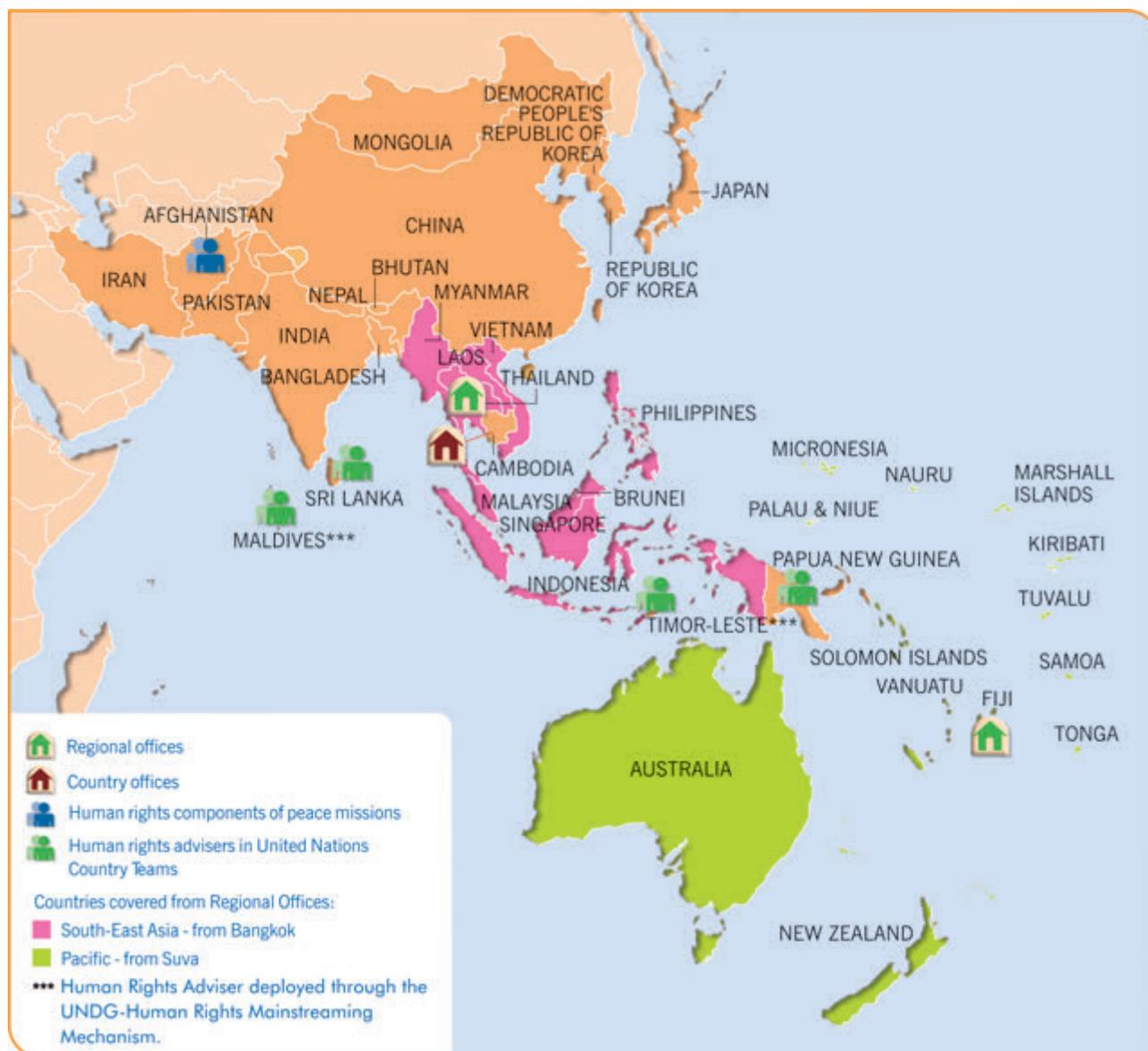


OHCHR in the field: Asia and the Pacific



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
Human rights advisers in UN Country Teams	● Maldives*** ● Papua New Guinea ● Sri Lanka ● Timor-Leste***

*** Human Rights Adviser deployed through the UNDG-Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism.

In 2013, the Asia Pacific region faced a variety of challenges, but also reported numerous progressive developments. Political transitions continued to take place in Fiji, Myanmar and Nepal, although election processes in Bangladesh, Cambodia and the Maldives were fiercely contested. Conflict re-intensified in Afghanistan and the discrimination and communal violence in Rakhine State, Myanmar, caused widespread suffering and displacement. Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) caused serious destruction in Palau and the Philippines in November, affecting over 13 million people. In Bangladesh, Nepal,

Sri Lanka and Thailand, active debates continued in relation to transitional justice and accountability for past crimes. In China, new legal and policy reforms were announced and in Iran, the President took steps to release political prisoners. Several countries introduced restrictions to the application of the death penalty, but the number of executions increased in other countries. A high profile rape case in Delhi sparked new social movements against the unacceptably high rate of violence against women in the region. Also in India, new legislation was passed to address manual scavenging. The cross-regional movement of irregular migrants and asylum-seekers increased and was in many cases met with refoulement and mandatory detention. The deaths of migrant workers in the Gulf States focused attention on their working conditions.

