Office also stressed on several occasions that the peace process should take into account the opinions and desires of the victims of past violations to meet international obligations.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant communities were able to express their views on the existing regulations on the right to free, prior and informed consent through a participatory consultation process carried out by OHCHR, which collected and analysed the expectations and recommendations of more than 3,300 rights-holders. The process contributed to an increase in the knowledge of ethnic Colombian peoples, organizations and traditional authorities on the international norms related to free, prior and informed consultation and consent. It also contributed to strengthening indigenous, Afro-descendant and Rom organizations and promoted dialogue between them and State authorities at the local level. Additionally, a number of ethnic

communities initiated a process of internal reflection and discussion that led to the adoption of local guidelines on ways that external actors must consult with them. OHCHR is using the outcomes of this participatory process to assist duty-bearers to comply with their obligations and consider a review of existing procedures for the full realization of this right.

- ▶ OHCHR encouraged victims to use national protection mechanisms and fostered protection measures by the National Protection Unit to several persons at risk. The impact has been immediate in almost all cases, including, for example, in 19 cases in Cauca, Putumayo and Valle del Cauca.

Colombia: Expenditure in 2012		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	5,563,321
Consultants	-	329,682
Official travel	-	233,926
Contractual services	-	159,800
General operating expenses	-	733,282
Supplies & materials	-	334,559
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	69,678
Subtotal	-	7,424,248
Programme support costs		965,152
GRAND TOTAL	-	8,389,400

Guatemala

Year established	2005
Staff as of 31 December 2012	28
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 3,546,221

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ The Office provided recommendations to the Government of Guatemala on a number of security policies to improve their compliance with international standards. For instance, the Covenant for Security, Justice and Peace developed by the Ministry of Interior, incorporated some of the Office's recommendations, such as the application of a human rights-based approach to public security, rather than a military approach. In another example, the Government reviewed Decree 40-2000 on the intervention of armed forces and included some human rights elements recommended by the Office. Nevertheless, the Decree does not clearly exclude the use of the armed forces in situations social protest.
- ▶ OHCHR documented and brought to the attention of authorities a number of abuses committed by members of local security bodies. As a result, the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Judiciary responded positively by investigating and prosecuting members of these bodies, such as in the case of three local security members accused of inflicting injuries in Panajachel, Sololá.
- ▶ Technical assistance and advice was provided by OHCHR to the Congress, through its different commissions, to ensure the compliance of legal reforms with international standards. In this regard, the Office retained its permanent seat in the Working Group on Security and Justice, through which it participated in the discussion on proposed constitutional reforms and presented a document on reform processes and their compliance with international standards. The Office also worked closely with the Commission on Migrants on the revision of the Law on Migration, the draft of which incorporated recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of migrants and the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.
- ▶ In 2012, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court was ratified, and a law on criminal investigation and the regulations for the Law on the Penitentiary System were adopted following years of engagement and advocacy work undertaken by the Office with authorities and civil society.
- ▶ Following an OHCHR assessment of challenges faced by the Labour Inspectorate in the protection of the rights of land workers which was shared with the Ministry of Labour, the capacity of



The High Commissioner visits a human rights photography exhibition in Guatemala.

the General Labour Inspectorate (GLI) was strengthened with the hiring 100 inspectors. Furthermore, to contribute to the increased number and quality of rural inspections carried out by the inspectors, OHCHR and the GLI developed a protocol to monitor the labour rights of land workers which is expected to be adopted in 2013. In addition, OHCHR continued to monitor the human rights situation of land workers in 2012 and five cases of violations were documented.

- ▶ The Constitutional Court made important decisions that incorporate human rights standards in specific cases, including on indigenous peoples' rights, housing and access to information, due in part to technical assistance provided by OHCHR to magistrates and lawyers and capacity-building activities carried out with legal clerks.
- ▶ The Office provided technical advice to members of the judiciary to ensure that the proposed reforms to the Law on the Judicial Career are in compliance with international human rights standards. The Office will continue working with the President of the Court to ensure that the proposed reforms are presented before the Congress. Additionally, the Office carried out an evaluation of the training programme that has been in place since 2009 at the School of Judicial Trainers. The review showed positive results, including an increased use of international standards in judicial decisions.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ The Office continued providing technical assistance to indigenous leaders in different departments of Guatemala to enhance their participation in decision-making processes. The Office opened a space for dialogue on and analysis of various themes related to the protection of their rights, including in light of the proposed Constitutional Reform. These spaces facilitated coordination between indigenous leaders and indigenous organizations which publicly expressed their opposition to the proposed Constitutional Reform. The proposal was subsequently withdrawn by the President.
- ▶ The Court ruled in favour of eight indigenous women who had been detained for opposing the installation of electricity posts on their respective properties. OHCHR advised the indigenous women's organization, Tzununija, which defended the women.
- ▶ By the end of 2012, 18 of the 20 indigenous organizations which are supported by OHCHR through the Maya Programme had formally presented legal claims based on international human rights standards before competent



OHCHR staff on a monitoring mission to San Marcos, Guatemala.

administrative or judicial courts. Of these cases, seven have resulted in decisions which could lead to changes in the national protection system with regards to the right to participation of indigenous representatives in Departmental Development Councils and the recognition of indigenous forms of organization for land tenure. For example, one organization that is composed of representatives from eight indigenous communities obtained recognition by the Government of their right to collective ownership of lands. In another example, an organization initiated two legal actions on constitutional grounds against the General Electric Power Law, seeking transparency from the National Electrical Energy Commission, which defines the tariffs. The Constitutional Court admitted the challenges at the first instance for public audience, after which 30 additional communities adhered to the process.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ The Office supported the Presidential Secretariat for Women in the preparation and submission of a follow-up report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in August 2012. The Office also engaged with authorities throughout the year to support the elaboration of the Government's report to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- ▶ Further to OHCHR's provision of technical advice to civil society, more communications were sent to special procedures mandate-holders by civil society organizations or individuals, in particular to the Special Rapporteur on the situation

of human rights defenders and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. In addition, the Office provided support to civil society for the preparation of an alternative report to the Human Rights Committee and for the reports from civil society and the national human rights institution which were submitted to the UPR.

Guatemala: Expenditure in 2012		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	2,222,656
Consultants	-	135,321
Official travel	-	65,141
Contractual services	-	147,826
General operating expenses	-	344,442
Supplies & materials	-	122,730
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	100,133
Subtotal	-	3,138,249
Programme support costs		407,972
GRAND TOTAL	-	3,546,221

Mexico

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2012	22
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 2,771,838

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ The General Law on Victims, which was approved by the Federal Congress in 2012 and promulgated on 9 January 2013, establishes a National System for the Attention to Victims and aims at protecting a number of rights of victims of violence and human rights violations, including access to truth, justice and reparation, as well as guarantees of non-repetition. OHCHR provided technical assistance during the legislative process by facilitating dialogue between congresspersons and victims and advocating for its approval during the final stages of the debates.
- ▶ The Law for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists entered into force in June 2012 as a result of advocacy by civil society organizations and technical assistance provided

by OHCHR. The Law provides for the creation of a National Mechanism for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists with human rights activists and journalists as permanent members. The Office was accorded the status of permanent guest with no vote.

- ▶ The Office in Mexico continued to promote and follow up on the implementation of indicators, based on OHCHR's methodology, which are developed to assist the State in evaluating the impact of public policies on the national human rights situation and to monitor its compliance with international human rights instruments and standards. In 2012, the Superior Tribunal of Justice of Mexico City continued to implement indicators on the right to fair trial which have also been proposed for adoption by all local Tribunals in Mexico. The elaboration of fair trial indicators has been formally approved and its implementation made compulsory at the Federal level by the Supreme Court of Justice of Mexico and the Federal Judicial Council. In parallel, the Prosecutor's Office of Mexico City established and formally adopted its own set of fair trial indicators at the stage of prosecution. Additionally, the Ministry of Interior adopted OHCHR's framework for measuring violence against women and published, jointly with OHCHR, a book entitled *How to Measure Violence against Women in Mexico? Volume I: Structural Indicators*, which introduces 111 indicators approved and validated to measure violence against women in Mexico.
- ▶ A constitutional amendment that will authorize federal authorities to investigate crimes against journalists entered into force in June 2012. The amendment endorses a specific recommendation made by the Special Rapporteurs on freedom of expression from the UN and the Organizations of American States (OAS) following their joint visit to Mexico in 2010. OHCHR, together with civil society organizations, academics and organizations of journalists, drafted a proposal for the legislation needed to implement the amendment.



Consultation with the Wurrárika indigenous population in Mexico, February 2012.



Inauguration of the International Conference on Constitutional Protection of Human Rights organized by the Mexican Supreme Court, November 2012.

- ▶ Throughout 2012, OHCHR conducted 36 field missions in 16 states to monitor 110 cases of alleged human rights violations. Approximately 120 interviews with victims of human rights violations, detainees, their families, advocates and witnesses were carried out. OHCHR presented all documented cases to the human rights ombudsperson and law enforcement authorities at the federal or local levels. The Office used these opportunities to familiarize prosecutors with international standards on human rights in general and the administration of justice in particular and to promote the compliance of the Government with its international obligations on human rights matters. These efforts allowed the Office to establish a relationship of trust with authorities which led to an improvement in official responses to cases raised by OHCHR in 2012. This improvement was measured by the increase of first-hand information provided to the Office, the ability to interview prosecutors regarding the lines of investigations and the possibility of following-up on prosecutions in all cases.
- ▶ OHCHR triggered the elaboration of assessments on the mainstreaming of international human rights standards in Baja California, Oaxaca, Morelos and the Coyoacan District in the City of Mexico. Progressive ownership of the human rights assessment process by relevant authorities is gradually resulting in the incorporation of international human rights standards in decision-making processes. Examples include the revision and development of public budgets with a human rights perspective in the case of the Federal District of Mexico and the creation of a human rights directorate within the administrative structure in

the Coyoacan District. Further to this process, spaces were opened for the participation of civil society in policy-making and implementation.

- ▶ Judicial authorities have increasingly incorporated international human rights standards in their rulings. For instance, the 2011 constitutional reforms on human rights and amparo and seminal rulings by the National Supreme Court of Justice have enhanced the application of international human rights standards by the judiciary. OHCHR played a key role in this development by preparing and submitting compilations of relevant international norms and standards to the National Supreme Court of Justice and other jurisdictions and by organizing forums, seminars and regional consultations on international standards with the judiciary. The Office also actively participated at the November International Conference on Constitutional Protection of Human Rights organized by the Supreme Court in Mexico City which was attended by representatives of the International Court of Justice, the European Court of Human Rights, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Courts and Constitutional Courts of over 20 countries from different continents.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ In order to support State efforts to implement human rights recommendations, OHCHR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a private university jointly updated an online search tool which contains all recommendations issued in relation to Mexico by international and regional human rights mechanisms.

A new law protecting journalists and human rights defenders

The precarious conditions in which human rights defenders (HRDs) work has been a priority concern of OHCHR-Mexico which has addressed this problem comprehensively for the past several years. Following the amplification of the Office's mandate in Mexico to include public reporting, in 2009, OHCHR-Mexico published a public report on the situation HRDs, which included analysis of particular cases and recommendations to the Mexican Government. The 2010 follow-up report demonstrated the severity of the situation and stressed the Government's binding duties to improve the environment in which HRDs carry out their activities. As a result, OHCHR-Mexico has been able to successfully place the issue

of the growing risks encountered by HRDs on the public agenda.

The culmination of these and subsequent efforts was the entering into force of the Law for the Protection of Journalists and Human Rights Defenders on 26 June 2012. The contents of the Law were the result of a process pushed through the Congress by civil society organizations with technical assistance from OHCHR.

The Law creates a Protection Mechanism for Human Rights Defenders and Journalists that provides protective measures to guarantee the life, integrity, security and freedom of HRD's and journalists. OHCHR-Mexico

participated in working meetings with authorities in order to elaborate the administrative regulation and operative protocols of the Protection Mechanism, as well as promoting the participation of civil society in this process. At the end of November, the administrative regulation of the Law was published in the Official Gazette. This regulation describes the operation of the Mechanism and contains the description of the attributions of the various component bodies. OHCHR-Mexico contributed extensively with technical advice in the elaboration of these documents and promoted their approval.

- ▶ In the case of a ruling of the Inter-American Court on Human Right focused on military jurisdiction, the Supreme Court of Mexico, with technical support from OHCHR, resumed its original competence to resolve conflicts that have arisen between the military and the ordinary jurisdiction. Among the main legal elements adopted by the Supreme Court was the recognition that none of the crimes in which the active or passive subject is a civilian may be brought before a military court.

Regional Offices

Regional Office for Central America (Panama City, Panama)

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2012	8
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 959,178

Mexico: Expenditure in 2012

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	1,885,472
Consultants	-	126,660
Official travel	-	139,108
Contractual services	-	68,564
General operating expenses	-	154,109
Supplies & materials	-	40,318
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	38,723
Subtotal	-	2,452,954
Programme support costs		318,884
GRAND TOTAL	-	2,771,838

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ Staff of the national human rights institution (NHRI) in Panama increased its awareness on the human rights situation of indigenous and Afro-descendant populations. OHCHR facilitated a dialogue between the NHRI and indigenous and Afro-descendant populations, which led to an enhanced credibility of the NHRI and is expected to contribute to the improvement of its monitoring capacities. In addition, following efforts of the Regional Office, the National Commission against Discrimination was reactivated and its strategic plan and internal rules of procedure were developed.
- ▶ A training of trainers on human rights for 21 judges was designed and carried out by OHCHR in collaboration with the National



Participants at an OHCHR workshop for indigenous women in Panama.

Judicial Academy of the Dominican Republic. All participants successfully completed the training and will in turn provide training for other judges and prosecutors. The training will be institutionalized in the National Judicial Academy's curricula and in 2013, OHCHR will work with the National Judicial Academy to elaborate a detailed proposal in this regard.

Access to justice and basic services (EA 4)

- ▶ In El Salvador, the Regional Office's Protocol on femicide¹ investigation was adopted by the Public Prosecutor's Office and is being used to train prosecutors throughout the country.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ In Panama, the National Permanent Commission, an inter-institutional body created to follow up on recommendations formulated by human rights mechanisms, received additional support from the Regional Office, which trained members of the Commission and shared lessons learned in other countries. The Regional Office participated in three of the Commission's meetings, including its working-level meeting on the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and published a compilation of all recommendations issued in relation to Panama by the international human rights mechanisms to facilitate effective follow-up. In Costa

Rica, members of an inter-institutional commission, which was established with support from OHCHR, were also trained on international human rights mechanisms, racial discrimination and ICERD. The Regional Office prepared a draft compilation of recommendations issued in relation to Costa Rica by the international human rights mechanisms which is currently under review by the Costa Rican Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- ▶ Further to a recommendation of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), a draft National Action Plan against Racial Discrimination is being developed in Costa Rica through a participatory process involving civil society organizations and representatives of African-descent and indigenous peoples. OHCHR advocated for the participation of rights-holders in the process and is providing technical advice to the inter-institutional commission in charge of the elaboration of the plan.
- ▶ In Costa Rica, OHCHR contributed to the increased awareness of indigenous peoples' organizations on the recommendations concerning the Diquis hydroelectric project formulated by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples. A road map for the implementation of these recommendations was established through a participatory process between the Government, indigenous peoples and UN agencies and was facilitated by the Regional Office.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- ▶ Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant organizations in Belize, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama increased their knowledge on the

¹ Femicide refers to an extreme form of gender-based violence; the intentional killing of women for being women.

use of international human rights mechanisms following technical advice they received from the Regional Office. As a result, indigenous peoples' organizations and an Afro-descendant coalition in Belize presented a shadow report to CERD. In addition, OHCHR brought together Afro-descendant and indigenous peoples organizations for the drafting of a report to the Human Rights Committee and to the second cycle of Belize's UPR. This was the first time these organizations collaborated to advocate for their rights. In Panama, with guidance from the Regional Office, the National Coordinator of Indigenous Women of Panama prepared a report on their human rights concerns for the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples. In Nicaragua, the Regional Office trained 38 indigenous women from 18 diverse ethnic groups on the use of international mechanisms. This training included an open discussion with members of the judiciary aimed at improving access to justice for indigenous women. In the Dominican Republic, the Regional Office provided technical assistance to non-governmental organizations on the presentation of shadow reports to CERD, HRC and CEDAW.