By the end of 2013, OHCHR had eight field presences in Asia and the Pacific: two regional offices (South-East Asia, Pacific), one component in a peace mission (Afghanistan), one country office (Cambodia) and four human rights advisers (HRAs) (Maldives, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste). In 2013, A new Human Rights Adviser post was established in Timor-Leste following the 2012 closure of the UN Mission in Timor-Leste.

OHCHR engaged with partners at the national, regional and international levels to ensure that human rights concerns were integrated into responses to the deteriorating situation in Rakhine State, Myanmar, including the situation of the Rohingya community. This included the rapid deployment of OHCHR staff in mid-February to support the mainstreaming of human rights into the UN's humanitarian response. In addition, OHCHR's Regional Office in Bangkok was strengthened and supported a range of technical cooperation activities in the country. OHCHR continued to discuss the opening of a country office in Myanmar at the invitation of the Government, although an agreement was still pending at the end of 2013. OHCHR staff members were deployed to the Philippines at the end of the year to support the UN's humanitarian response to Typhoon Haiyan.

Building on the work of the Special Rapporteur on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), and following advocacy undertaken by the High Commissioner, the Human Rights Council established a Commission of Inquiry (CoI) on

human rights in the DPRK in order to investigate the systematic, widespread and grave violations of human rights in the country, with a view to ensuring full accountability, in particular for violations which may amount to crimes against humanity. OHCHR is providing support to the Commission and will be actively engaged in follow-up.

As a result of the High Commissioner's visit to Sri Lanka in August 2013, sustained advocacy and reports to the Human Rights Council, the international community paid increased attention to long-standing human rights issues in the country and supported victims of human rights abuses and their families seeking justice and redress. In 2013, the High Commissioner also visited Afghanistan, at a critical juncture with the ongoing political, security and economic transition concluding in 2014.

OHCHR continued its cooperation with Nepal by supporting the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and national partners. This included interventions related to transitional justice in Nepal, such as providing a commentary on an ordinance to establish the promised Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which did not comply with international standards, and sharing regional good practices to combat caste-based discrimination.

OHCHR also significantly increased its cooperation with Bangladesh by conducting three country missions to support the UNCT and the National Human Rights Commission, hosting high-level Bangladeshi delegations in Geneva and supporting engagement by thematic special procedures. The United Nations Development Group (UNDG) is planning to deploy a human rights adviser to support the UNCT in Bangladesh and a regional human rights adviser to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in 2014.

A team of nine professional and three administrative staff cover the region from headquarters. The staff members follow regional developments and guide the Office's interventions related to priority human rights issues. OHCHR continued to support the work of the special procedures mandate-holders on Cambodia, DPRK, Iran and Myanmar and of the thematic mandate-holders who visited the region. OHCHR was also mandated by the Human Rights Council to report on accountability issues in Sri Lanka.

Country Office

Cambodia

Year established	1993
Staff as of 31 December 2013	29
Expenditure in 2013	US\$2,176,686

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ *National EA: Cambodia adopted or revised legislation, sub-legislation and policies in the areas of the administration of justice, legal professionals, access to information and land and housing, which are more compliant with international human rights standards.*

The Ministry of Environment led a consultation process related to a bill on environmental impact assessments. OHCHR provided substantive comments on the draft and ensured that a large number of civil society organizations (CSOs) participated in the process. The bill has not been adopted, however, the latest draft is largely in compliance with international standards. The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) approved a new pre-trial detention system which requires judges to demonstrate they have considered the facts of the case, including the personal circumstances of the charged person, and provide written justification as to why pre-trial detention is considered necessary. OHCHR advocated for the reform of this process and organized numerous judicial round-tables with judges, prosecutors and lawyers, drawing examples from the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC). OHCHR also worked with senior judges, including ECCC judges, and MoJ officials to design the new court form/template which was formally confirmed by the MoJ in January 2014. The Government announced a 50 per cent increase in the 2014 national budget for legal aid. OHCHR contributed to this result by encouraging the Bar Association to focus on legal aid services and advocate for an increased budget. OHCHR also cooperated with the Ministry of Justice, the Bar Association and UNICEF to organize a national legal aid conference in November 2013, where the announcement was made. Revisions to the 1995 Law on the Bar Association began in 2013 but were not yet finalized. OHCHR supported the work of the dedicated Working Group on the revision of the Law on the Bar Association by providing advice on international

standards as well as good practices from other countries. To date, the Working Group has revised a number of articles, including one which makes reference to human rights as part of the mission of the Bar Association.