Responsiveness of the international community (EA 10)

- ▶ As a result of the Regional Office's engagement with the Central American Integration System (SICA), human rights elements were included in the final declaration of SICA's XXXIX Meeting of Heads of States and Governments. Additionally, the Plan of Action adopted during the meeting explicitly instructed SICA's General Secretariat to coordinate with OHCHR to develop joint initiatives aimed at strengthening the integration of a human rights dimension into the regional security strategy.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ The annual meeting between the Regional Interagency Group on Indigenous Peoples and the Regional Consultative Mechanism of Indigenous Peoples concluded with a series of recommendations on how UN agencies should address two major issues of concern for indigenous peoples, namely climate change and the right to consultation. The Regional Office supported the participation of three indigenous peoples' representatives from the region (members of the Regional Interagency Group), who provided their views and guidance to UN agencies on these issues.
- ▶ The Assessment on the situation of indigenous peoples human rights in Central America,

Successful negotiations between the Government and indigenous peoples in Panama

In February 2012, massive protests against a proposed law regulating mining and hydroelectric development in indigenous lands took place in Panama (Comarcas). Violent clashes between indigenous Ngabe Bugle and police forces practically paralyzed the country for several days. Subsequently, the OHCHR Regional Office and the UN Resident Coordinator were asked to facilitate the negotiation process.

OHCHR's direct involvement in the negotiations between the Government and the indigenous Ngabe Bugle representatives was crucial to the establishment of an environment of mutual trust between the different actors and facilitated a constructive discussion. In particular, the Office was asked by the Resident Coordinator to facilitate the negotiation on how to draft the conflictive article of the proposed law regulating mining and hydroelectric development in indigenous Ngabe Bugle lands. After several days of negotiations, an agreement was reached on 15 March and the resulting text was approved by the Parliament.

elaborated by the Regional Office, was launched during the 10th session of the Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues in New York. The Regional Office supported the participation in the Permanent Forum of one indigenous member of OHCHR's Regional Consultative Mechanism, who presented the report and provided her views on the situation of indigenous peoples in the region.

Regional Office for Central America (Panama City, Panama): Expenditure in 2012

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	589,565	111,981
Consultants	7,834	12,776
Official travel	40,711	23,245
Contractual services	2,793	300
General operating expenses	65,204	20,400
Supplies & materials	8,633	-
Seminars, grants & contributions	26,181	24,446
Subtotal	740,921	193,148
Programme support costs	-	25,109
GRAND TOTAL	740,921	218,257

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ The Governments of Brazil, Argentina and Peru submitted their national reports for the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) based on the new general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council. Prior to these submissions, the Regional Office conducted a training session for Government representatives in Argentina and Peru on the second cycle of the UPR and also advised the Brazilian Government in this regard.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- ▶ During 2012, the Regional Office promoted the engagement with human rights mechanisms through several workshops carried out in Chile, including for indigenous leaders in Temuco (April 2012), Antofagasta (November 2012) and Santiago (May and November 2012) and for the Ombudsman's Office in Tucuman, Argentina (July 2012). During the year, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples received several communications from various participants of those trainings.
- ▶ Reports prepared by civil society actors in Argentina and Peru, who benefited from the Office's technical advice and cooperation, were submitted to the Committee Against Torture and communications were sent to the Human Rights Committee, the Special Rapporteurs on the independence of the judiciary, human rights defenders and freedom of expression and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.
- ▶ The Regional Office conducted training sessions on the UPR reporting procedure for civil society organizations in Argentina and Peru and, consequently, 20 Argentinian and 17 Peruvian civil society organizations sent individual or joint submissions in anticipation of the UPR second cycle for their respective countries. The Office also supported the national human rights institutions in Argentina and Peru which sent information for the UPR process.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ In December 2012, the Government approved the Brazilian United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2012-2015. A human rights-based approach was partially applied for the development of the document, primarily in relation to citizen security policies and other public policies particularly affecting vulnerable groups. The Regional Office provided technical assistance to the UN Country Team (UNCT) since 2010 by, for instance, conducting trainings on human rights instruments and a human rights-based approach

Videos tell human rights stories

Video is a very effective way to illustrate stories. The Regional Office in South America produced two videos for the colloquium organized in connection with Human Rights Day 2012. The colloquium, entitled *My voice counts: public and political participation of women in Chile*, addressed the issue of the inclusion of women in public and political life. The two videos were presented before participants to contextualize the discussion.

Video 1 – Women and participation in politics

The video provides figures of women participation in politics and introduces the recent concluding observations of CEDAW Committee on the issue. It also features the opinion of women who participate in politics in different areas (such as State institutions, civil society and social movements) who highlight the importance of the participation of all women in public life. The video is available at the following link: <http://youtu.be/1Rnwbtkdo4>

Video 2 – Voices echoing: opening new spaces for women

This video introduces the discussion on the participation of women in other areas of social life such as labour, culture, family, education, and particularly in traditionally male-dominated areas. It also includes masculine perspectives on the issue and the role played by men in the eradication of gender discrimination in society. The video is available at: <http://youtu.be/1Rnwbtkdo4>

for UNCT staff and providing technical advice on incorporating this approach into the UNDAF.

Regional Office for South America (Santiago, Chile): Expenditure in 2012

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	709,152	299,736
Consultants	-	142,410
Official travel	9,700	140,835
Contractual services	-	6,700
General operating expenses	115,800	22,131
Supplies & materials	2,400	5,450
Seminars, grants & contributions	14,300	3,900
Subtotal	851,352	621,162
Programme support costs	-	80,751
GRAND TOTAL	851,352	701,913

Human Rights Component in UN Peace Mission

United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

Year established	2004
Staff as of 31 December 2012	58

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

► The Organic Law on the *Office de la Protection du Citoyen* (OPC), Haiti's national human rights institution, was adopted on 17 July 2012. The Human Rights Section (HRS) of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) contributed to this result through the provision of technical advice at the drafting stage to ensure the Bill's compliance with the Paris Principles and advocated for its adoption by Parliament. The adoption of the Law resulted in a significant, though still insufficient, increase of budgetary resources for the OPC. OHCHR also contributed to the increased capacity of the

OPC by participating in joint monthly visits of detention facilities; participating in the *comités de la détention provisoire prolongée* (committees on prolonged pre-trial detention); and providing financial as well as logistic support to the OPC's regional presences. By the end of 2012, close to 300 persons illegally or arbitrarily deprived of their liberty had been released as a result of the work of the *comités de la détention provisoire prolongée*.

- The Magistrate School, with support from the HRS, included a module on international human rights in its regular training. In addition, the HRS organized a public debate between selected Haitian judges and a judge and senior staff lawyer from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on the applicability of international human rights law in the domestic system. The proceedings of the debate have been published and 100 copies will be distributed among judges and prosecutors. The publication will serve as a reference and advocacy tool for enhanced use of international human rights standards in national courts.
- The Police Academy adopted a human rights curriculum which has been integrated into the global training programme for new police officers. The HRS facilitated training-of-trainers sessions to support the Academy in implementing this curriculum. In addition, the Police Academy adopted an action plan in relation to the new



A girl waits in line for food aid being distributed by the Haitian government in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Isaac.

curriculum which includes initiatives such as the reinforcement of initial training. This demonstrates the Academy's institutional commitment to teaching international human rights standards through initial and continuous training of members of the police force.

- ▶ The capacity of relevant State entities to integrate human rights and protection measures into return and relocation programmes for internally displaced persons was strengthened through continuous advocacy by OHCHR, including through the elaboration of an advocacy note. The note provided specific recommendations and outlined vulnerability criteria for the selection of camps for return and relocation programmes and was developed in consultation with the Camp Coordination and Camp Management/Emergency-Shelter, Education and Protection Clusters and the Child Protection Sub-Cluster. The vulnerability criteria have been used by the Government of Haiti and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the prioritization of camps. Furthermore, protection principles have been integrated in the Government's 16/6 programme, implemented jointly with IOM, which aims to provide durable return solutions to people living in camps.

Ratification (EA 2)

- ▶ The Haitian Parliament adopted the Law for the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) on 31 January 2012. The HRS contributed to this achievement through advocacy activities targeting Parliament Committees, civil society and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The ICESCR entry into force is subject to the promulgation of the Law by the President of Haiti and the deposit of the instrument of ratification with the Secretary-General.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ Civil society participation in decision-making processes increased at the national and local levels. OHCHR contributed to this through the delivery of training sessions on public policies and budget monitoring with human rights-based tools. The sessions were attended by duty-bearers and rights-holders, including women from grassroots organizations, in Port-au-Prince, Gonaives, Hinche, Jeremie and les Cayes.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ In 2012, Haiti implemented a significantly increased number of recommendations issued by UN mechanisms. Several recommendations

of special procedures, treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review were implemented in the area of rule of law (appointments of the High Judicial Council, the Chairperson of the Cassation Court and the six Inspectors General of the National Police); social policies (approval of legislation on responsible paternity and on disability); and ratification of treaties (ICESCR). This progress was achieved with essential support provided to the relevant national institutions by HRS, in particular the Inter-Institutional Committee on Human Rights and the Ministry of Human Rights and Fight against Extreme Poverty.

- ▶ All visit requests sent by special procedures mandate-holders resulted in official missions to Haiti. The Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti sent two requests which were accepted. His missions were conducted from 31 January to 8 February and from 25 November to 1 December, with substantive and logistical support provided by the HRS.
- ▶ On 30 November, Haiti submitted its first report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, a treaty it had ratified in 1991. This resulted from consistent advocacy and support provided by the HRS and the Inter-Institutional Committee on Human Rights.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ As a result of substantive support provided by the HRS, the four pillars of the UN Integrated Strategic Framework 2013-2016 for Haiti include human rights concepts. Its indicators were developed taking into account the UPR recommendations.
- ▶ The HRS contributed to a MINUSTAH paper on pre-trial detention, ensuring that the rights of the detainees to a full defence and a fair trial are fully reflected and integrated in the Mission's approach to this issue. Likewise, the HRS developed a strategy on sexual and gender-based violence, in collaboration with MINUSTAH's Justice, Gender and Child Protection Sections and the UN Police, ensuring that human rights standards and principles are integrated into the Mission's approach to the issue.
- ▶ The Protection Cluster, led by the HRS, organized workshops for and held regular meetings with members of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene; Health; and Camp Coordination and Camp Management/Emergency-Shelter Clusters regarding the integration of protection and human rights standards and principles into their programming and activities. This contributed to ensuring the humanitarian community is more cohesive in upholding human rights standards in its advocacy efforts and operations.

Human Rights Advisers in UN Country Teams

Ecuador

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2012	3

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ Approximately 120 public planning officials increased their knowledge on methodologies for the formulation of public policies from a human rights perspective as a result of specialized training facilitated by OHCHR. A new version of the Guidelines to formulate sector specific public policies developed with the support of the Office, to be released in 2013, will constitute a tool for human rights mainstreaming in development planning and therefore strengthen the capacities of the National Secretariat for Development and Planning (SENPLADES).
- ▶ A training module on human rights was institutionalized in the National Institute of Higher Education (IAEN) and is now part of the regular courses offered to all public officials of the Government. The module, which was jointly developed by OHCHR, the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Cults and IAEN, makes use of non-formal methodologies in order to sensitize State actors on human rights issues and obligations.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ Indigenous justice authorities and civil society actors improved their knowledge and understanding about an intercultural approach to human rights and legal pluralism in line with ILO Convention No. 169 and key recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples. OHCHR contributed to this result by facilitating a number of activities, including a workshop and seminar on coordination and cooperation between indigenous and ordinary justice systems which were attended by representatives of the Government, indigenous communities, judges, prosecutors and civil society.

- ▶ OHCHR promoted the implementation of Universal Periodic Review recommendations by contributing to their systematization and widespread dissemination through the development of a database which can be easily accessed from the webpage of the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Cults.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- ▶ By conducting training activities, OHCHR contributed to the increased knowledge of civil society organizations on how to interact with international human rights mechanisms. Consequently, a number of these organizations prepared their first alternative reports to the human rights monitoring bodies. Four non-governmental organizations submitted reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and three non-governmental organizations submitted

Human rights-based approach in public policies in Ecuador

For the last four years, OHCHR has been supporting the National Secretariat for Development and Planning (SENPLADES) to integrate a human rights-based approach in national development planning processes and tools. This has been a mutual learning process in which human rights, development and planning have reinforced each other in order to promote the full realization of human rights through public policies.

The year 2012 was crucial in positioning the human rights approach as the methodology needed to close existing gaps in the enjoyment of rights by providing knowledge, skills and tools to public planning officials. Methodologies and tools developed in previous years are being reviewed according to feedback provided by public officials after their practical application.

In early 2013, an initial group of multipliers within the Government has been consolidated, trained and ready to provide advice on how to integrate a human rights-based approach in public policies. Another important development includes the elaboration process of a national atlas of inequalities, supported by 11 UN agencies led by the HRA, that will provide disaggregated information (by gender, age, ethnicity, location, etc.) needed to target public policies and as the base-line for the next National Development Plan.

alternative reports to the Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ In coordination with the Resident Coordinator's Office and ILO, OHCHR organized a workshop for UN agencies which led to the increased knowledge and understanding of the right to prior consultation of indigenous peoples by relevant UNCT members. This led to the reactivation of the Inter-Agency Group on multiculturalism, which is currently elaborating a cooperation proposal to support the Confederation of Indigenous Peoples of Ecuador on the right to prior and informed consent.

Honduras

Year established	2010
Staff as of 31 December 2012	-

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ The Ministry for Justice and Human Rights drafted a Human Rights National Action Plan in consultation with stakeholders, including civil society organizations. The guidance of the Human Rights Adviser, supported by three consultants, contributed to the Ministry's work to develop a comprehensive State policy on human rights. The draft Plan will be presented to the Government in 2013 for its adoption.

Justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ A total of 39 judges and 21 public defenders increased their knowledge on international human rights standards in the administration of justice following training sessions organized by OHCHR, with the participation of international experts from Europe and Latin America. The Public Prosecutor's Office received technical assistance on strengthening the investigation capabilities of the Special Prosecutor for Human Rights (FEDH) and the Special Prosecutor for Indigenous Peoples (FEEPC). In addition, a proposal for a more efficient structure of the FEDH was presented to the Attorney General and the FEEPC received assistance in systematizing its cases.
- ▶ The Human Rights Adviser conducted a comprehensive assessment of the Honduran

prison system and made recommendations to the Government for improvement of the system.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ Rights-holders actively participated in the elaboration of the First National Policy on Human Rights: Human Rights Action Plan, which is expected to be approved in 2013. With the assistance of OHCHR, a group of consultants analysed recommendations issued in relation to Honduras from international human rights bodies to ensure their inclusion in the Plan. OHCHR also trained 15 civil society organizations representing vulnerable groups, such as indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, women and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, on strategic litigation in order to improve their knowledge of national, regional and international human rights protection systems and support their participation in the drafting of the Human Rights Action Plan.

Paraguay

Year established	2010
Staff as of 31 December 2012	3

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ A National Human Rights Action Plan was elaborated with the active involvement of departments from the three branches of the Government, civil society organizations and academia. The Human Rights Adviser (HRA) accompanied the process and ensured that recommendations from international human rights mechanisms were included in the Plan.
- ▶ The National Plan on Human Rights Education was adopted in 2012 and its implementation is underway. Civil society organizations participated in the development of the Plan, which was coordinated by the Ministry of Education and Culture with the support of the HRA. Furthermore, the Ministry formally requested the HRA's continued cooperation during the implementation of the Plan, including for the design of indicators on the right to education.
- ▶ Following HRA's advocacy and advice, the definition of torture was amended in the penal code to bring it in line with international human rights standards.

- ▶ A Commission for the selection of members of the National Torture Prevention Mechanism was established and all members were selected by December 2012, in compliance with national legislation and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The Commission was composed of a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives of the Government and civil society. The latter were supported by the HRA to ensure their participation.
- ▶ A total of 71 indicators on the right to health were designed by the Executive Human Rights Network, the Ministry of Health and the Department of Statistics, Census and Surveys, with guidance from OHCHR and other UN agencies and were presented in December 2012. Once implemented, the indicators will provide details on the effectiveness of public policies related to the right to health as they will disaggregate data according to age, sex, ethnic group, location, disability and people affected by and living with HIV. The indicators will provide NGOs and civil society with a valuable tool to monitor the impact of public policies on the most vulnerable groups.
- ▶ Human rights indicators on the right to fair trial were developed, with the participation of more than 100 judges and court officials and the UN Country Team, and were adopted by the Supreme Court of Justice on December 2012. OHCHR closely followed the process and provided guidance and technical advice.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ The December 2012 publication of the annual report of CODEHUPY, a network of Paraguayan human rights NGOs, provides information on the evolution of the human rights situation in Paraguay. The HRA contributed to the increased capacity of NGOs to monitor human rights by,

for instance, sharing the OHCHR methodology on human rights indicators, which was taken into account by NGOs in their own monitoring and reporting processes.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ Following a request by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for technical cooperation to facilitate the follow-up to recommendations of international human rights mechanisms, the HRA updated the contents of the search portal on international human rights recommendations (created in 2011) issued in relation to Paraguay.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- ▶ The HRA contributed to the increased capacity of NGOs to engage with international human rights mechanisms by conducting a workshop, in coordination with CODEHUPY, on the protection of human rights in Paraguay and by developing and disseminating the Guidelines for reporting to the UN mechanisms for protection. As a consequence of these activities, NGOs began engaging with the special procedures and more than eight communications were sent to six special procedures asking for urgent actions and calling on the Government to fulfil its international human rights obligations.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ The HRA and the UN Inter-Agency Working Group on HIV/AIDS were involved in the drafting of the first report on the human rights situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in Paraguay, especially in relation to discrimination and the rights to identity, health, education, work and integrity. The report is expected to be launched in 2013.



The Human Rights Adviser speaks at the launch of the indicators on the right to fair trial, December 2012. The event was attended by the President of Paraguay and other authorities of the country.

Actor promotes human rights in Paraguay

Celso Franco, an actor from Paraguay, has helped raise awareness for human rights in his country through his roles and his collaboration with OHCHR. He became popular following his role in *7 Cajas* (7 boxes), a film which exposes the daily lives of desperate, yet ordinary people in Asunción's infamous Central Market. Throughout his young adult, real, life, Celso has been a staunch supporter of child, youth and environmental protection causes.

When approached by the Human Rights Adviser in Paraguay about forming part of a human rights campaign, he replied yes without hesitation. "Celso instinctively embraced the cause because he deeply believes in it", commented the Human Rights Adviser. *You're a person, you have rights*, the slogan of the campaign, was



the perfect motto for Celso to champion human rights culture in his homeland.

Since then, Celso has become a figurehead for human rights in Paraguay. His warm personality and charisma have made human rights messages accessible to all. Celso is now preparing his performance in a play, *Cementerio de Vivos* (The living Cemetery) which is a timely portrayal of the degrading conditions in Paraguayan prisons and the lack of justice for poor people, and shows that people deprived of their liberty have also rights.

Celso's example shows that it is not necessary to be a doctor or a lawyer to promote human rights. Anybody can be a human rights defender, and raise awareness that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

OHCHR in the field: Asia and the Pacific



Type of presence	Location
Country office	● Cambodia
Regional offices	● South-East Asia (Bangkok, Thailand) ● Pacific (Suva, Fiji)
Human rights components in UN Peace Missions	● Afghanistan ● Timor-Leste***
Human rights advisers in UN Country Teams	● Maldives ● Papua New Guinea ● Sri Lanka

*** Closed in 2012

This was a year of significant transition for OHCHR's field presences in the region. The country office in Nepal was wound up by June after seven years of contribution to the peace process in the country. The UN Mission in Timor-Leste, with its Human Rights and Transitional Justice Section, was also phased out on 31 December, having assisted in consolidating human rights protection and the rule of law for over a decade. OHCHR redeployed a Human Rights Adviser (HRA) to the Maldives (following a previous deployment in 2007-2008) and prepared to position a HRA in

Timor-Leste. Plans were also laid to strengthen OHCHR's Regional Office in Bangkok in 2013. With support from the UPR Trust Fund, a UN volunteer was deployed to Vanuatu to assist in UPR follow-up and a similar deployment to the Marshall Islands is forthcoming.

The High Commissioner visited Pakistan in June and Indonesia in November 2012. The Deputy High Commissioner visited Mongolia in June 2012. OHCHR also provided support to the Secretary-General's visit to Iran for the Non-Aligned Movement Summit in September, during which he engaged extensively on human rights issues. OHCHR continued to support four Human Rights Council country mandates on Cambodia, Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea, Iran and Myanmar.

Rapid democratic reforms taking place in Myanmar presented important new opportunities for OHCHR engagement. The Regional Office in Bangkok conducted regular missions and provided initial technical assistance to the Myanmar Human Rights Commission and Prisons Department. During a more comprehensive assessment mission in June, expanded areas of cooperation were discussed and in November, the Government of Myanmar announced that it would invite OHCHR to establish a country office. Discussions on a host country agreement are underway.

OHCHR also played a leading role in responding to the political crisis in the Maldives that led to a transfer of power in February 2012. OHCHR joined the Department of Political Affairs in two good offices and assessment missions in February and December. A proposed high level judicial mission and national roundtable on justice sector reform unfortunately proved unfeasible.

Impunity issues remained a major focus of work in the region. The High Commissioner continued her strong advocacy for accountability and reconciliation in Sri Lanka, following up on the Secretary-General's Panel of Experts and the Government's Lessons Learned and Reconciliation Commission. Following a resolution of the Human Rights Council in March 2012, OHCHR conducted a technical mission in September to assess progress and explore possible areas of technical assistance ahead of a possible visit by the High Commissioner in 2013. In October, OHCHR released the major Nepal

Conflict Report and database analysing more than 30,000 documents on conflict-related violations as a contribution to the transitional justice debate in Nepal. OHCHR led the advocacy efforts of national and international stakeholders in Nepal for the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms but opposed provisions that would grant amnesty for serious international crimes. During 2012, OHCHR also welcomed the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Thailand and followed the ongoing trials before the International Crimes Tribunal in Bangladesh.

OHCHR continued its work on discrimination issues in the region. Further capacity-building activities were held for specialized women's commissions and women's rights networks in the region. Building on its work in Nepal, OHCHR also continued to promote best practices for combating caste-based discrimination for UN Country Teams and national partners in the region. A regional consultation was also held in Bangkok on the rights of minorities and indigenous people in September 2012. Discrimination and violence against women and religious minorities were a major focus of the High Commissioner's visits to Indonesia and Pakistan.

At the regional level, OHCHR continued to engage with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the development of the region's first human rights mechanisms. The elaboration of an ASEAN Human Rights Declaration by the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights was a major focus for the High Commissioner's interventions. The final Declaration adopted by ASEAN leaders in November contained important human rights commitments, yet it also included provisions which fall short of international standards. OHCHR partnered with UNDP in organizing two regional consultations for parliamentarians and civil society in Manila and Dhaka in November and December, respectively, in relation to defining the post-2015 development agenda.

By the end of 2012, OHCHR had eight field presences in Asia and the Pacific, including: one country office (Cambodia), two regional offices (Bangkok and Suva), two human rights components in peace missions (Afghanistan and Timor-Leste) and three Human Rights Advisers (Maldives, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka).

Documenting Human Rights Violations from Nepal's 10-year conflict

On 8 October 2012, OHCHR released the Nepal Conflict Report, a landmark report documenting and analysing serious violations of international law that occurred during the 10-year conflict in Nepal (1996-2006), along with a database of approximately 30,000 documents, designed to provide a tool for Nepalese institutions and civil society to continue the process of seeking truth and justice for the violations committed. The report consolidates and analyses information on conflict violations gathered by OHCHR-Nepal, the Nepal National Human Rights Commission and several civil society organizations.

The release of the Report has reignited debate and discussion within the community on transitional justice issues at a time when political leaders have proposed amnesties for gross violations of international law committed during the conflict, contrary to their international obligations. Over the next year, OHCHR will work with national partners to disseminate the report at the local level and develop national-level strategies towards prosecution. The report also provides a framework for future engagement by UN agencies on transitional justice issues.

- ▶ OHCHR supported the monitoring of trials in two provincial courts which led to an improvement in fair trial rights. The number of pending criminal appeals has decreased and there are no longer prisoners with an appeal that has been pending for 10 or more years. OHCHR encouraged this result by working with the General Department of Prison (GDP) and the Appeal Court to review the status of pending cases, hosting the first national workshop for judges, prosecutors and prison officials working within the Appeal Court in September and providing assistance through legal aid NGOs. Consequently, several provincial prisons are systematically receiving court judgements, the GDP and the Appeal Court have agreed to streamline the transmission of appeal decisions to prisons and the excessive detention of individuals awaiting appeal decisions has decreased.
- ▶ In September, the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia adopted a revised Code of Professional Conduct for lawyers that is more compliant with international human rights. OHCHR in Cambodia supported this by organizing a series of consultations with lawyers to finalize the revised Code and providing expert technical advice.

Country Office

Cambodia

Year established	1993
Staff as of 31 December 2012	33
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 2,563,787

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ The judiciary is more aware of the rights of defendants. OHCHR contributed to this result by co-organizing a national conference on the Criminal Procedure Code with the Justice Ministry. The participants adopted several recommendations which were endorsed by the Minister and published in a report. In addition, several courts have abandoned the practice of box-ticking and have begun writing decisions on pre-trial detention.



Human rights demonstration in Cambodia.

- ▶ Following briefings by the Office and an inter-ministerial consultation on prison labour that was jointly organized by OHCHR, ILO, and relevant Ministries in March, three Ministries issued an Inter-ministerial Directive prohibiting prison production of goods for export. In the past, such production has raised concerns among Cambodia's trade partners which have prohibited the import of products that are partly or wholly manufactured in prison.
- ▶ Prison authorities have increased their capacity to protect the rights of prisoners, including by partnering with external organizations. OHCHR contributed to this by promoting and facilitating dedicated rooms for prisoners in referral hospitals and by supporting partners providing medical and other services to women and children in prison. OHCHR continued lending support to prison authorities in improving conditions. Concrete improvements made in nine prisons, in partnership with authorities, positively impacted on the lives of over 6,500 prisoners, in particular with regard to safe water and sanitation, improved ventilation and access to the outdoors. Prisons in Cambodia are better prepared to face disasters following active support from OHCHR and partners. This included a national workshop on disaster preparedness in prison that was organized by the GDP and OHCHR in July. As a result, preparedness plans and work undertaken ensured the safety and security of over 1,200 prisoners during the floods in 2012.
- ▶ Law-enforcement and administrative authorities have changed their behaviour in situations where the rights to freedom of assembly and expression and physical integrity could have been violated. Through mediating between authorities and civil society groups, OHCHR ensured that authorities allowed rights-holders to enjoy their rights in several instances, especially during marches or protests.

Ratification (EA 2)

- ▶ Cambodia ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 20 December 2012. OHCHR supported this by advocating for ratification, especially at the Ministry of Social Affairs, and by providing technical support on the preparation of the statement to justify the law on ratification which was adopted by Parliament prior to ratification.

Justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ Following regular advocacy by the Office in 2011, the Government drafted a law in 2012 to establish the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), in line with the requirements of the Optional Protocol to

the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Paris Principles. The current NPM-related entities include an inter-ministerial Committee created by Sub-Decree and a Secretary to that Committee that resulted from a Ministry of Interior Directive. Neither of the entities is legally protected from possible summary abolition by the executive. The draft law has not yet been shared with the Office.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ Rights-holders are better able to claim their rights in court through improved access to quality legal representation throughout the country. With no comprehensive legal aid system in Cambodia, OHCHR partnered with Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF) in 2012 to provide free legal representation in criminal cases in all provinces for four months. OHCHR has also recruited a Legal Advocacy Officer to assist lawyers in developing arguments using international human rights law.
- ▶ Some 470 human rights defenders increased their capacity to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms. OHCHR contributed to this by organizing national training sessions specially designed for human rights defenders on the use of the Peaceful Demonstration Law and on methodologies for monitoring and reporting on human rights violations.
- ▶ Rights-holders are better aware of the international obligations of States in relation to freedom of expression and opinion and are therefore more equipped to demand respect for their rights. To this end, OHCHR facilitated the translation into Khmer, publication and distribution of General Comment No. 34 of the Human Rights Committee.
- ▶ People who have been arrested by the police are more aware of their rights during police custody. In cooperation with the Ministries of Interior and of Justice, OHCHR produced an Arrest Rights Card which explains the rights of arrested persons in simple language. The cards were distributed to police stations and human rights defenders.
- ▶ Twelve indigenous communities (Phnong and Suoy) gained legal recognition as a step towards the award of communal land title. OHCHR, together with ILO, provided expertise and financial support to the communities and monitored the process.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ Cambodia responded to two of the seven communications submitted by special procedures mandate-holders in 2012.

Cambodia: Expenditure in 2012

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	1,096,692	371,650
Consultants	-	39,475
Official travel	31,000	79,103
Contractual services	3,500	143,642
General operating expenses	143,619	6,000
Supplies & materials	44,166	141,740
Seminars, grants & contributions	4,000	316,452
Subtotal	1,322,977	1,098,062
Programme support costs	-	142,748
GRAND TOTAL	1,322,977	1,240,810

Regional Offices

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

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2012	8
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 1,147,770

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ The Singaporean Parliament passed amendments to three laws that reduced the scope of the mandatory death penalty. The amendments will make appeals in death penalty cases automatic and provide judges with the discretion to instead impose a life sentence in certain murder and drug trafficking cases. The Regional Office continued engaging with the Government on death penalty issues, in particular by referring to recommendations issued by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and other human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ In 2012, the Government of Thailand withdrew its interpretative declaration of article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights after an amendment of the Criminal Code was passed that stipulated the death

penalty should not be imposed on minors. The Regional Office contributed to this result through consistent advocacy. Furthermore, following the Government's request for technical assistance concerning death penalty reform, the Regional Office held consultations with several stakeholders, including the Ministry of Justice, the Attorney General, judges, lawyers and civil society to share experiences and good practices on death penalty reform from other parts of the world.

- ▶ The Regional Office contributed to amendments to the Prison Law in Myanmar through a joint technical cooperation mission with expert staff from OHCHR-Cambodia and UNODC. The members of the mission reviewed the legislation and provided advice on how to bring it in line with international human rights standards. Also, through support provided to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar and consistent advocacy for the implementation of his recommendations, the Regional Office contributed to a number of significant changes in Myanmar, including the Government's release of a large number of political prisoners, many of whose cases were being monitored by the Special Rapporteur.
- ▶ With the support of the Regional Office, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) took steps towards becoming a Paris Principles compliant national human rights commission. The Regional Office developed a project on capacity development of the MNHRC and, as a part of the project, conducted a seminar on good practices in Yangon, Myanmar to comply with the Paris Principles. As a direct outcome, consultations were subsequently held by the MNHRC with local civil society organizations on draft legislation. In addition, OHCHR contributed



Protestors chant slogans about human rights during the ASEAN Summit in Cambodia, November 2012.



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers a speech during the commemoration of Human Rights Day in Myanmar, December 2012.

to the development of draft legislation for the MNHRC. The draft legislation was submitted to the President and is awaiting finalization before being submitted to the Parliament.

Ratification (EA 2)

- ▶ Through its work to support international human rights mechanisms, the Regional Office has consistently advocated for increased ratifications of core human rights treaties in the region. In 2012, Lao PDR ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), the Philippines ratified the Optional Protocol to CAT and Singapore ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol.

Justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ The Philippines Congress passed a bill to criminalize disappearances which provides for the imposition of a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. It is the first national law in Asia to make enforced disappearances a crime. The Government also issued Administrative Order 35, instructing various government agencies to expeditiously cooperate with the investigation and prosecution of cases. The Regional Office proactively engaged with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process as the

Philippines underwent its second cycle review, with a particular emphasis on the issues of disappearances, torture and extrajudicial killings. Some stakeholders in the Philippines consider the Administrative Order 35 to be an outcome of the UPR.

- ▶ On 17 September, the Truth for Reconciliation Commission of Thailand released its final report on the 2010 political violence. Prior to the release, the Regional Office provided support to the Commission, including through sharing recommendations issued by UN human rights mechanisms. The High Commissioner released a public statement a day after the report's release, welcoming it as an important step towards accountability. The Regional Office also advocated for the effective implementation of the Commission's recommendations, including through meeting with the Spokesperson of the Panel appointed by the Prime Minister and developing an advocacy strategy with other UN agencies.

International and regional laws and institutions (EA 8)

- ▶ The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) adopted its Declaration on Human Rights (AHRD) on 18 November. The statement accompanying the AHRD stipulated that the Declaration should be implemented in accordance with the obligations of international human rights treaties to which ASEAN Member States are Party. The Regional Office engaged in various types of advocacy and consultation activities with members of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and civil society actors to encourage the adoption of a declaration provided that it is compliant with international human rights standards. The High Commissioner published statements calling for a more considered review of the draft in accordance with international standards, repeatedly called upon ASEAN to involve civil society to a greater extent and expressed her concerns about the lack of consultation. Furthermore, with the support of OHCHR, the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures issued an Open Letter on the draft AHRD calling attention to the need to strengthen substantive provisions before its adoption. These steps contributed to the increased public awareness that the Declaration does not meet the international standards and that countries should continue to be held accountable under the international human rights treaties to which they are Party.