Steps were also taken to improve social affairs, youth and drug rehabilitation centres in the country. The Minister of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation officially endorsed a set of recommendations issued by a 2011 independent assessment that was jointly commissioned by OHCHR and UNICEF. Some centres criticized in the report were closed down or changed purposes and the Minister announced the creation of a working group to address the report's recommendations. OHCHR and UNICEF advocated for the adoption of the recommendations during meetings with the Ministry and will provide support to the Working Group.

In August 2013, a Royal Decree on the Separate Statute of Prison Staff was adopted to improve compliance with international norms and replace a 2000 statute which separated prisons from police. According to the Royal Decree, all staff under the General Director are considered prison staff with a specific mission that is distinct from the police. The Decree outlines a career path for prison staff which enhances the status of the profession through professional training and by increasing educational requirements, remuneration and its equivalence with the wider civil service. OHCHR initiated the momentum for this reform in 2010 by providing legal analysis and drafting the first text. It also provided regular comments on subsequent versions. One important limitation of the Decree is a provision that enables new recruits, who have had one year of service as trainees, to be confirmed as permanent staff, without initial formal training, where there is a lack of resources.

The General Department of Prisons (GDP) adopted a strategic plan for 2014-2018 which provides a framework for prison management and the treatment of prisoners and is largely compliant with human rights norms. Since 2012, OHCHR has been closely engaging with the GDP on these issues and in 2013, submitted a detailed analyses and commentary on the draft plan. A number of OHCHR's recommendations were reflected in the final text, sometimes in their entirety, regarding education, health, access to legal aid and cooperation with outside partners, including NGOs.

The Government has not yet adopted legislation on an independent National Preventive Mechanism (NPM). In this regard, OHCHR



OHCHR staff monitor the general elections in Cambodia, July 2013.

commissioned a comparative legislative study and organized a high-level workshop on legislation relating to the NPM in December 2013, which included the participation of the Chair of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT). The Government acknowledged the gaps between the NPM and the requirements of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT). No further steps have been taken to address the gaps.

- ▶ *National EA: The functioning and practices of the prisons, the judiciary, the police/gendarmerie, the Bar Association and the institutions that are relevant to fundamental freedoms and the sustainable and equitable use of land at the national and subnational levels, are increasingly compliant with international human rights standards.*

The Ministry of Land Management increased targets for the issuing of communal land titles to indigenous communities for 2014 and 2015 and committed to at least 10 per year. OHCHR and its development partners consistently advocated for increased targets and the allocation of adequate State funds to achieving those targets.

The Prosecutor-General working with the Court of Appeal and other provincial prosecutors paid more visits to the prisons to check the prison legal registry and monitor excessive detention. Some prosecutors also began visiting police stations for the first time and an increasing number of prosecutors are convening regular Police-Court-Prison (PCP) meetings at the provincial level. OHCHR supported this result by organizing a national conference of prosecutors, accompanying prosecutors on their visits to

police stations at the district level and providing technical advice and participating in PCP meetings across the country. Following the national conference of prosecutors, the Prosecutor-General issued instructions in August 2013 to all chief prosecutors regarding the organization of regular PCP meetings.

The practices of lawyers have not yet substantially improved, however, several lawyers have begun using international human rights law in bail requests and/or in their defence strategies. OHCHR contributed to an increased understanding among lawyers of fair trial rights by organizing workshops for trainee lawyers. Prison practices have significantly improved in a number of areas, including in relation to respect for basic rights to clean water and sanitation, access to reading opportunities, disaster prevention and general treatment of prisoners. OHCHR is contributing to this result through monitoring and technical cooperation with the prison authorities and engagement with NGOs and other partners. Nevertheless, ill-treatment resulting from overcrowding and instances of physical violence continue to be reported.

Ratification (EA 2)

- ▶ *National EA: Cambodia ratifies the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (OP-ICCPR) and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW).*

The CRPD was ratified on 20 December 2012. OHCHR provided technical advice throughout the ratification process.

The ICRMW has not yet been ratified, however, the relevant Ministries indicated the Government's intention to ratify the Convention in the near future. OHCHR and UN Women contributed to an increased understanding of its provisions and the benefits of ratification through a series of briefings for the interministerial working group formed to study the Convention.

The Second OP-ICCPR has not yet been ratified. The Office organized various briefings for relevant ministries and the Cambodia Human Rights Committee, including in cooperation with the European Union delegation in Cambodia. OHCHR and the European Union Ambassador also published a joint opinion editorial in 2013 to advocate for ratification.

Cambodia ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance in June 2013. OHCHR translated and published a Khmer version of the Convention



OHCHR staff monitor the living conditions in a resettlement site in Cambodia.

and circulated it broadly as a bilingual English/Khmer publication.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ *National EA: Rights-holders (including indigenous peoples, urban and rural communities and human rights defenders) increasingly access national systems and procedures for protection of their human rights and meaningfully participate in decisions that affect them.*

Human rights defenders and civil society organizations improved their advocacy work on the granting of economic land concessions (ELC) and a number of communities have submitted their claims to international mechanisms.

OHCHR supported this result by providing data and analysis on ELCs which was then shared with development partners and NGOs and communicated to the Government during the ELC coordination meeting, which was chaired by OHCHR. The Office provided financial support for a non-governmental open database which provides access to information on land concessions by province and company.

NGOs, community-based organizations and trade unions have an increased understanding of the Law on Peaceful Demonstrations and its implementation guide as well as international standards on the rights to freedom of expression and assembly. OHCHR contributed to this result by providing five trainings on the Peaceful Demonstration Law in five provinces for a total of 163 participants.

A laminated card outlining the respective roles and responsibilities of organizers of demonstrations and local authorities was co-produced by OHCHR and the Ministry of Interior (MoI). The card will be disseminated among government officials, members of civil society

and members of the general public along with the Khmer/English publication of the Law on Peaceful Demonstrations and its Implementation Guide, which was developed with the MoI in the previous biennium.

Indigenous communities increased their awareness of their rights, in particular regarding the freedoms of assembly and expression and land and housing rights. OHCHR supported this result by monitoring 12 ongoing and unresolved disputes between indigenous communities occupying land, authorities and businesses and facilitating dialogue, court monitoring and providing legal and procedural advice.

Civil society organizations are increasingly aware of national systems and procedures for the protection of their human rights in relation to economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs) and business and human rights. This followed a series of OHCHR training sessions on the monitoring of and reporting on ESCRs, the promotion of business and human rights, including implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, with the staff of the Government's Anti-Corruption Unit, donors, businesses and professional associations.

Legal aid was provided in 81 priority appeal cases by the International Bridges to Bridges and in 268 priority appeal cases by Legal Aid of Cambodia, both of which are NGOs that received funding from OHCHR.

The capacity of trade unions, community-based organizations and individual human rights defenders, including human rights defenders working to promote and protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people, to monitor human rights and collect information about violations, was enhanced. OHCHR contributed to this result by providing four trainings on monitoring human rights and fact-finding.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ *National EA: Cambodia submits quality reports in conformity with reporting guidelines under ICCPR and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and engages in a meaningful dialogue with the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).*

The second periodic report of Cambodia under the ICCPR (which was due in 2002) was submitted on 28 December 2012. OHCHR provided technical assistance throughout the drafting process, which lasted several years,

and the submission process. The report partially complies with the reporting guidelines. The Government delegation engaged in a meaningful dialogue with the CEDAW Committee on 8 October 2013. OHCHR supported this result by collaborating with UN Women to host a mock session on 18 September, which helped the Government delegation and civil society organizations to prepare for the session in Geneva.

- ▶ *National EA: Cambodia substantially replies to special procedures communications, actively engages with the country rapporteur and increasingly implements recommendations issued by the treaty bodies, special procedures and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process.* During the reporting period 2012-2013, 10 communications were sent to the Cambodian Government by special procedures (seven joint urgent actions or allegation letters in 2012; two joint urgent actions in September and October 2013; as well as Opinion 24/2013 by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention sent on 28 June 2013). In 2012, the Government replied to two out of the seven communications sent in 2012 (28 per cent) and sent two replies in 2012 to a 2011 communication. In 2013, no response was received to the 2013 (or earlier) communications. The Government actively engaged with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia during his visit in May 2013 and submitted official comments on his 2012 and 2013 reports to the Human Rights Council.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- ▶ *National EA: Rights-holders and civil society actors (NGOs, trade unions, grassroot associations, human rights defenders and communities) make increased use of special procedures, treaty bodies (i.e., ICCPR, CEDAW, ICESCR, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)) and the UPR process.* In 2013, NGOs submitted eight shadow reports to the CEDAW Committee. OHCHR and UN Women supported this result by providing briefings on the CEDAW Convention. In addition, 37 stakeholder inputs were submitted for the upcoming second UPR cycle. OHCHR co-organized two workshops (30 April and 4 June) with the Cambodian Human

Rights Action Committee and the NGO Forum, involving over 70 individuals from Cambodian civil society organizations, on how to make submissions for the UPR. The special procedures received approximately 200 communications relating to Cambodia, including nearly 75 for the country mandate, from NGOs, CSOs and individuals. OHCHR supported this result by providing advice to NGOs, communities and individuals wishing to submit complaints or information.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ *National EA: UNCT increasingly incorporates human rights standards and principles into their work, including the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).* In preparing for the elaboration of the next UNDAF 2016-2018, the UNCT decided to create a Human Rights Theme Group and take advantage of OHCHR training on the application of a rights-based approach to development. The UNCT also has a Gender Theme Group, of which OHCHR is an active member, to assist with coordination among agencies, including the preparation of joint advocacy initiatives. UNCT worked with the Group to prepare and submit its report to the CEDAW Committee.