Regional Office for South-East Asia (Bangkok, Thailand): Expenditure in 2012

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	619,251	232,125
Consultants	14,000	11,615
Official travel	9,900	58,542
Contractual services	-	5,650
General operating expenses	61,840	11,570
Supplies & materials	7,723	7,270
Seminars, grants & contributions	19,700	40,800
Subtotal	732,414	367,572
Programme support costs		47,784
GRAND TOTAL	732,414	415,356

Regional Office for the Pacific (Suva, Fiji)

Year established	2005
Staff as of 31 December 2012	4
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 806,466

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ In 2012, authorities and relevant stakeholders in Samoa, Solomon Islands, Palau and Vanuatu received technical assistance from OHCHR, the Asia Pacific Forum (of national human rights institutions) and the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat related to the establishment of national human rights institutions (NHRIs). Samoa drafted enabling legislation and it is foreseen that an NHRI will be established in 2013.
- ▶ National Disaster Management Offices and relevant ministries in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu have greater knowledge of protection issues and an enhanced understanding of how they should be addressed. OHCHR contributed to this result by providing relevant technical assistance, briefings and tools, including with the cooperation of the Global Protection Cluster and UNHCR. As a result, the National Disaster Management Office of Fiji created a dedicated framework for protection work.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ Approximately 30 key stakeholders in Papua New Guinea (communities in informal settlements, NGOs and other interested actors) have increased their level of knowledge on how to advocate for

their rights. OHCHR contributed to this result by organizing a number of advocacy and capacity development meetings and small-scale workshops in April 2012 that focused on housing rights.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ Two of the countries reporting to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2012 (Tonga and Tuvalu) have prepared their reports in compliance with the UPR reporting guidelines. OHCHR supported the preparation of these reports by organizing and facilitating national-level workshops and technical assistance in both countries, together with the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community/Regional Rights Resource Team.
- ▶ Awareness of the importance of implementing UPR recommendations has increased across the region. The Office took the lead on assessing the implementation of recommendations by deploying UN Volunteers with human rights expertise to support the Marshall Islands and Vanuatu in their efforts. A national consultant will be deployed in 2013 to work with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Fiji.
- ▶ The Regional Office, together with UN Women, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and other partners, assisted Solomon Islands in submitting its State Party report under CEDAW.

Human rights mainstreaming in the United Nations system (EA 11)

- ▶ The Pacific Regional 2013-2017 Common Country Assessment (CCA) and United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) documents, launched on 8 December 2012, include



The Regional Office for the Pacific supported the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the right to safe drinking water and sanitation to Tuvalu, July 2012.

human rights references. OHCHR contributed to the development of these documents by participating in the Steering Committee; drafting the terms of reference for the CCAs; providing inputs from UPR and treaty bodies to most of the 14 countries in the region; organizing briefings for colleagues involved in the drafting of the CCA; ensuring the application of a human rights-based approach; and participating in the task-team drafting the UNDAF document. In addition, the UNDAF document resulted in a specific governance outcome area that explicitly addresses governance in line with international human rights standards.

Regional Office for the Pacific (Suva, Fiji): Expenditure in 2012

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	531,965
Consultants	-	6,969
Official travel	-	74,376
Contractual services	-	10,450
General operating expenses	-	39,318
Supplies & materials	-	6,323
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	44,286
Subtotal	-	713,687
Programme support costs		92,779
GRAND TOTAL	-	806,466

Human Rights Components in UN Peace Missions

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2012	105

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ The Government of Afghanistan made some progress in the implementation and enforcement of the 2009 Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW) as Family Response Units were created in the Afghan National Police

and Gender Units were established in various Government ministries and departments. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), with support from OHCHR, assisted provincial governors and departments of women affairs in establishing provincial commissions on the elimination of violence against women and conducted awareness programmes for law enforcement officials in many provinces.

- ▶ In November, UNAMA released a report entitled *Still a long way to go: implementation of the Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women in Afghanistan*, observing implementation of the EVAW Law over a 12-month period from October 2011 to September 2012. The report noted an increase in incidents of violence against women reported to certain entities, such as the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and provincial departments of women's affairs. This increase in reporting is an encouraging sign that the efforts of civil society organizations, the Government and international actors have increased public awareness of and sensitization to violence against women. Application of the EVAW Law, however, continued to be hampered by underreporting and a failure to investigate most incidents of violence against women.
- ▶ The protection of women victims of violence in safe houses came under serious threat due to a growing perception by some elements that these shelters were promoting immoral activities and, therefore, should be closed down or managed by the Government. UNAMA, in conjunction with its counterparts, facilitated consultations on the issue of women shelters and carried out concerted advocacy. As an outcome, the Bill on regulation of Women Protection Centres (May 2011) was revised to incorporate recommendations developed by Afghan women's groups, the shelter operators and other



The Director of the Human Rights Unit of UNAMA and the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan brief journalists in Kabul, Afghanistan, December 2012.

activists. These recommendations aimed to improve the regulatory framework under which shelters were operating while preserving the ability of NGOs to open and operate such centres. At the same time, the Government accepted its responsibility to open, operate and fund protection shelters for women and girls and to take in victims of violence or threatened violence without restriction.

- ▶ Following sustained UNAMA advocacy, and building upon a 2011 mission by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, the President of Afghanistan issued a decree on 11 March on the occasion of International Women's Day which pardoned a number of female prisoners who had run away from home and reiterated the Government's commitment to promoting constitutional guarantees of gender equality and fundamental freedoms. In September 2012, the Ministers of Justice and Women's Affairs and the Deputy Interior Minister publicly condemned the practice of wrongful arrest and prosecution by law enforcement authorities of women and girls for running away from home, often to escape violence. These condemnations were welcomed by national and international women's rights organizations.
- ▶ The expiration in December 2011 of the terms of the Commissioners of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) and the subsequent absence of new appointments in the past 11 months has served to undermine the AIHRC's capacity to act as a strong and vocal advocate for human rights. All nine Commissioners have been working on an acting basis since December 2011. As of December 2012, this issue has yet to be resolved, despite the repeated interventions by the High Commissioner and the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan.
- ▶ In August, UNAMA published the mid-year report entitled *Protection of Civilians in Conflict*, in which it documented major trends on the protection of civilians in armed conflict in Afghanistan for the first semester of 2012. Findings from the report pointed to a reduction in civilian deaths and injuries during the first six months of 2012, noting that the decrease is a result of many factors and not necessarily a reflection of an enhanced ability of Pro-Government forces to protect communities or of attempts by Anti-Government elements to minimize casualties. From January to November 2012, there was an increase in civilian casualties with UNAMA documenting a total of 7,064 casualties, representing 2,916 civilians killed and 4,418 injured, an increase from 70 per cent in 2011 to 82 per cent in 2012.
- ▶ In order to assess the treatment of conflict-related detainees, UNAMA continued its detention

observation programme in Afghanistan with visits to over 100 facilities managed by the National Directorate of Security (NDS), the Afghan National Police (ANP) and the Central Prison Directorate. In response to the UNAMA report entitled *Treatment of Conflict-Related Detainees in Afghan Custody* (October 2011), the NDS and the Ministry of Interior cooperated with UNAMA and provided access to almost all detention facilities and detainees. NDS dispatched delegations to conduct investigations into the allegations of torture following the UNAMA report. In addition, NDS established a new Human Rights Department to address human rights violations and conducted refresher training programmes for their personnel, including on human rights and humane treatment of detainees. The Ministry of Interior published a report in March 2012 entitled *Improving Prison Conditions and Promoting Human Rights and Gender Equality within the Ministry of Interior*, which highlighted the progress made in terms of capacity-building and provided information about the delegations established to investigate allegations of torture. UNAMA observed, however, that there was no independent oversight of these delegations and that there have been no prosecutions as of the end of 2012.

- ▶ Following the release of the UNAMA report *Treatment of Conflict-Related Detainees in Afghan Custody*, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) took immediate action to support the Afghan authorities in reforming their interrogation and detainee-treatment practices. Under this remedial scheme, ISAF suspended all transfers from international military custody to 16 NDS and ANP facilities where UNAMA had found compelling evidence that torture and ill-treatment had taken place. ISAF also designed and rolled out a six-phase detention facility inspection programme to support Afghan authorities in reforming their interrogation and detainee treatment practices prior to the certification process and resumption of transfers. From November 2011 to March 2012, ISAF completed inspections of the 16 NDS and ANP detention facilities and recertified eight of them.

Justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ The Afghan People's Dialogue on Peace (People's Dialogue) initiative, led by Afghan civil society and facilitated by UNAMA, was designed to enable ordinary Afghans, including women, men and youth, to express their views through inclusive public discussions on the prospects for peace, reconciliation, security, economic development, human rights and the rule of law in Afghanistan. Afghan civil society hosted 78 consultations with over 1,500 local Afghans from all walks

of life, including academics, religious leaders, youth activists, women and members of other communities in 31 provinces. The consultations revealed that peace processes have not involved broad-based engagement with communities on issues related to peace and reconciliation. A civil society report entitled *Afghan People's Dialogue: Laying the Foundations for an Inclusive Peace Process*, published on 4 December 2011, summarized the findings of the People's Dialogue and included targeted recommendations. The report was used by members of civil society which led the Dialogue as a basis for high-level advocacy with the Government, the High Peace Council, and the international community during 2012. Building on this initiative, many other civil society organizations held similar consultations on issues related to transitional justice, the protection of women's rights and their political participation throughout the year.

Participation (EA 5)

▶ As part of the preparations for the Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan in July, UNAMA supported Afghan civil society initiatives to coordinate joint advocacy and release a statement prior to the conference. The statement on the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework on gender equality, women's empowerment and

implementation of the EVAW Law highlighted the role that civil society can play in supporting the Government to bring about peace and stability. Civil society organizations have stressed that the peace process should be inclusive and founded on human rights principles and that any peace and reintegration programme must be based on transparency, accountability and justice and consider the rights of victims. Many elements of this statement are echoed in the final Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework document, issued in July 2012, which featured human rights, particularly the protection of women's rights, as a principle benchmark and progress indicator and to improve access to justice, strengthen rule of law and fight impunity.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

▶ The Human Rights Support Unit in the Ministry of Justice drafted a National Action Plan for implementation of recommendations issued by the Universal Periodic Review, the Committee of the Rights of the Child and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and discussed these with government ministries and non-governmental stakeholders. UNAMA supported this National Action Plan by providing

Civil society demand access to justice and an end to impunity

Between July and September 2012, local communities and civil society organizations in Bamyan staged demonstrations as part of advocacy for improved accountability, due process guarantees and respect for the rule of law. Tens of human rights activists participated in the gatherings and requested the Bamyan Governor Office, the Provincial Council, the AIHRC, UNAMA and other human rights organizations and activists to closely monitor the developments in the case of a 16-year old girl who was reportedly raped and killed in early January at the house of a Provincial Council member. Local authorities, in particular the Chief Prosecutor in Bamyan, failed to conduct proper investigations into the case. Consequently, justice had been denied to the victim and her family. The grassroots mobilization



and activism followed sustained advocacy for accountability and due process as well as a media conference by the AIHRC on 18 July in which various concerns were highlighted, namely the lack of professionalism by the Prosecution

Office when handling cases of human rights abuses, including reports of harmful traditional practices as well as limited access to justice, particularly for women. The Chief Prosecutor was subsequently removed from his post.

technical support to the Human Rights Support Unit and other ministries to assist in the implementation of the 143 recommendations, 117 of which have been accepted by the Government of Afghanistan.

- ▶ Jointly with UNAMA, UN Women supported the Government in preparing and submitting its initial periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women for its consideration in 2012. The Committee is expected to review the State Party report in July 2013.

United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste

Year established	The Human Rights and Transitional Justice Section was established in 2006 as an integrated component of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor. OHCHR has had a presence in Timor-Leste since 2001.
Staff as of 31 December 2012	47

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ The Provedoria for Human Rights and Justice (PHRJ) increased its capacity to monitor and report on the national human rights situation and make recommendations to relevant authorities. For instance, it actively engaged in the monitoring of the presidential and parliamentary elections and published a report on its findings following technical support provided by the Human Rights and Transitional Justice Section (HRTJS) of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) on the monitoring of elections. During the year, the PHRJ also produced a report on violence in schools, which included focused recommendations to relevant authorities on how to tackle such violence. Technical support for monitoring and drafting the report was provided by OHCHR and UNDP.
- ▶ The National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL) and the Timor-Leste Defence Force (F-FDTL) increased their understanding and application of human rights in their daily work. HRTJS supported this result through conducting training sessions in collaboration with UNMIT Police, the UNMIT Military Liaison Group and the PHRJ. Four joint sessions on international human rights and humanitarian law, with special attention to the protection of civilians and accountability, were carried out for the F-FDTL and the PNTL's Border Police Unit. In addition, OHCHR increased its collaboration with the F-FDTL by providing additional mentoring and capacity-building support in the area of human rights. Notably, six trainings were carried out for the F-FDTL in different districts on international human rights and humanitarian law and protection of civilians and were attended by 78 participants. Finally, two training sessions were held for 250 new recruits of the PNTL on human rights, including on the rights of women and of children, freedom from torture and the use of force.
- ▶ The Vulnerable Persons Unit (VPU) of the PNTL increased its capacity to investigate complaints as a result of the technical advice provided by the HRTJS and UNMIT police, particularly during a five-day investigation course that was held in September 2012. The HRTJS also supported a training session that was facilitated by VPU officers and attended by 21 additional VPU officers which focused on issues relating to the collection and use of evidence in cases of the violation of rights of vulnerable persons and the assessment of risks for and protection of victims. The Section also produced pocket cards for the VPU with a checklist for investigations, the preservation of evidence, measures to protect victims, procedures to be followed during arrest and the rights of defendants.
- ▶ A public report on human rights developments from July 2010 to December 2011 was prepared by the HRTJS and included information on human rights compliance by the PNTL and the F-FDTL, however, it was not published until 10 December 2012. The report shows that the HRTJS received an increasing number of complaints of alleged violations committed by the security forces between 2010 and 2011. Fact-finding efforts undertaken by the Monitoring and Protection Unit of UNMIT in preparing the report on human rights developments in 2012 demonstrated a decrease in the number of complaints of alleged violations committed by the security forces received that year. The decrease, however, was partially due to the fact that the Section's capacity to monitor human rights issues decreased due to the gradual closure of regional offices and the departure of staff in anticipation of the end of the UNMIT mandate in December 2012.
- ▶ The Prosecutor's Office investigated numerous alleged violations by security forces, as well as cases of gender-based violence, many of which identified members of the security forces as suspects. The HRTJS monitored these cases and

submitted written information to the Prosecutor's Office on the allegations. In general, the number of pending cases at some Prosecution Offices continued to be high, resulting in significant delays in the administration of justice.

- ▶ Civil society organizations and selected government institutions, including the Ministry of Social Solidarity and the National Commission for the Rights of the Child, increased their knowledge about referral networks for women and children victims of abuse. The HRJTS contributed to this result by sharing information on these referral networks.
- ▶ The HRJTS conducted monitoring of the human rights situation during the presidential and parliamentary elections held between March and July and provided technical support to the Provedoria to enhance its capacity to monitor and report on the elections and their compliance with human rights. The Provedoria issued a public report on its findings and noted that the elections were assessed to be free and fair.

Justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ Accountability for serious crimes and past human rights violations was enhanced through the completion of investigations undertaken by the Office of the Prosecutor of approximately 80 per cent of the incidents identified by the 2006 Independent Special Commission of Inquiry for investigation and prosecution. The HRTJS continued supporting the Office of the Prosecutor by partially funding two international prosecutor positions to work with the Commission of Inquiry and related cases and resulted in the investigation and prosecution of cases. The HRTJS also monitored trials and drafted briefing notes on these trials, which were conducted in a fair manner.
- ▶ An article-by-article debate was initiated on the draft laws on reparations and on a memory institute which were drafted with technical support from the HRTJS. The debate was postponed indefinitely, however, due to lack of quorum in scheduled sessions of the Parliament. The HRTJS advocated with the Legal Advisor to the President of the Parliament to include the draft laws in the 2012/2013 agenda of the Parliament.

Access to basic services (EA 4)

- ▶ In a pilot project area in a remote village in Bobonaro, there was a 70 per cent increase in the number of families with access to improved sanitation as a result of new latrines that were built by October 2012. Supported by the HRTJS, CARE international provided the community with the skills to build and maintain the latrines. At the



A woman casts her ballot in Timor-Leste's parliamentary elections, July 2012.

start of the project in 2010, there was only one functioning public toilet in the village.

- ▶ Children and women victims of abuse had better access to services as a result of monitoring conducted by the HRJTS, assistance provided in filing complaints and raising protection concerns with relevant authorities. For instance, the HRTJS raised three cases involving the right to health for vulnerable groups with the Ministry of Health and the Civil Service Commission which activated disciplinary mechanisms regarding the conduct of health service professionals for the first time.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ Members of school-based human rights clubs in four districts conducted advocacy efforts on human rights issues of concern, including education and environmental health. They assisted victims of alleged violence in schools to file complaints with relevant authorities. The HRTJS conducted training activities for members of the human rights clubs and provided them with knowledge and skills to organize events and conduct advocacy on human rights issues.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ In 2012, the HRTJS chaired the Protection Cluster and led the process to draft and complete the Protection Cluster Contingency Plan for man-made and natural disasters, ensuring that women's and children's concerns were fully integrated. The Government and civil society organizations actively participated in the process. The HRTJS also contributed to the completion of the Inter-Agency Contingency Plan for Timor-Leste. The lead of the Cluster was handed over to UNICEF in October 2012.

Human Rights Advisers in UN Country Teams

Papua New Guinea

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2012	1

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ Following technical assistance provided by OHCHR and the Asia Pacific Forum in 2010 and 2011, the enabling legislation for the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission was prepared by the Department of Justice in conformity with international standards. The draft legislation is awaiting clearance from the Minister of Justice for its submission to the Parliament.
- ▶ OHCHR partnered with the Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council and led a workshop to review implementation of the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on torture following his mission in 2010 in relation to the prevention of torture and improvement of detention conditions in

Papua New Guinea. Fifty senior representatives, including from the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary, Correctional Services, Department of Justice and Attorney General, Office of the Public Prosecutor, Constitutional Law Reform Commission and the Law and Justice Sector Secretariat, participated in the workshop and discussed the findings and recommendations of the Special Rapporteur. At the end of the workshop, specific agency plans to implement the recommendations had been developed.

- ▶ The Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary launched a revised edition of the Guide for Police Conduct and Behaviour; a handbook for police officers to remind them of their responsibilities and obligations in the context of widespread concern regarding police misconduct and abuse in particular killings and torture. The initiative was led by the International Committee of the Red Cross and supported by OHCHR.

Justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ OHCHR raised awareness and referred human rights cases to the National Court Human Rights Track (NCHRT); a fast-track procedure for dealing with human rights cases that was initiated on 1 July 2011. The NCHRT makes it easier and simpler to commence proceedings in the courts, improves access to justice, recognizes that human rights cases need to be given special priority and allows judges and court officials to systematically manage human rights. The NCHRT has been used



Image of an outreach and awareness-raising activity organized by the United Nations in Papua New Guinea.

to successfully prosecute a number of key human rights cases in 2012, including cases of killings and torture by the police and with regards to conditions of detention.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ OHCHR facilitated the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) National Task Force meetings to follow up on the review and implementation of the recommendations. The meetings were attended by representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Department of Justice, Department of Community Development and the Constitutional Law Reform Commission and some members of the UN Human Rights Task Team. By the end of the year, the UPR National Task Force had developed an implementation matrix with UPR recommendations assigned to relevant Government departments for implementation.
- ▶ OHCHR's advocacy facilitated the official invitation from the Government to the Special Rapporteur on violence against women to conduct a fact-finding mission to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands in March 2012, the first visit of the mandate to the Pacific region. OHCHR provided support for the visit and the mission report will be presented to the Human Rights Council in June 2013.
- ▶ As a result of OHCHR's technical assistance, the Government of Papua New Guinea increased its capacity to respond to special procedures communications. In 2012, the Government replied to two out of three communications received from special procedures; one regarding the independence of judges and another concerning torture issues.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- ▶ As part of a series of capacity-building initiatives to enhance the monitoring, documenting and reporting skills of human rights defenders, OHCHR trained 25 representatives of civil society from 13-17 February 2012 in Port Moresby. Following these initiatives, human rights defenders began using the UN human rights mechanisms to raise awareness about the human rights situation in the country.

Sri Lanka

Year established	2004
Staff as of 31 December 2012	4

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ The Human Rights Adviser was part of a five-member team that undertook a three-and-a-half week capacity assessment of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka in February and March. The team was led by the Asia Pacific Forum in partnership with UNDP's Regional Office and OHCHR. Following the assessment, a report and series of recommendations were issued to the Human Rights Commission and the UNDP Programme Coordinator subsequently facilitated a two-day workshop to enable the management of the Human Rights Commission to study, prioritize and incorporate the recommendations in a 2013-2016 Strategic Plan. The Plan is currently being finalized and the UN is developing its next phase of support based on the outlined priorities and the recommendations of the assessment. These efforts will be undertaken through a three-year UN Joint Programme that is expected to commence in April 2013.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- ▶ On 1 November 2012, the Government of Sri Lanka underwent its second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The Human Rights Adviser provided advice and guidance to civil society organizations and the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka on the process for the submission of reports.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ The UN Country Team submitted a joint report for Sri Lanka's second cycle UPR and the Human Rights Adviser chaired a small working group of interested UN agencies to compile inputs for the joint report.
- ▶ A new United Nations Development Assistance Framework was completed in 2012 for the period of 2013-2018. The third pillar - Governance, Human Rights, Gender Equality, Social Inclusion and Protection - was drafted in a broad manner, largely focusing on institutional strengthening in relation to human rights issues. The Human Rights Adviser contributed by providing substantive input.

OHCHR in the field: Europe and Central Asia



Type of presence	Location
Stand-alone office	● Kosovo*
Regional offices	● Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic) ● Europe (Brussels, Belgium)
Human rights advisers in UN Country Teams	● Republic of Moldova ● Russian Federation ● Serbia ● South Caucasus (based in Tbilisi, covering Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) ● Tajikistan ● The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ● Ukraine

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

The countries in the vast region of Europe and Central Asia (ECA) extend to members and associated members of the European Union, the Russian Federation, countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Turkey and South Caucasus and countries of Central Asia. The region also includes some disputed territories, which continue to present particular difficulties in terms of human rights protection.

Human rights challenges in Europe and Central Asia cover a wide range of issues, including the enjoyment of economic and social rights, particularly in the context of the financial crisis, as well as challenges in implementing the rights of persons with disabilities, despite relevant commitments by governments in the region. Multiple forms of discrimination; the rights of migrants and in particular the situation of unaccompanied children; the situation of the Roma; gender inequality, violence against women and trafficking; torture and ill-treatment; inadequate detention conditions; administration of justice and independence of the judiciary; freedom of the media; and the situation of human rights defenders continue to draw the attention of the Office and the human rights mechanisms.

In Europe, OHCHR engaged in various activities concerning, for example, the situation of Roma in the Republic of Moldova and Serbia, aimed at greater enjoyment of the economic, social and cultural rights by this group which faces widespread discrimination and social exclusion. OHCHR has also been involved in advocacy concerning forced evictions of Roma

and travellers in the Czech Republic, France, Italy and the United Kingdom, in close cooperation with civil society, and has been leading efforts within UN regional mechanisms on Roma-related issues.

The follow-up to concluding observations and recommendations of international human rights mechanisms, including treaty bodies, special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review, as well as the implementation of human rights projects on the ground, continued to be a focus of OHCHR country-engagement work. Notably, OHCHR's ECA Section supported two regional workshops aimed at strengthening national implementation of recommendations from UN Human Rights Mechanisms in a holistic way, through introduction of relevant tools and sharing of good practices, including on a high-level State coordination mechanism for implementation.

In 2012, OHCHR pursued work under its mandate in the context of protracted conflicts in Europe, including through continued participation in the Geneva International Discussions. The Office continued reporting to the Human Rights Council as requested on the question of human rights in Cyprus. OHCHR also supported the UN engagement of the Senior Human Rights Expert in the Transnistria region of the Republic of Moldova with a view to strengthening human rights there. This is in line with the High Commissioner's general mandate to protect all human rights for all, including through seeking access to and working with de facto authorities to ensure that there be no human rights protection gaps in areas under their effective control.

The ECA Section supported the country visits of the High Commissioner to Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan (7-13 July); Belgium (31 May - 1 June and 5-6 December); and Switzerland (14 June). The ECA Section provided input for the week-long visit in July of the UN Secretary-General, accompanied by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

To advance human rights in the region, OHCHR maintained close contacts with regional organizations such as the Council of Europe, the European Union, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, UN departments and agencies, governmental institutions, national human rights institutions, parliamentarians, civil society organizations, academia and human rights activists, and produced thematic studies on specific areas of human rights interest. With the Council of Europe,

OHCHR continued the desk-to-desk level annual consultations, leading to the proposed development of a joint declaration between the two organizations to consolidate existing cooperation at headquarters and in the field.

In 2012, OHCHR maintained 10 field presences in Europe and Central Asia: two regional offices, (Europe and Central Asia); one stand-alone office in Kosovo; and seven Human Rights Advisers (Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, South Caucasus, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine).

Stand-alone Office

Kosovo¹

Year established	1998
Staff as of 31 December 2012	11
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 977,464

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ OHCHR, in cooperation with the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe, contributed to the enhancement of capacities of the Ombudsperson Institution in Kosovo (OIK) to effectively fulfil its mandate to promote and protect human rights. Technical assistance on strengthening the cooperation between the OIK and human rights defenders and civil society organizations was provided and a regular dialogue between the OIK and civil society organizations was promoted by OHCHR and its partners. The Office also provided assistance to promote strengthened interaction between the national human rights institution and international human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ In 2012, OHCHR continued its activities to promote the amendment of the Anti-Discrimination Law in order to establish an efficient mechanism for implementing the provisions of the Law and monitoring its implementation. In late 2012, the Office contributed to the recognition by authorities in Kosovo of the need to amend the Anti-Discrimination Law, including through direct

¹ Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

advocacy; the organization of a roundtable on the implementation of the Law with representatives from the Government, Parliament, civil society and international organizations; the participation in hearings on the implementation of the Law before the Assembly's Committee on Human Rights; and support given to activities of civil society organizations. In addition, the Assembly's Committee dealing with the implementation of the Law prepared an as of yet unreleased report which recommended the Law's amendment. In 2013, the Office in Kosovo will continue providing technical support during the process of drafting the amendments.

Justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ In 2012, the Office released the findings of its analysis of the victims and witness protection system in Kosovo. Challenges from a human rights perspective were identified and recommendations were made to relevant stakeholders. As a result, the Kosovo authorities requested OHCHR to provide technical assistance for the drafting of supplementary legislation for the Law on Witness Protection. The Office in Kosovo was able to ensure the integration of a human rights-based approach and a gender perspective in the process.
- ▶ A multidisciplinary working group, composed of representatives of various ministries, the police, the judiciary, civil society organizations and the UN, was established by the Kosovo Agency for Gender Equality to draft the Action Plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325. The Plan aims at enhancing women's participation in peacebuilding processes, integrating a gender perspective in security sectors and addressing the rights of survivors of sexual violence related to the past conflict. Throughout the process, OHCHR and UN Women provided continuous advice which led to the increased knowledge of participants about the human rights-based approach. The Plan is expected to be formally endorsed in 2013.
- ▶ OHCHR initiated a comprehensive study, developed in consensus with stakeholders, on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) related to the past conflict, with the objective of recommending procedures and alternatives related to access to remedies and reparations. This initiative allowed for an open discussion on sexual and gender-based violence related to the conflict in Kosovo and contributed to an increased capacity of civil society organizations to conduct research on this topic. The process has also increased the level of knowledge of the Members of the Parliament and policymakers and



For Human Rights Day 2012, OHCHR-Kosovo, Ombudsperson Institution in Kosovo and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe organized a round table entitled *Participation and inclusion in Kosovo*.

provided an opportunity for survivors to better articulate their needs. The study will be finalized in 2013 and will serve as an evidence-based advocacy tool.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ OHCHR supported the NGO Mission of People of Good Will in organizing a training session on human rights monitoring for local NGOs operating in northern Kosovo. The participating NGOs acquired theoretical knowledge on principles and methods of human rights monitoring, fact-finding and information-gathering and, as a consequence, their overall awareness of how to identify and address human rights violations was increased. This contributed towards their mobilization and increased involvement in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Kosovo: Expenditure in 2012		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	703,674
Consultants	-	-
Official travel	-	14,430
Contractual services	-	16,800
General operating expenses	-	53,800
Supplies & materials	-	6,700
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	69,608
Subtotal	-	865,012
Programme support costs		112,452
GRAND TOTAL	-	977,464

Regional Offices

Regional Office for Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic)

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2012	10
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 1,313,775

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ In June, the Kyrgyz Parliament passed a law, in line with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT), providing for the establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism, following more than three years of advocacy efforts by OHCHR in partnership with other organizations. The importance of establishing a National Preventive Mechanism in line with OP-CAT was also raised by the Special Rapporteur on torture during his country visits in 2011 and 2012.
- ▶ In July, the Parliament in Kyrgyzstan approved amendments to the Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure to bring the definition of torture in closer compliance with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and set stricter penalties to reflect the gravity of this crime. The Regional Office for Central Asia (ROCA) advocated for this change by lobbying with the relevant Parliamentary Committee and pointed out several provisions of the law that were not in line with CAT.
- ▶ In April, draft laws were presented in the lower chamber of the Kazakh Parliament on the establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism and civil monitoring of human rights in closed institutions. The Parliamentary Committee Working Group tasked with developing these draft laws encouraged a participatory process by including NGO representatives in the discussions. The inclusion of civil society representatives in the process was due to the successful lobbying undertaken by OHCHR and Penal Reform International.
- ▶ In Kyrgyzstan, OHCHR organized two public hearings in the Parliament, with the participation of government bodies, experts, NGOs and international organizations, to discuss the draft

Housing Code. These events raised the awareness of relevant Parliamentary Committees about the importance of human rights considerations when drafting legislation. The Office also provided the drafting team with a human rights assessment of the draft Housing Code. As a result, the text now integrates many aspects of the right to adequate housing.

- ▶ In 2012, there was a reported increase of complaints and appeals addressed to the regional Office of the Ombudsman in Osh, showing the augmented trust in the institution by rights-holders. OHCHR contributed to the increased capacity of the staff of the Kyrgyzstan Ombudsman central and regional offices by organizing trainings in cooperation with UNDP on international human rights standards and human rights monitoring, regularly meeting with Ombudsman staff and distributing publications on human rights.
- ▶ In Tajikistan, staff members of the Office of the Ombudsman improved their capacity to guide State authorities on human rights education. OHCHR contributed to this result by organizing a training of trainers on various methodologies related to human rights education. In addition, advocacy by OHCHR led to an increased willingness of the Ombudsman to carry out monitoring of closed institutions as a step towards the prevention of torture.
- ▶ The Regional Office, along with other international partners, supported the development of the National Gender Strategy until 2020 and the National Plan of Action for 2012-2014 on achieving gender equality in Kyrgyzstan by, for instance, sharing information on human rights indicators with the consultants involved in the drafting process. Following the endorsement of the National Strategy and Plan by the



Participants in a workshop on *Protection of Human Rights in the UN System* organized by OHCHR, the EU and the Soros Foundation in Kyrgyzstan.



The Special Rapporteur on torture visits Tajikistan.

Government, relevant State and local authorities developed their own sectoral plans. OHCHR facilitated two seminars which led the city of Bishkek to develop its own Gender Action Plan.

- ▶ The Regional Office, together with a local NGO, produced a report on the rights of ethnic minorities in Tajikistan, which provides an analysis of relevant national laws and makes policy recommendations on the matter. This report will assist future OHCHR advocacy efforts to increase understanding of minority rights protection in Tajikistan.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ OHCHR produced a study on minority participation in decision-making bodies at the national and local levels. The outcome report, entitled *Realization of the right to effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in public affairs*, analysed the right to effective participation in practice, identified gaps regarding the inclusion of minorities in decision-making structures and provides recommendations for addressing them. The findings of this study will be shared with relevant national authorities and stakeholders, hence filling a gap of disaggregated data in terms of minority participation.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ In March, the Government of Kyrgyzstan submitted its reports to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), the Convention against Torture (CAT), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and

Cultural Rights (ICESCR), including those that were overdue. They were prepared with the assistance of the Regional Office. In addition, OHCHR facilitated the preparation of the fourth national CEDAW report by providing training on the reporting guidelines to the inter-ministerial working group tasked with drafting the report and supporting the Government's initiative to hold consultations with NGOs, independent experts and international organizations on the draft report. The report was approved by the Government on 31 December 2012.

- ▶ In Kazakhstan, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare developed an action plan for implementation of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Concluding Observations and the Agency of Construction and Utilities developed a plan to implement recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing. These positive developments also resulted from the participation of the above-noted government bodies in a training that was co-organized by ROCA on the right to adequate housing.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- ▶ As a result of the trainings and mentoring provided by the Regional Office, defence and NGO lawyers in Kyrgyzstan increased their knowledge of human rights mechanisms and jurisprudence of the Human Rights Committee and improved their capacity regarding strategic litigation and the drafting of individual petitions to the Human Rights Committee. Following these capacity-building activities, 11 individual complaints were submitted to the Human Rights Committee, three of which have been communicated to the Government.



Local women take part in a police and gender meeting at the police station in Osh, Kyrgyzstan, March 2012.

Responsiveness of the international community (EA 10)

- ▶ The international community and other stakeholders in Central Asia continued to seek guidance and advice from OHCHR on human rights developments in the region. For instance, in Kyrgyzstan, the Regional Office took the lead in organizing a round table on human rights and urban development with the participation of representatives from the international community, among others. Following the event, the international community was better informed about how to discuss these issues with the Government, including by making reference to relevant international human rights standards.