Cambodia: Expenditure in 2013		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	1,143,400	264,260
Consultants	-	86,387
Official travel	26,945	81,970
Contractual services	(27)	84,247
General operating expenses	113,777	7,935
Supplies & materials	53,270	52,733
Seminars, grants & contributions	2,353	163,148
Subtotal	1,339,718	740,680
Programme support costs	-	96,288
GRAND TOTAL	1,339,718	836,968

Note: negative figures resulting from prior year adjustments

Regional Offices

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

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2013	8
Expenditure in 2013	US\$1,593,899

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ *National EA: Establishment of a national human rights institution (NHRI) in Myanmar in compliance with the Paris Principles and increased compliance with the Paris Principles of the NHRI in Thailand.*

Legislation to establish the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) as an independent NHRI in accordance with international standards passed one of the houses of Parliament in August 2013 and is currently pending in the other house. Over the past year, the Commission spoke out about ill-treatment and torture, visited some prisons and issued a number of statements highlighting the findings of its visits to ethnic minority areas. The Regional Office engaged with the MNHRC to ensure the development of the above-mentioned legislation, the ongoing promotion of human rights instruments and engagement with international mechanisms.

- ▶ *National EA: Increased compliance of legislation and policies in line with international human rights standards in Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.*

In Lao PDR, OHCHR's advocacy regarding the case of Sombath Somphone raised international awareness about the state of human rights in Lao PDR. There has been no progress in Sombath's case.

Government representatives from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand exchanged experiences on developing national human rights action plans. The Regional Office contributed to this exchange and, based on its suggestion, Malaysian officials visited Thailand to learn about its experiences. At the end of 2013, in Myanmar, charges and criminal cases pending against peaceful protestors were dropped in accordance with a presidential pardon. In addition, a parliamentarian submitted a motion for debate on the amendment of the Peaceful Assembly Law. The Regional Office and



The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar during his visit to the country in August 2013.

the Special Rapporteur continued to engage and advocate for changes to the Law. The Regional Office also supported a review of the Citizenship Law, in particular regarding the exclusion from citizenship and statelessness of the discriminated minority, Rohingya, in Rakhine State. Though no legislative measures have been undertaken, it is hoped that the Government will take practical steps to address these concerns. A partially revised fifth draft of a piece of legislation on the registration of associations was under consideration by the Parliament at the end of the year. The Regional Office engaged with government, civil society and development partners to encourage the adoption of a draft that is in compliance with international standards. As a result of local NGO engagement, the recent draft was a substantial improvement over the initial draft and the Regional Office advocated for the revision of the remaining flawed provisions. The law is pending before Parliament. In Singapore, the Regional Office engaged in a dialogue with the Government on the need to amend legislation, including legislation concerning the death penalty and the Internal Security Act. The Regional Office also requested the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention to review the Internal Security Act and issue a communication. The need to amend the burden of proof in death penalty cases was raised during a regional expert meeting on the death penalty, which was organized by the Regional Office. In Thailand, two prisoners charged under article 112 of the Criminal Code (*lèse majesté*) were released after being pardoned. The Office met with the two prisoners during its visit to areas of detention and conveyed its concerns to the relevant government agencies.

Transitional justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ *National EA: Justice and accountability mechanisms are established in the Philippines.*
The Regional Office continued to monitor ongoing discussions about the establishment of a NPM. The Inter-Agency Committee on Extra-Legal Killings, Enforced Disappearances, Torture and other Grave Violations of the Right to Life, Liberty and Security of Persons, set up by the Government in 2012, as pledged during its UPR review, addressed a number of serious cases. The Regional Office continued to advocate for improved functioning of the mechanism.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ *National EA: Increased engagement by States with the UN human rights mechanisms (treaty bodies, special procedures, UPR), especially in relation to discrimination, torture, impunity and the freedoms of expression, association and religion.*
In Myanmar, the Government responded to 10 out of 15 communications from the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar. Among the issues advocated for by the Special Rapporteur and taken up by the Government were: six Presidential amnesties which led to the release of 320 prisoners of conscience (some of which were cases that the Special Rapporteur had taken up in communications); the repeal of the Law Protecting the Peaceful and Systematic Transfer of State Responsibility and the Successful Performance of the Functions of the National Convention against Disturbances and Oppositions (1986); a motion submitted regarding the consideration of amendments to the Peaceful Assembly and