Regional Office for Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic): Expenditure in 2012		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	514,474	136,920
Consultants	6,000	12,716
Official travel	13,877	41,500
Contractual services	2,400	1,800
General operating expenses	55,386	89,242
Supplies & materials	7,399	4,150
Seminars, grants & contributions	29,000	320,078
Subtotal	628,536	606,406
Programme support costs	-	78,833
GRAND TOTAL	628,536	685,239

Regional Office for Europe (Brussels, Belgium)

Year established	2009
Staff as of 31 December 2012	4
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 1,340,605

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ The *Trainers' Manual on Anti-Trafficking Training for Border Guards of Frontex* (EU external border agency) was finalized in 2012. The Regional Office for Europe contributed to its compilation, in cooperation with other UN

agencies in Brussels, in particular by ensuring the manual reflected a human rights-based approach. The Regional Office also contributed to another document, the Human Rights Training Manual for Border Guards, in particular the module on migration. The trainings and awareness-raising activities linked to these documents have contributed to an increased awareness among border guards of the human rights-based approach to combating and preventing trafficking in persons.

- ▶ In 2012, the Regional Office presented its study entitled *Judicial Implementation of Article 3 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Europe: the case of migrant children, including unaccompanied and separated children* during a plenary session of the Committee on Civil Liberties of the European Parliament (LIBE). The study is a key advocacy tool, and its dissemination in LIBE, which is the parliamentary committee tasked with discussing human rights issues within the EU, has contributed to an increased awareness and understanding of the importance of the role of the judiciary in determining the best interests of migrant children. While highlighting good practices in judicial decision-making concerning migrant children, the study also provides evidence of differences between and within States of the European Union.

Access to justice and basic services (EA 4)

- ▶ In 2012, the Regional Office assumed co-chairmanship of the European Expert Group on Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care (EEG), a broad coalition of European NGOs and intergovernmental organizations aiming at reform of services for vulnerable groups (children, persons with disabilities) in line with international human rights standards (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Guidelines on the Alternative Care of Children). The Regional Office presented its study *Getting a Life: Living Independently and Being Included in the Community*, which argues that continued use of EU structural funds in favor of segregating institutional care would be a violation of the EU's obligation under the CRPD. The study is widely used as an advocacy tool by civil society and other stakeholders in the negotiations concerning the *ex ante* conditionality clauses in draft EU legislation for the next programming period of EU structural funds. The EEG carried out a training of European Commission officials responsible for EU structural funds, thus raising awareness of international human rights obligations. The



A Conference on non-discrimination and development hosted by the European Commission. Pictured from left: the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the EU Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs, and Michael Cashman.

EEG also launched its Guidelines and Toolkit on the use of EU funds for the transition from institutional to community-based care and at the launch, six States (the Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Lithuania, Romania and Slovakia) declared their commitment to use the Guidelines and Toolkit in major policy reforms which are being developed. The Regional Office also supported a similar reform process under way in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- ▶ The Regional Office's study entitled *Rights of Vulnerable Children under 3: Ending their placement in institutional care*, published in 2012, outlines the human rights-based approach to alternative care for children, with a particular focus on the situation of children in institutions in Central and Eastern Europe. The study makes a strong case that institutional care is a violation of the rights of the child, as set out in key international standards. Since its publication, the study has been widely disseminated and has contributed to an increased awareness by Member States in the subregion about the relevant international standards on the issue. At a conference in Sofia, organized by UNICEF and with prominent participation by the Regional Office, a number of States from the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe declared their political commitment to such reforms. Furthermore, the Czech Republic, with the support of the Regional Office, adopted an amendment to the Act on Child Protection, representing a major step towards the implementation of the aforementioned obligations.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ As part of the negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework, the UN Brussels Team provided commentary to drafts of EU financial instruments for the new programming period

(2014-2020). In this regard, the Regional Office provided input to the draft documents related to the European Instrument on Democracy and Human Rights with a view to reflecting a human rights-based approach in the issues covered under the Instrument. The Office ensured the integration of human rights references and concerns in the UN Brussels Team's Issues Paper submission to the European Commission in order to guide the EU's ongoing reflection on the role of social protection in EU Development Cooperation.

- ▶ The Regional Office assumed chairmanship of the Roma Task Force of the UN Regional Directors' Team and drafted the first joint position paper of the UN on Roma, *The Role of the United Nations in Advancing Roma Inclusion*, thus increasing coordination among the participating UN agencies and mainstreaming a right-based approach to Roma issues.

Regional Office for Europe (Brussels, Belgium): Expenditure in 2012		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	701,122	2,194
Consultants	41,601	63,700
Official travel	-	59,083
Contractual services	-	61,250
General operating expenses	86,661	60,013
Supplies & materials	1,000	14,418
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	190,865
Subtotal	830,384	451,523
Programme support costs	-	58,698
GRAND TOTAL	830,384	510,221

Human Rights Advisers in UN Country Teams

Republic of Moldova

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2012	1

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ The Republic of Moldova adopted a comprehensive anti-discrimination law in May 2012. The Human Rights Adviser (HRA) supported Government and civil society efforts in adopting the Law by providing advice on international standards and comments on the draft. In parallel, the HRA also provided relevant training for policy- and lawmakers, thereby contributing to their increased understanding on the scope and content of international human rights legal provisions related to the prohibition of discrimination. While the Law is far-reaching in its scope, it does not include legal provisions to protect individuals from discrimination based on sexual orientation outside the work place. As a result of OHCHR engagement with national and international partners, however, the Government has committed that it will comprehensively implement the ban on discrimination.
- ▶ Also in May 2012, the Parliament adopted amendments to the Republic of Moldova's 2005 Law on HIV/AIDS, including considerably strengthened guarantees concerning non-discrimination of individuals with HIV/AIDS, privacy in relation to medical treatment, confidentiality of information and data protection. The HRA, through the Resident Coordinator's Office, provided comments on the content of the draft Law and worked with the Special Rapporteur on the right to health, who communicated with the Government on issues related to the Law during the initial drafting process.
- ▶ A Law on the Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, containing essential guarantees against discrimination in line with international standards, was adopted in August 2012. The HRA worked with Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family and the United Nations Country Team to ensure that the Law included a guarantee of equal legal capacities for persons with disabilities, as well as a guarantee of reasonable accommodation.

- ▶ As a result of the HRA's advice to the Ministries of Health and of Justice on the need to bring human rights oversight into the national psychiatric service, patients of psychiatric facilities and services in the Republic of Moldova can now refer to an Ombudsperson who is specifically mandated to oversee psychiatric services.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ In follow-up to a Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendation, the National Action Plan (2011-2014) for the inclusion of Roma was re-opened for amendments and revised. The new version of the Plan, adopted in January 2012, includes significant improvements on women's rights and anti-discrimination. The HRA worked closely with partners, including the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, to advocate for a change to the Republic of Moldova's Roma policy from a focus on cultural promotion to one that is human rights-based in order to combat discrimination in key sectors, including education, employment, health care and social services.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ In February, a new UN Partnership Framework for the period 2013-2017 (UNPF) was signed. The HRA was highly involved in the development of the UNPF and contributed to the inclusion of specific outcomes and targets on justice, human rights, empowerment of women and anti-discrimination, as well as outcomes explicitly framed around implementing recommendations of human rights mechanisms and promoting an independent civil society.



Inmates of women's remand facility 3 (Tiraspol). Some of these women have been in pre-trial detention for four years and have not been allowed to see their children during that period – despite the fact that they have not been convicted of any offense.

- ▶ For the first time, a UN Senior Expert on Human Rights, Thomas Hammarberg, undertook a comprehensive assessment of the human rights situation in the Transnistrian region. Mr. Hammarberg completed three missions to the region in 2012, during which he held meetings with the de facto authorities and communities of the region and visited places of detention and medical facilities. The engagement of a UN Senior Expert is the result of extensive work undertaken by the HRA and the Resident Coordinator to follow up on the mission of the High Commissioner in November 2011 when she recommended that further attention be paid to the human rights situation in Transnistria.



Workshop on preventing and combating discrimination on the grounds of ethnic origin and religion for the Federal and Regional Ombudspersons in Russia, November 2012.

Russian Federation

	2008 (formal establishment/ arrival of Human Rights Adviser). Preparatory presence of a national staff; adoption of cooperation framework in August 2007.
Year established	
Staff as of 31 December 2012	6

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ The Regional Organization of Persons with Disabilities, Perspektiva, with the support of OHCHR, was able to increase the awareness of over 400 stakeholders, including government officials, educational workers, legislators, NGOs and journalists, about the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the existing national legislation and policies that require amendment. As a result of this public discussion, the draft Federal Law on education in the Russian Federation now includes the phrase “inclusive and integrated education of people with disabilities” and indicates that the State must create the necessary conditions for high quality education without discrimination against people with disabilities.
- ▶ OHCHR facilitated the preparation and publishing of the *Juvenile Justice Manual* based on the global juvenile justice indicators that have been adapted to the Russian context. The Manual was shared with the judiciary, governmental institutions and civil society actors to promote the use of indicators and highlight the need for a systematized exchange of information among all institutions active in the field of juvenile justice.

- ▶ Consolidation of the Human Rights Master Programme continued, in part due to the efforts of OHCHR, with the establishment of an inter-university partnership that enabled the Consortium of Russian Universities to jointly develop and implement the next cycle of the programme covering the academic year 2011-2012. The Consortium’s development of a comprehensive multidisciplinary curriculum for the Human Rights Master Programme was also a major step towards the consolidation of the programme. The International Human Rights Protection specialization within the Master of Law Degree is now institutionalized through its accreditation in compliance with the standards of the Ministry of Education.
- ▶ The capacities of national human rights institutions were strengthened following two workshops organized by OHCHR. The first workshop held on 17 May was dedicated to UN human rights mechanisms and gathered together commissioners from approximately 65 regions of Russia. The second workshop took place on 12 November and dealt with issues of discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity and religion and gathered together commissioners from 20 regions of Russia. The seminars informed the participants about the role of ombudspersons in supporting the engagement of their Government with human rights mechanisms as well as good practices in addressing discrimination issues.

Ratification (EA 2)

- ▶ Following advocacy actions undertaken by OHCHR, the UN Information Centre and several national partners, the Russian Federation ratified the CRPD in 2012. In particular, OHCHR conducted a number of meetings and discussions with the State Duma deputies, national human

rights institutions and civil society organizations to promote the ratification. On 3 May 2012, the President of Russia signed the Federal Law on the Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ Through the advocacy efforts of OHCHR and its partners, the National Strategy for Action in the Interest of Children for 2012-2017 was adopted in line with recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The Strategy proposes key actions to be undertaken by the Government, including the assessment of institutions and services in charge of children and an improved analysis of policies related to juvenile justice in accordance with international standards.

Serbia

	Office in 1996 and Human Rights Adviser in 2007
Year established	
Staff as of 31 December 2012	1

Results

Access to justice and basic services (EA 4)

- ▶ Human rights defenders (HRDs) in Serbia continue to work under difficult conditions as they are often exposed to threats and violence. For instance, in late 2012, right wing organizations published a list of ‘unfit’ NGOs and media on internet portals, referring to them as traitors for allegedly recognizing the independence of Kosovo in their activities and therefore working against the Serbian Constitution. There has been no improvement in this situation and a comprehensive national policy on HRDs has yet to be adopted. The Human Rights Adviser (HRA), together with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Mission in Serbia, provided support to the HRDs by helping to raise awareness about their situation and the importance of their work for the advancement of a human rights culture and democratic values in the country. The key issues faced by HRDs, as noted at the November 2011 National Conference *Towards the National Policy on HRDs* (published in 2012), are misperceptions about HRDs in the wider society, insufficient financing and the need for protection.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ In order to contribute to improving Serbia’s compliance with its obligations under the international human rights mechanisms, especially in terms of reporting, the HRA partnered with the OSCE Mission in Serbia to organize a workshop in March 2012 on the revision of Serbia’s Common Core Document which had been submitted in 2010. The Common Core Document was revised through an inclusive process involving representatives of relevant line ministries and institutions, independent and regulatory bodies and civil society organizations.

International and regional laws and institutions (EA 8)

- ▶ At an international seminar co-organized by the HRA, held in Belgrade on 22 and 23 February 2012, the principles defining the relationship between national human rights institutions and Parliaments, named the “Belgrade Principles”, were adopted by consensus. The Belgrade Principles define six areas of significant importance for framing and strengthening the cooperation and interaction between Parliaments and national institutions with a view to comply with the Paris Principles. In May 2012, the Belgrade Principles were presented in a report to the UN Human Rights Council (A/HRC/20/9).

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ The United Nations Country Team (UNCT), led by the HRA, drafted its first report on the state of human rights in Serbia and submitted it for Serbia’s second Universal Periodic Review (UPR)



A Roma settlement on the outskirts of Belgrade, Serbia.

scheduled for early 2013. The report contains views on the state of human rights in Serbia from the perspective of UNCT members' mandates as well as their assessment of the extent to which the recommendations from Serbia's first UPR cycle have been implemented.

- ▶ In relation to the resettlement of the largest Roma settlement (Belville) in Belgrade in April, the HRA provided guidance to the UNCT by: outlining the human rights monitoring methodology to be used that is based on the Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-Based Evictions and Resettlement; organizing monitoring visits and compiling and presenting the related findings. The resettlement was carried out in compliance with international human rights standards. The HRA's work, which was assessed as extremely valuable by the authorities, the UNCT and the international community, resulted in OHCHR being recognized as a principal actor in Serbia with regard to human rights standards related to the right to adequate housing. The HRA also continued to provide advice to all stakeholders to ensure that a human rights-based approach is applied in all phases of programming for durable housing solutions for the Roma. For example, following the resettlement of Belville, the EU Delegation decided to allocate funds to address the housing needs of resettled families and, upon invitation from the *United Nations Office for Project Services*, the HRA ensured that the housing project was developed with a human rights-based approach.

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

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2012	7

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ The Ombudsman of Azerbaijan was re-accredited with "A status" by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions. Staff of the Ombudsman Office, as well as a number of civil society representatives, strengthened their knowledge in the application of international human rights standards and the monitoring and reporting of human rights violations through the training workshops organized by OHCHR, in cooperation with the Ombudsman, the NGO's Alliance for



People attend a protest rally outside a prison in Tbilisi, September, 2012. The High Commissioner for Human Rights called on Georgia to prosecute prison officers caught on videos torturing and raping inmates.

Protection of Child's Rights and the Citizens' Labour Rights Protection League, in July 2012.

- ▶ The new Georgian High School of Justice's module on UN Treaties and Mechanisms for Human Rights Protection was incorporated as an integral part of the existing educational curriculum of the school. The module has a particular focus on the international standards related to the role of judges in combating impunity, based on the UN Manual and Facilitator's Guide on human rights for judges, prosecutors and lawyers and was developed with the support of OHCHR. Starting in 2013, all trainees will take part in sessions on human rights based on the new module.
- ▶ In Azerbaijan, OHCHR participated in the consultation process with members of the Working Group engaged in preparing the draft law on Legal Aid. The Working Group, comprised of legal scholars, members of the Bar Association, independent law practitioners and civil society representatives, prepared the draft "Constitutional Law on Free Legal Aid," which was submitted to the Parliamentarian Committee on Legal Policy and State System in 2013 for its review.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ A legal clinic focused on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in Zugdidi, Western Georgia, was established in September 2012 with the financial assistance of OHCHR. The provision of free legal assistance to persons with disabilities was complemented by multiple advocacy campaigns and roundtable discussions between NGOs and representatives of the Executive Government in the Samegrelo region in Western Georgia.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ In February, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association visited Georgia for the first time following a request issued in 2011. OHCHR provided logistical support and organized meetings for the Special Rapporteur with representatives of civil society and political parties and the Ombudsman. Some of the Special Rapporteur's recommendations on legislative changes, such as the removal of provisions unduly restricting political party financing, were implemented later in the year. This contributed to the creation of spaces within which the rights to freedom of assembly and association could be exercised during the electoral campaign in the autumn of 2012.
- ▶ Armenia made some progress on the implementation of recommendations issued by human rights bodies following a number of roundtable discussions organized by the UN Office in Armenia to which OHCHR significantly contributed. For instance, discussions related to the signature and ratification by Armenia of the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aimed at abolishing the death penalty took place. In addition, a draft law on gender equality is currently being considered in the Parliament which would lead to the implementation of a number of recommendations related to gender equality.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- ▶ Following awareness-raising activities, as well as specialized training sessions on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) organized by OHCHR, the Ombudsman of the Republic of Azerbaijan and a number of NGOs, including the NGO's Alliance for Child's Rights Protection, Reliable Future, Citizens' Labour Rights Protection League and Union of Persons with Disabilities, submitted their reports to the UPR in a timely manner.
- ▶ In 2012, OHCHR strengthened its work on promoting the engagement of human rights defenders, NGOs and the Georgian Bar Association with UN human rights mechanisms by, for instance, organizing two training workshops for human rights defenders and NGOs on the submission of communications to UN human rights protection mechanisms. As a result, five Georgian NGOs submitted a total of 10 communications to special procedures mandate-holders in 2012 on issues such as torture and other forms of ill-treatment, arbitrary detention

and violations of the right to fair trial, freedom of speech and peaceful assembly and association.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ The Human Rights Adviser promoted the integration of a human rights-based approach in programmes of other UN agencies in a number of countries of the subregion. For instance, a human rights-based approach was integrated into UNDP's justice and governance programmes in Georgia and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework document in Azerbaijan. In the latter, a special focus was placed on the development of a matrix to follow up on UPR recommendations.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2012	1

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ The new Gender Equality Law adopted in January 2012 was aligned with international human rights standards and significantly improved the national legal and institutional framework. Throughout the drafting process, OHCHR provided technical advice to the drafting committee, both directly and through other UN agencies, such as UN-Women, which also contributed to the drafting of the first National Strategy on Gender Equality that was adopted at the end of 2012.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ In 2012, the Government made significant steps to improve its compliance with the guidelines on reporting to international human rights mechanisms. In July, following advice from OHCHR, the Government established an inter-sectoral body on human rights to coordinate the reporting and follow-up to recommendations from international and regional human rights mechanisms. OHCHR engaged with the new body to support the preparation of the overdue Common Core Document by organizing a drafting workshop for State officials in November. The draft will be discussed with representatives of civil society and other stakeholders before its finalization and submission in March 2013.