Peaceful Procession Act; the parliamentary establishment of a 109-member committee to review the Constitution; and the disbanding of the Nasaka border security force in July. Parliament also began reviewing the Printers and Publishers Registration Act (1962); the Law Relating to the Formation of Organizations (1988); articles 143, 145, 152, 505, 505 (b) and 295A of the Penal Code; the Code of Criminal Procedure; the Official Secrets Act (1923); the State Protection Act (1975); the Emergency Provisions Act (1950); and the Electronic Transactions Act (2004). The Government of Lao PDR extended a visit invitation to the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, which could take place in 2014. The Special Rapporteur on trafficking visited the Philippines in November 2013.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- ▶ *National EA: Increased number of civil society actors making use of human rights mechanisms, especially those working on discrimination, migration and trafficking, torture and impunity and the freedoms of expression and religion.*
Four communications were sent to special procedures from Indonesia. From January to October 2013, the Regional Office worked with civil society members to document 50 incidents of violence that resulted in 79 killings and 59 cases of torture. While a joint communication by special procedures is pending on these cases, three public statements have been issued by special procedures regarding capital punishment, freedom of expression and the right to adequate housing. As of the end of 2013, at least eight communications requests had been submitted to the special procedures by civil society in



Mass devastation in the Philippines after the Typhoon Haiyan hit the country in November 2013. The OHCHR Regional Office for South-East Asia deployed staff to the Philippines in the aftermath of the natural disaster to support the UN relief efforts.

Singapore and one communication had been issued by a special procedure. The Regional Office contributed to the increase in submissions from civil society by conducting information sessions on human rights mechanisms and following up on particular issues with civil society.

International and regional laws and institutions (EA 8)

- ▶ *National EA: Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) regional human rights system is progressively strengthened, especially in relation to the Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR).*

In partnership with other regional UN offices and CSOs, the Regional Office advocated for the revision of the AICHR terms of reference and encouraged the AICHR to prioritize the development of protection mechanisms over further legislative initiatives. The Regional Office also encouraged the AICHR to operate in compliance with international human rights standards.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ *National EA: Increased integration of human rights standards and principles into the UN programmes in the region.*

The UNCT in Indonesia prepared contributions to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) with support from the Regional Office. Under the UNDG's Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism (UNDG-HRM), the UN human rights thematic group began implementing a project on mainstreaming human rights into the national development plan. The Regional Office provided advice to the thematic group.

The Resident Coordinator's Office in Malaysia provided regular updates to OHCHR on cases and encouraged special procedures to take action. This contributed to a significant increase in communications sent by the special procedures (12 in 2013). Furthermore, the UN thematic group produced a high-quality stakeholder report for the 2013 UPR which was extensively quoted in OHCHR's compilation document.

In Myanmar, at the request of the Resident Coordinator, the Regional Office drafted a human rights mainstreaming project that was agreed upon by all UNCT members in January 2013. The project received funding from the UNDG Multi-Donor Trust Fund and was initiated in July 2013.

In the Philippines, the UNDAF Justice Innovation Fund and its work plan were informed by the

2012 UPR recommendations.

The UNCT of Viet Nam submitted a stakeholder's report in anticipation of its second UPR review scheduled for 2015. The Regional Office assisted in the preparation of the report, including by collecting reference materials, and compiled submissions from different UNCTs to be used as a model.

Asia is one of the regions of the world where the death penalty still exists in a large number of States. In recent years, joint advocacy efforts undertaken by OHCHR and the international human rights mechanisms have led to important initiatives related to the abolition of the death penalty. For example, in 2012, Singapore abolished the mandatory death penalty; Malaysia announced its intention to abolish it; and the President of Myanmar pardoned 150 death row prisoners. In October 2013, representatives from several South-East Asian governments met at a conference in Bangkok, hosted by OHCHR and Thailand's Ministry of Justice, to discuss prospects for the abolition of the death penalty. During the opening statement, the representative of the Thai Ministry of Justice announced that national legislation would soon be proposed to abolish the death penalty. Furthermore, Myanmar maintains a moratorium on the death penalty while it is deciding whether or not to move towards abolition; and in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, which ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in 2012, a de facto moratorium has been in place for over 20 years.