- ▶ The Government increased the transparency of its reporting process to international human rights bodies following training organized by OHCHR in 2011 and technical advice received by State officials responsible for drafting the periodic report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. For the first time, the Ministry of Justice posted the draft State Party report on its website (June), providing an opportunity for civil society and other actors to engage in discussion and share their views on the text with the Government. The report will be submitted in April 2013.
- ▶ Following the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2011, and with the guidance of an OHCHR thematic study on national mechanisms under CRPD, in November the Government established a National Coordination Body to oversee the implementation of the Convention. At the request of the new body, OHCHR and the Resident Coordinator's Office are providing its members with advice and training to increase their capacity to fulfil their obligations.

Women's participation in policy decisions

Women's organizations, with the support from UN and the Human Rights Adviser, marked Human Rights Day 2012 by organizing a national conference to discuss gender equality and women's political participation in the country.

The Conference, entitled *Local Elections 2013 – for Gender Equality*, aimed at bringing the issue of women's underrepresentation in local policy and decision-making to broad public debate and garnering political parties' attention to take

action in changing this situation. Over 130 women activists and human rights defenders, as well as representatives from most political parties and many civil society organizations gathered on Human Rights Day in Skopje and discussed key mechanisms that exclude women from the policy and decision-making structures at the local level. Women's organizations, but also political parties' representatives, pointed to the fact that women lack opportunities to achieve balance between private, public and political life.

Leaders of political parties invited to the conference presented their parties' plans and concrete actions to achieve gender equality in local policy and decision-making structures. Both governing and opposition parties recognized the challenges women face in the electoral processes and expressed their support to increase the number of women mayor candidates in the upcoming local elections.

Ukraine

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2012	1

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ The effectiveness of the Office of the Ombudsperson in Ukraine increased as a result of the support provided by the UN system, including OHCHR. A Memorandum of Understanding in the sphere of human rights and freedoms was signed with the United Nations Country Team and a functional assessment led to improvements in the structure, management and operational capacities of the institution. UN engagement also helped build closer partnerships with civil society organizations.



A woman casts her vote in the town of Irpin during Ukraine's parliamentary elections on 28 October 2012.

- ▶ Largely based on recommendations from the treaty bodies, OHCHR partnered with international organizations, civil society and the Office of the Ombudsman to generate support for the adoption of a comprehensive anti-discrimination law (Law on the principles of combating and prevention of discrimination), which was adopted by Parliament on 6 September 2012. OHCHR will strive to ensure that Ukraine's legal anti-discrimination framework is further improved and that the Law fully complies with international standards.

Justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ The Office of the Ombudsman became the country's National Preventive Mechanism after the Parliament adopted amendments to the Ombudsman law and expanded its powers to visit detention centres, prisons and similar facilities. A National Preventive Mechanism department was created within the Office of the Ombudsman and OHCHR and UNDP provided training to assist department staff in the implementation of its efforts to prevent torture.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ Ukraine prepared for the second cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and submitted a national report which conformed to the reporting guidelines. The UN encouraged a broad consultative process, involving the Government, civil society and the Office of the Ombudsman, through a series of capacity-building and awareness-raising activities carried out by OHCHR and UNDP.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- ▶ After the Ukrainian authorities submitted the country's initial State Party report under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on April 2012, a coalition of three Ukrainian NGOs drafted and submitted an alternative report in August 2012.
- ▶ OHCHR mobilized and supported civil society organizations for the preparation of alternative reports for Ukraine's second UPR cycle, the number of which significantly increased as compared to the first cycle (29 were submitted to the second UPR cycle while only eight were submitted to the first cycle).

OHCHR in the field: Middle East and North Africa



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

** The Regional Office for North Africa operates on a temporary basis from Tunis

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

In 2012, people in countries of the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA), including Bahrain, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen, continued to voice demands for social equalities, human rights and basic freedoms, as well as inclusive participation in constitutional, institutional and legal reforms. At the same time, differences in future political systems and institutional landscapes have emerged, often between secularists and proponents of a religious framework of governance.

OHCHR has responded in a consistent and timely manner to ongoing developments, with a view to achieving clear results on the ground and assisting people in the region in their quest for human rights and fundamental liberties. To that end, the Office has continued to deploy teams to the region, including Bahrain, Egypt and Yemen, to assess the human rights situation, engage constructively with various stakeholders and duty-bearers and recommend key actions to address human rights issues. These missions generated detailed information on the various aspects of human rights in those countries and enabled the consideration of diverse means of engagement with a variety of stakeholders and duty-bearers.

Based on Human Rights Council mandates, OHCHR supported the commissions of inquiry on Libya and Syria and assisted in the establishment of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Furthermore, OHCHR provided guidance and advice to the commissions regarding

investigation methodology and tools for recording, analysing and archiving information.

The Office also continued to engage in long-standing crises in the region, such as those affecting Israel and the State of Palestine and Iraq, including through information gathering, advocacy and reporting in support of the High Commissioner's mandate. OHCHR continued to serve as the Secretariat for the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967. OHCHR also continued supporting the General Assembly's Special Committee on Israeli Practices, including planning and leading the implementation of consultations with the 34 Member States that support the Special Committee's mandate, which included meetings in Jordan, Egypt and the State of Palestine (the Gaza Strip). This was only the second time since its establishment in 1968 that the Special Committee was able to enter the State of Palestine. OHCHR continued to support the human rights component in Iraq within the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI).

The High Commissioner continued her advocacy, demanding compliance with international human rights norms, with a view to ensuring democratic and inclusive institutions and strong human rights protection systems in the region. OHCHR's MENA Section supported the High Commissioner's visit to Algeria (17-20 September) and the Deputy High Commissioner's visits to Tunisia (12-15 April and 19-21 July); Lebanon (21-23 May); Morocco (3-5 October); and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (4-7 November). An official visit by the Deputy High Commissioner to the State of Palestine scheduled for November 2012 could not take place.

In 2012, OHCHR maintained nine field presences in the Middle East and North Africa region: two regional offices (for the Middle East (Beirut) and for North Africa, operating on a temporary basis from Tunis); a UN Centre for Documentation and Training for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha); four country offices (Mauritania, State of Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen); and two components of peace missions (Iraq and Libya). The Regional Office for North Africa and the Yemen Country Office were both established in 2012. A peace mission with a human rights component in Syria was operational from May to August 2012.

Country Offices

Mauritania

Year established	2010
Staff as of 31 December 2012	5
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 1,375,078

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ OHCHR advocated with the Government for a constitutional amendment which protects the independence of the judiciary and recognizes slavery and torture as a crime against humanity. In the same vein, a road map to combat slavery was jointly developed by OHCHR, the Government, civil society and UN agencies and was transmitted to the Office of the President for approval. The Office supported this process by inviting the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery to take part in the discussions and provide advice for the finalization of the draft.
- ▶ Mauritania's independent Electoral Commission was established in accordance with fundamental principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. During the political debate, the Office advocated for its establishment and functioning in compliance with human rights standards.
- ▶ Following consistent advocacy by the Office with the Government, the programme for the National Plan of Action and Good Practices against Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Intolerance was launched on 26 November 2012. A National Management Committee to monitor the implementation of the Plan in 2013 was established.
- ▶ A draft law on civil society, compliant with international human rights standards, was submitted to the Council of Ministers for consideration. During the drafting process, the Office provided technical advice to the drafting committee. In addition, the Office facilitated monthly consultations of civil society organizations and ensured that most of the contributions from these stakeholders were incorporated in the draft law. It is expected that the law will be adopted by Parliament in 2013.

Ratification (EA 2)

- ▶ In 2012, the Government ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Furthermore, the Government withdrew its general reservation to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and replaced it with a specific reservation on articles 15 and 16. The Office advocated with the Government to ratify these treaties and withdraw the general reservation to CEDAW.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- ▶ In 2012, three national NGOs submitted alternative reports to the CESCR with the support of the Office. Five other NGOs have drafted reports and are in the process of submitting them to the Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture. The Office provided technical advice and substantive guidance to a number of these NGOs.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ The United Nations Development Assistance Framework and its plan of action have been developed with the inclusion of human rights issues. In addition, the programmes of other UN agencies increasingly reflect a human rights-based approach following the Office's advocacy with and training on human rights mainstreaming to the United Nations Country Team.
- ▶ The Office responded with other UN agencies to the humanitarian emergency following the crisis in Mali. OHCHR implemented a project for Malian refugees focused on the protection of their human rights, in particular civil and political rights, with special attention given to the protection of women, children and victims of slavery. In working with UNHCR to address the protection needs of refugees following the crisis, the Office endeavoured to include a human rights dimension in the UN's emergency response strategy.

Mauritania: Expenditure in 2012		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	640,030
Consultants	-	16,922
Official travel	-	33,686
Contractual services	-	12,250
General operating expenses	-	101,604
Supplies & materials	-	128,571
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	283,820
Subtotal	-	1,216,883
Programme support costs		158,195
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,375,078

State of Palestine¹

	Gaza: 1996; Ramallah: 2000; Hebron: 2010
Year established	
Staff as of 31 December 2012	23
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 3,343,422

Results**National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)**

- ▶ In 2012, the Office initiated a dialogue with relevant security agencies under the Ministry of Interior for strengthening their capacity in human rights. As an initial step, OHCHR provided technical assistance on reviewing Codes of Conduct, which are expected to be adopted in 2013, to ensure compliance with human rights standards.
- ▶ OHCHR commissioned a study examining Palestinian legislation, making recommendations on revision with a view towards its compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. A summary of this study was presented at the December 2012 National Conference that launched the process for developing a National Action Plan for Human Rights.

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



OHCHR staff conduct interviews in Gaza after the escalation of hostilities between the State of Israel, the de facto authorities in Gaza and Palestinian armed groups, November 2012.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- ▶ The Office continued to provide support to NGOs on submitting communications on alleged rights violations to special procedures through training workshops and technical advice.

Responsiveness of the international community (EA 10)

- ▶ The Office prepared the periodic report on the situation of human rights in Palestine for the Human Rights Council, as well as two reports by the Secretary-General for the General Assembly (Israeli Settlement Activity in Occupied Palestine; and Israeli Practices that Violate the Rights of the Palestinian People).
- ▶ In July 2012, the Office organized a joint press briefing on the human rights implications of settler violence in the West Bank with UNICEF, BTselem, Al Hay and the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI). The conference was attended by more than 80 international and national journalists and was widely reported on.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ OHCHR continued to promote joint advocacy within the Protection Cluster Working Group by coordinating the issuing of regularly updated factsheets on violations within the Access Restricted Areas in Gaza. Furthermore, during the escalation of hostilities in Gaza in November 2012, OHCHR acted as focal point for the gathering of data on killings and injuries of civilians, striving to ensure common data within the Humanitarian Country Team. This data was used as official UN information by all agencies.

Subsequent to the offensive, the Office also participated in the joint Inter-Cluster Humanitarian Needs Assessment and ensured that human rights concerns were given adequate attention.

Freedom of expression in the State of Palestine

During March and April 2012, the Office noted a marked increase in incidents of concern involving the arbitrary arrest, interrogation, and detention of Palestinian media professionals by various security agencies of the Palestinian Authority (PA). Several media professionals had been detained, some in solitary confinement, for having reported on corruption allegations involving Palestinian officials; others for having posted cartoons critical of the PA. At least one had been detained for “defamation of the President” during a peaceful sit in in support of other detained journalists. In addition to these developments, it was widely reported that the PA planned to censor several internet websites seen as critical of the PA.

In April 2012, the Office wrote a letter to the President of the PA, raising these concerns and stressing the need to abide by the PA's international human rights obligations. Subsequent to this letter, and to advocacy by many other stakeholders, the President of the PA issued instructions reversing the order to censor the said websites. According to reports, the order stated that the “Attorney General and the judiciary are prohibited from shutting down or blocking websites, and are instructed to lift any existing bans. ... Freedom of expression and opinion is a natural right enshrined in the [Palestinian Basic Law].” The media professionals noted above had already been released.

State of Palestine: Expenditure in 2012

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	2,241,166
Consultants	-	35,830
Official travel	-	97,292
Contractual services	-	153,000
General operating expenses	-	272,312
Supplies & materials	-	62,645
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	96,535
Subtotal	-	2,958,780
Programme support costs		384,642
GRAND TOTAL	-	3,343,422

Tunisia

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2012	14
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 2,127,514

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ In 2012, OHCHR and the Ministry of Interior conducted training sessions on international human rights standards and norms applicable to the work of law enforcement agents. Furthermore, new recruits of the police and National Guard benefitted from a series of 11 basic training courses on international human rights standards and police and society. Through these activities, more than 2,850 agents increased their awareness and knowledge of the application of human rights treaties and standards relating to law enforcement, human rights and crowd control. In addition, OHCHR delivered two 15-day training of trainers courses to 40 police and National Guard trainers from different law enforcement academies and training centres in the country. This led to the establishment of institutionalized training in human rights in the area of law enforcement and the usage of OHCHR's training methodology and materials in Tunisia.
- ▶ Since its creation in January 2012, the Ministry of Human Rights and Transitional Justice has collaborated with OHCHR to seek support and advice for the establishment of a transitional justice mechanism in conformity with international standards and norms. Consultations were conducted at national and regional levels and organized by the Ministry of Human Rights and Transitional Justice, OHCHR, UNDP and civil society organizations working with victims of human rights violations and their families. On the basis of these consultations, a technical committee, composed of representatives from the Ministry of Human Rights and Transitional Justice and six civil society coalitions working on transitional justice, drafted a "Fundamental Draft Law on the Foundations of Transitional Justice and its Area of Competence" which promotes truth, accountability, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence for the victims. The draft was presented to the Government and, once approved, will lead to the creation of a national "Truth and Dignity Commission," an accountability mechanism in accordance with international human rights standards.
- ▶ The Higher Committee for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the Tunisian national human rights institution, appointed its new



Tunisian women shout slogans to protest against violence against women, October 2012.

- members in October 2012. In cooperation with other stakeholders, the Office contributed to this result through intense advocacy and lobbying activities. In order to promote its independence and efficiency, the Office has established contact with a number of the Committee's newly appointed members to increase their awareness about the importance of a national institution that is compliant with the Paris Principles.
- ▶ In May 2012, after several months of work undertaken by OHCHR, UNDP, ICRC and a team of experts from different security branches of the Ministry of Interior, a project for the development of standard operating procedures related to the use of force and firearms in public places was presented to the competent authorities. The Office contributed its expertise on human rights standards, norms and best practices relative to the use of force and ethical and lawful policing.

Justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ A draft law establishing the National Preventive Mechanism, largely compliant with international standards, was submitted to the National Constituent Assembly in 2012 and is due to be promulgated in 2013. OHCHR advocated with the Tunisian Government, in coordination with *Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture*, the Association for the Prevention of Torture and other national civil society organizations on the importance of ensuring that the mechanism is created in line with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, its Optional Protocol and the Paris Principles. OHCHR undertook this advocacy through discussions, consultations and meetings with both duty-bearers and rights-holders.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ The Office and prominent civil society organizations co-organized a National Consultation on the Constitution, Rule of Law and Human Rights on 18-20 July in Mahdia, Tunisia during which approximately 100 representatives of civil society discussed the importance of having a constitution based on the rule of law and in compliance with international human rights standards. As a result of the consultation, a joint proposal for the improvement of the draft Constitution, known as “the Mahdia Declaration,” was developed by civil society actors and provided a common platform for civil society organizations to advocate before the National Constituent Assembly.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ The Government of Tunisia submitted its official report to the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in May 2012. The Office facilitated a series of training sessions on the UPR for the Government, civil society organizations and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT). As a result, more than 200 stakeholders increased their capacity on preparing inputs for the UPR mechanism and follow-up to UPR recommendations.
- ▶ Tunisia issued a standing invitation to special procedures mandate-holders during the high-level segment of the Human Rights Council in February 2011. With the support of OHCHR, Tunisia received the official visit of four special rapporteurs in 2012, namely the Special Rapporteurs on the right to education (May 2012), on the human rights of migrants (June 2012), on human rights defenders (September-October 2012) and on truth, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence (November 2012).
- ▶ In August 2012, OHCHR supported Tunisia’s efforts to meet its reporting obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights through discussions with the Government and the organization of a training session on treaty body reporting. An inter-ministerial drafting committee was established and discussions commenced on the strategy to prepare the national report.

Tunisia: Expenditure in 2012		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	1,001,196
Consultants	-	120,793
Official travel	-	143,479
Contractual services	-	163,000
General operating expenses	-	111,800
Supplies & materials	-	107,488
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	235,000
Subtotal	-	1,882,756
Programme support costs		244,758
GRAND TOTAL	-	2,127,514

Yemen

Year established	2012
Staff as of 31 December 2012	1
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 685,731

Results**National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)**

- ▶ In April 2012, the Government adopted a decision to establish a national human rights institution and established a ministerial committee to prepare the required legal framework. OHCHR engaged in this process by providing technical assistance and inputs related to the draft law and facilitating consultations with stakeholders. In addition, OHCHR and UNDP prepared a project to promote human rights issues during the transition period in Yemen which includes a component on supporting the establishment of an independent national human rights institution. The project was agreed with the Government in July 2012.

Justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ In February 2012, the Ministry of Legal Affairs drafted a Transitional Justice and National Reconciliation Law and presented it to stakeholders during consultations, in which OHCHR also participated. OHCHR worked with the Ministry and other interlocutors to advocate for the elaboration of a transitional justice law that complies with international human rights standards, and provided advice and suggestions



Yemeni citizens interviewed by OHCHR during a monitoring mission.

to improve the text. In June 2012, an enhanced draft law was presented to the Government, but no decision has yet been taken.

- ▶ OHCHR worked with the Ministries of Human Rights and of Legal Affairs to advocate for the establishment of a National Commission of Inquiry to investigate the human rights violations that took place during the events of 2011, as per the Human Rights Council resolutions on Yemen. A presidential Decree issued in September 2012 provided for the establishment of the Commission, but the President has not yet named the members.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ OHCHR has worked to mainstream human rights standards into the work of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) since the opening of the Office. OHCHR has been requested by the Resident Coordinator to co-lead, together with UNHCR, a working group on the rule of law to coordinate the plans and activities of UN agencies in the area of justice and accountability, including security sector reform. OHCHR also became an active member of the Protection Cluster and worked to mainstream human rights into Yemen's

Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP). In relation to the latter, OHCHR included a project in the 2013 CAP to strengthen the monitoring of human rights violations in Yemen, particularly in the northern and southern regions and improve advocacy for the protection of the rights of vulnerable groups.

Yemen: Expenditure in 2012		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	154,747
Consultants	-	12,120
Official travel	-	51,322
Contractual services	-	-
General operating expenses	-	56,650
Supplies & materials	-	229,527
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	102,476
Subtotal	-	606,842
Programme support costs		78,889
GRAND TOTAL	-	685,731

Regional Offices and Centres

Regional Office for the Middle East (Beirut, Lebanon)

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2012	8
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 1,673,962

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ Support to the establishment of national human rights institutions in countries of the region continued throughout the year. In Lebanon, the Regional Office contributed to the drafting of a bill, along with Members of Parliament and civil society representatives, for the creation of a national human rights institution with National Preventive Mechanism responsibilities that is in line with the Paris Principles. The Bill was finalized in December and adopted by the Human Rights and the Justice and Administration Committees of Parliament and will be submitted to the plenary in 2013.
- ▶ In November 2012, the Human Rights Committee of the Lebanese Parliament adopted a National Human Rights Action Plan, compliant with international human rights standards and developed with the active participation of UN entities and NGOs. The Plan will be shared with the Lebanese Cabinet once it has been endorsed by the Parliament. OHCHR was involved at all stages of the development of the Plan and promoted the incorporation of international standards.
- ▶ In January, the Code of Conduct for the Lebanese Internal Security Forces was formally launched and endorsed by the Prime Minister. The Regional Office contributed in the development of the Code and provided comments on the successive drafts. Copies of the Code of Conduct were printed by the Regional Office and distributed to all the 27,000 members of the Internal Security Forces. The Office also engaged with the Internal Security Forces on administrative instructions and regulatory documents related to their processes in cases of human rights violations committed by members of the force. Discussions were initiated with the Internal Security Forces Training Institute to

revise the training curriculum and align them with international standards.

- ▶ In May 2012, government representatives, human rights defenders, journalists and members of trade unions from 10 countries attended a regional conference that was co-organized by the Office in Beirut and ILO on freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly. Draft national action plans to protect freedom of expression and association were developed by participants from each country with the expectation that national delegations will start working together to implement these plans in their respective countries.
- ▶ The Regional Office contributed to the development of a Code of Conduct for private recruiting agencies working with migrant domestic workers in Lebanon by partnering with their professional association. The drafting of the Code of Conduct is a major component of the Office's efforts to enhance the level of compliance of domestic policies and procedures with international human rights and labour standards.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- ▶ Following capacity-building sessions co-organized by the Regional Office, a coalition of NGOs in Lebanon enhanced its capacity to monitor the implementation of Universal Periodic Review recommendations issued in relation to Lebanon. As a result, the coalition is actively monitoring progress made by the Government in implementing the recommendations.



Migrant domestic workers demand the protection of their rights in Lebanon, April 2012.

Regional Office for the Middle East (Beirut, Lebanon): Expenditure in 2012

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	941,738
Consultants	-	10,100
Official travel	-	220,255
Contractual services	-	18,750
General operating expenses	-	169,784
Supplies & materials	-	31,055
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	89,700
Subtotal	-	1,481,382
Programme support costs		192,580
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,673,962

Regional Office for North Africa (operating on a temporary basis from Tunis)

Year established	2012
Staff as of 31 December 2012	4
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 1,156,557

Results

Justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ While the awareness of key stakeholders in countries of the region has been raised and a discussion on transitional justice issues has been initiated, little progress has been achieved in the implementation of such mechanisms, primarily due to the prevailing political instability. The Regional Office contributed to this increased awareness by holding a number of conferences and seminars on transitional justice and security sector reform, including a regional consultation on *Transitional Justice in the Middle East and North Africa: Recent Developments and Past Experiences* in Cairo, Egypt, organized in partnership with UNDP and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ Women in the region, including women human rights defenders and members of NGOs, have been empowered through a series of conferences and training sessions to increase

their participation in policy- and decision-making bodies and increase their awareness and knowledge on the use of international and national human rights mechanisms. The Regional Office contributed to this result through the organization of several seminars and meetings, including a regional expert meeting on the use of special procedures in Cairo in February 2012 and a regional conference for women human rights defenders in Tunis in November 2012.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ Following the Regional Governance Week for the Middle East and North Africa region organized by OHCHR in Cairo, Egypt in November 2012, and as a result of the advice and technical assistance provided by the Regional Office, participants from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia increased their knowledge regarding the preparation of national action plans on human rights that include Universal Periodic Review recommendations.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ In 2012, the Regional Office developed fruitful partnerships with other UN agencies in the region, in particular UNDP and the United Nations Information Centre. For instance, the Office is currently implementing a project with UNDP's Regional Office in Cairo to provide assistance to the Egyptian Council for Human Rights in the implementation of its mandate.

Regional Office for North Africa (operating on a temporary basis from Tunis, Tunisia): Expenditure in 2012

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	401,932
Consultants	-	44,330
Official travel	-	54,061
Contractual services	-	19,700
General operating expenses	-	53,412
Supplies & materials	-	139,849
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	310,218
Subtotal	-	1,023,502
Programme support costs		133,055
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,156,557

Women in Libya stand up for their rights

A roundtable organized by OHCHR in December 2012 on *The Role of the UN in supporting the work of women human rights defenders in the MENA region* provided Libyan participants with the opportunity to share their experiences and fears over gender-based violence, which have occurred during the conflict. In particular, the marginalization and exclusion from society after taking an active role in the promotion and protection of women's rights in Libya were discussed. This was a unique opportunity for women, after nearly 40 years of repression, to share their experience with other women defenders from Arab countries and receive information on how to use international mechanisms to reinforce their protection. The women acknowledged that they are not alone, and reported that their participation boosted their self-confidence and increased their determination to continue their fight for a better life as human rights defenders.

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

Year established	2009
Staff as of 31 December 2012	4
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 1,176,132

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ A total of 26 mid-ranking police officers, including four women, from the Qatari Ministry of Interior enhanced their knowledge on how to mainstream human rights into their day-to-day operations. This was achieved through a five-day training workshop on human rights and law enforcement, during which sessions on mainstreaming human rights standards into law enforcement and minimum legal and ethical standards of conduct for police were presented. The training also focused on specific classifications such as refugees, non-citizens, juveniles and women. The training programme paved the way for an advanced regional training programme that is planned to take place in 2013.
- ▶ Over 40 stakeholders from various Tunisian Ministries as well as representatives from the International Organization of Migration and the Tunisian National Observatory for Human Trafficking increased their knowledge on OHCHR's Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human

Trafficking, as well as their capacity to develop a national plan of action for combating trafficking. This was done through a three-day programme on Human Trafficking in Tunis (November 2012). The workshop also contributed to emphasizing the urgency in adopting the current proposed legislation on combating human trafficking.

- ▶ Following a regional workshop on Human Rights Based Approach to Combating Human Trafficking conducted in Amman in June 2012, police officers and representatives of national committees for combating human trafficking from 18 countries of the Middle East and North Africa region increased their knowledge regarding OHCHR's Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking. In addition to presentations on thematic issues related to trafficking, participants were introduced to the practical tools for applying a human rights-based approach to their activities to combat human trafficking.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ Following a training workshop related to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) conducted in the United Arab Emirates for 22 officials, including 6 women, from all States of the Gulf Cooperation Council, participants had an increased understanding of the new modalities of the Human Rights Council and knowledge about how to improve their engagement in view of the second cycle of the UPR. In particular, the participants developed a checklist on issues to be addressed prior to the UPR which was considered a useful tool to facilitate their engagements with the mechanism.

United Nations Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha, Qatar): Expenditure in 2012

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	607,127
Consultants	-	113,478
Official travel	-	109,950
Contractual services	-	18,450
General operating expenses	-	90,330
Supplies & materials	-	59,640
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	41,850
Subtotal	-	1,040,825
Programme support costs		135,307
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,176,132

Human Rights Components in UN Peace Missions

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

Year established	2004
Staff as of 31 December 2012	40

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ The Committee of Experts appointed by the Council of Representatives to undertake the nomination process of Commissioners for the Independent High Commission for Human Rights (IHCHR) concluded its work on 9 April 2012 when the Council of Representatives confirmed the appointments of 14 Commissioners. The Office contributed to the increased capacity of Commissioners by facilitating two training seminars in partnership with UNDP. The first workshop, held in Morocco, trained Commissioners on the Paris Principles and, as an outcome, the Commissioners agreed on the operational framework, organizational structure and substantive priorities for the Commission for 2012-2013. The second workshop, held in Egypt, trained Commissioners on aspects of monitoring and reporting on human rights violations. UNAMI and UNDP continued to offer technical advice and assistance to the IHCHR in the implementation of its mandate and in accordance with international standards.
- ▶ Following the Government's December 2011 adoption of the National Action Plan (NAP) on Human Rights, which aimed at implementing the recommendations of the 2010 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Iraq, the Government appointed a cross-sectoral committee composed of representatives from relevant Government ministries, civil society and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) to oversee its implementation. The committee met on a monthly basis throughout 2012 and organized training seminars on the obligations of each relevant ministry for reporting on implementation of the Plan. The Government launched its first annual NAP implementation report in December 2012.
- ▶ UNAMI, together with the Council of Representatives and the Iraqi Alliance of Disability Organizations, held a conference on implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Conference participants made over 50 recommendations, which were presented to the



A car burning at the site of a bomb attack in Kirkuk, northern Iraq, June 2012.

Government and the Council of Representatives, on legal institutional and policy reform to ensure full compliance with the Convention and implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities. The recommendations were being considered by the Government at the end of the year.

Ratification (EA 2)

- ▶ In association with disability organizations, UNAMI advocated with Members of Parliament, ministers and government authorities for Iraq's accession to international human rights conventions, including the CRPD and the Arab Charter on Human Rights. Iraq acceded to the CRPD on January 2012, but approval of the legislation to implement the Convention is still pending. On 23 February 2012, the Council of Representatives approved a bill on Iraq's accession to the Arab Charter of Human Rights.

Justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ UNAMI referred over 200 cases of alleged violations concerning violence against civilians to the Ministry of Human Rights, all of which were followed up by the Government through investigation, reporting and, in some cases, remedial actions.

Access to basic services (EA 4)

- ▶ Despite rejecting the February 2010 recommendations from the UPR that the Government should ensure the protection of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons, the Government established an inter-ministerial committee to examine the issues and consider legal, policy and institutional reforms that would protect LGBT persons from violence. UNAMI, together with international actors, advocated for the protection of LGBT persons.

Responsiveness of the international community (EA 10)

- ▶ OHCHR contributed to the increased awareness of local authorities and the international community on issues of concern through public reporting. UNAMI's Human Rights Office published a half yearly report on the human rights situation in Iraq and contributed to numerous other general and thematic reports.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ The Iraq United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) was prepared between 2010 and 2011 in consultation and coordination with UNAMI's Human Rights Office. All its programmes and activities are human-rights based. UNAMI is co-chair of the Human Rights and Protection sub-working group and participates in other working groups to facilitate implementation of the UNDAF.

The rights of persons with disabilities in Iraq

On 22-23 December 2012, the UNAMI Human Rights Office, in association with the Iraqi Alliance of Disability Organizations and the Human Rights Committee of the Council of Representatives, held a conference to discuss the implementation of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) that Iraq signed in January 2012.

At the conference, persons with disabilities and their representative organizations came together with representatives of the Government, the Council of Representatives, the judiciary, and civil society to promote awareness of the issues confronting people living with disabilities in Iraq, and to make recommendations as to how Iraq can address these issues and implement its obligations under the CRPD. Areas highlighted included political and electoral participation by persons with disabilities, the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities, the legal, institutional and policy reform required to implement the CRPD, and raising awareness and dealing with physical barriers preventing persons with disabilities participating fully and equally in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the country. As a result of the Conference over 50 recommendations were agreed and were formally presented to the Government and the Council of Representatives for consideration and implementation.

United Nations Support Mission in Libya

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2012	10

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ The Human Rights Section of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) advocated for changes to Law No. 37 entitled "Glorification of the Dictator Law," which had been passed by the National Transitional Council in May 2012. In June 2012, the Supreme Court of Libya revoked the Law, deeming it unconstitutional and in violation of the Constitutional Declaration on protection of freedom of opinion and expression.
- ▶ In a public report issued in September 2012, UNSMIL made recommendations on reforming the Transitional Justice Law adopted by the National Transitional Council in February 2012. In December 2012, a new draft law, which incorporated many of the recommendations made by UNSMIL, was submitted by the Minister of Justice to the General National Congress.
- ▶ UNSMIL encouraged the Libyan authorities to revise two further laws, namely Laws No. 35 and 38, both of which grant amnesties to members of the former regime or for war crimes if certain conditions are fulfilled. These Laws contravene the international legal prohibition of granting amnesties for acts that constitute crimes against humanity, war crimes and grave human rights violations, including torture. A new law criminalizing torture, enforced disappearances and



Workshop on human rights by UNSMIL in Zawiya.

discrimination, drafted by the Ministry of Justice, will effectively limit the scope of Law No. 38.

- ▶ A set of recommendations to reform prison services was adopted by the relevant Libyan Ministries following a seminar on prison reform organized by UNSMIL and the Judicial Police on December 2012. The Human Rights Section's technical assistance and advice to the Judicial Police and a comprehensive training programme for correction officers focused on prison reform and best practices.
- ▶ UNSMIL advocated with the Public Prosecutor's Office for the development of a strategy to focus on those bearing a high degree of responsibility for crimes committed under the former regime or for other serious crimes. The strategy was approved and is currently being implemented.
- ▶ The Human Rights Section of UNSMIL conducted fact-finding visits to all conflict areas in Libya and sought to deter further human rights violations and worked with stakeholders to defuse the conflicts. In particular, it conducted an in-depth fact-finding mission in the aftermath of the October 2012 conflict in Bani Walid and compiled its findings in a report that was shared with Libyan authorities.

Ratification (EA 2)

- ▶ UNSMIL's work with the Human Rights Committee of the General National Congress contributed to the ratification by Libya of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 12 February 2012.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ As a result of UNSMIL's capacity-building programmes carried out in at least 15 different locations in Libya, civil society organizations, including victims groups, increased their awareness about their rights to participate in decision-making processes.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ Further to briefings conducted by the Human Rights Section of UNSMIL, relevant Sections within the Support Mission increased their knowledge about the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy and support to the security forces.