Regional Office for South-East Asia (Bangkok, Thailand): Expenditure in 2013

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	763,559	453,355
Consultants	2,750	39,493
Official travel	31,484	49,375
Contractual services	111	3,486
General operating expenses	54,310	27,089
Supplies & materials	13,043	10,951
Seminars, grants & contributions	3,821	57,685
Subtotal	869,078	641,434
Programme support costs	-	83,387
GRAND TOTAL	869,078	724,821

Regional Office for the Pacific (Suva, Fiji)

Year established	2005
Staff as of 31 December 2013	4
Expenditure in 2013	US\$678,817

Results

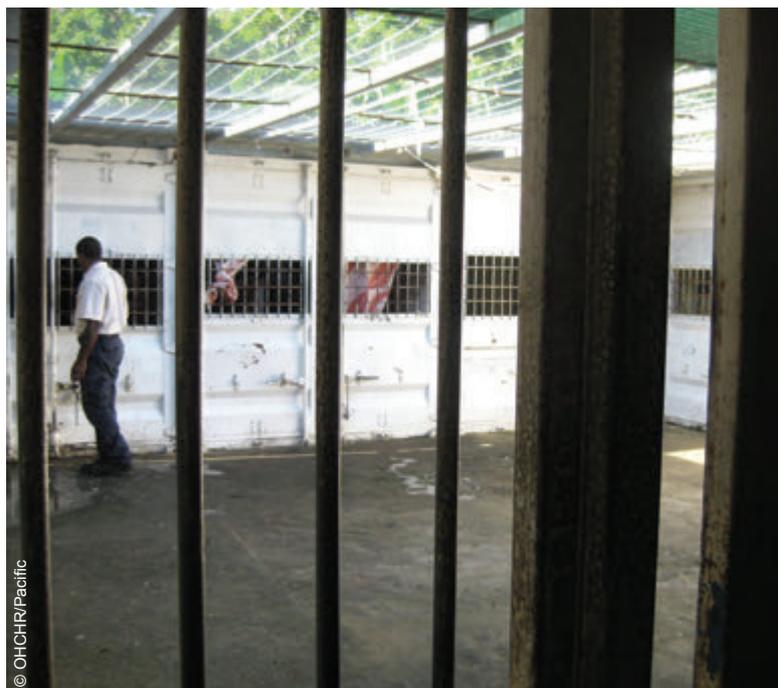
National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ *National EA: National Disaster Management Offices and relevant ministries dealing with disaster preparedness and response in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu increasingly comply with international human rights standards.*

The National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) in Fiji created a dedicated framework for protection work and developed tools on protection for evacuation centres. Although it is too early to determine whether this has resulted in compliance with international standards, the framework has had a positive effect on the work of NDMOs and relevant ministries, as indicated by additional requests for OHCHR's support in this area. As co-lead of the Pacific Humanitarian Protection Cluster, OHCHR, the Global Protection Cluster and UNHCR provided technical assistance, tools and briefings/trainings to NDMOs and relevant ministries which contributed to enhancing their knowledge about protection issues and ensured a stronger understanding of how to integrate human rights in preparedness and response to natural disasters.

NDMOs and relevant ministries in the Solomon Islands strengthened their preparedness procedures, including by updating assessment forms, and enhanced their knowledge about protection across sectors/Clusters. This has positively impacted on the work of NDMOs and relevant ministries and has resulted in additional requests for OHCHR support. At the request of the NDMO in Solomon Islands, and in cooperation with UNICEF and UNFPA, OHCHR co-organized and delivered a protection mainstreaming workshop in November 2013 for 25 participants from the Government and other stakeholders.

In Vanuatu, progress was made towards the establishment of a national-level 'Protection Cluster' with a governmental lead, which has the potential to contribute to the strengthening of preparedness procedures and enhancing knowledge about protection across sectors/Clusters in Vanuatu.



View from inside a cell at a high-risk prison in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

- ▶ *National EA: At least one NHRI that is in compliance with the Paris Principles is established in a Pacific Island country.*

Samoa adopted enabling legislation for the establishment of a NHRI in June 2013 (Samoa Ombudsman Act). The Regional Office for the Pacific also received a request for support to the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission. In 2012-2013, OHCHR provided technical assistance for the establishment of NHRIs to authorities and relevant stakeholders in Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu. This work was undertaken in partnership with the Asia Pacific Forum (of NHRIs) and the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat. OHCHR supported scoping missions to Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Palau and Vanuatu and prepared reports with proposals for next steps.

Ratification (EA 2)

- ▶ *National EA: Two Pacific Island countries ratify CAT.*

Nauru and Vanuatu ratified CAT in 2011 and 2012, respectively. This may be perceived as a sign of growing interest in the Pacific to consider CAT ratification. Palau has now signed all human rights conventions, including CAT. OHCHR has offered to undertake legislative reviews in Palau and Tonga and is continuing its advocacy efforts in a number of other countries, including Fiji.

Regional Office for the Pacific (Suva, Fiji): Expenditure in 2013		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	461,754
Consultants	-	(2,323)
Official travel	-	80,918
Contractual services	-	3,271
General operating expenses	-	31,668
Supplies & materials	-	11,990
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	13,445
Subtotal	-	600,723
Programme support costs		78,094
GRAND TOTAL	-	678,817

Note: negative figures resulting from prior year adjustments

Human Rights Components in UN Peace Missions

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2013	92

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ *National EA: Increased compliance with international human rights standards of applicable laws relating to women's rights and of institutions in applying the law on the elimination of violence against women.*

A Government regulation on women's protection shelters complied with international human rights standards and satisfied advocates for the regulatory reform of women's shelters as well as advocates who wanted NGO-run shelters to be empowered to operate independent of Government control. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) helped to coordinate an international response to early drafts of the regulation, which would have significantly inhibited the effective functionality and focus of the shelters. This response included legal analysis of the initially proposed

amendments that in turn informed the advocacy efforts of civil society and women's rights activists.

Other landmark protections for women, including the Law on Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW Law), came under threat with the adoption of an election law, which reduced the quota of seats for women in provincial councils from 30 to 20 per cent and altogether eliminated the quota in district councils, and the drafting of a criminal procedure code which would prohibit witnesses from testifying in criminal cases against their relatives. UNAMA continues to be actively engaged with the Afghan Government, civil society and the international community to: monitor legislative reforms that impact on women's rights; provide technical support wherever possible to identify proposed amendments or initiatives that would have a detrimental impact on women's rights and their protection; and develop advocacy tools for a coordinated UN, international and civil society response.

UNAMA released a report on 8 December, entitled *A Way to Go: An Update on Implementation of the Law on Elimination of Violence against Women in Afghanistan*, in which it reported limited results in the implementation of the Law. In 2013, while Afghan authorities noted an increase of 28 per cent in reported incidents of violence against women under the Law, very few prosecutors and courts used the Law as a basis for filing indictments and obtaining convictions. Guidelines and terms of reference for the provincial Commissions on Prevention of Violence against Women have been developed and Commissions have been established in thirty-two provinces, as per the provisions of the EVAW Law. Procedures for the Commissions have yet to be developed. In conjunction with the international community, the Government developed a monitoring framework related to commitments outlined in the Tokyo Declaration and Presidential Decree No. 45 that are specific to gender equality, women's empowerment and the effective implementation of the EVAW Law. Information about the EVAW Law is now included in the two-year training to become a judge and basic police training includes sensitization to the issue of violence against women and the role of the police in responding to the needs of victims, in accordance with the EVAW Law. These developments are partially due to the advocacy efforts and reporting of UNAMA.

- ▶ *National EA: Increased compliance of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) with the Paris Principles in the fulfilment of its mandate.*

On 16 June 2013, the President of Afghanistan appointed five new AIHRC Commissioners and re-appointed four serving Commissioners. The re-appointments took place 18 months after the terms of office of the previous Commissioners had expired in December 2011. Afghan civil society, donors and UNAMA stressed that the selection process for the new Commissioners failed to meet international standards enshrined in the Paris Principles. On 18 November, the Commission underwent its accreditation review with the International Coordinating Committee's (ICC-NHRI) Sub-Committee on Accreditation, which recommended a deferral of the decision on accreditation for one year. It also indicated that if a list of its concerns were left un-addressed, the AIHRC would be downgraded from 'A' to 'B' status.

- ▶ *National EA: Increased compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law by the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and anti-Government elements (AGEs) in relation to their ability to protect and reduce the impact of combat operations on civilians.* There has been a notable and deeply concerning increase in the number of civilian casualties in the country, demonstrating that the insurgency's impact on the civilian population has not abated in any significant way. In the first 11 months of 2013, civilian deaths and injuries had increased by 10 per cent compared to the same period in 2012. The rise in civilian casualties reflects a return to the numbers of civilian deaths and injuries recorded in 2011, the year in which the highest figures for civilian casualties were recorded by UNAMA. Causes include an increase in the indiscriminate use of improvised explosive devices and expanded levels of ground engagements between Afghan forces and AGEs, particularly in civilian populated areas. Ground engagements were the second leading cause of civilian deaths and injuries; a new and troubling trend in 2013.
- ▶ *National EA: Increased compliance with international human rights standards protecting fair trial guarantees and protection against torture, cruel, degrading and inhuman treatment.* Allegations of torture and ill-treatment of conflict-related detainees while in the custody of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) and Afghan National Police (ANP) continues to be documented and reported by UNAMA. On 20 January 2013, UNAMA released its second major report on human rights concerns in places of detention, entitled *Treatment of Conflict-Related Detainees in Afghan Custody: One*



Year On. The use of torture was found to be prevalent in several ANP and NDS detention facilities, primarily to obtain a confession or information. In response to UNAMA's report, the President of Afghanistan established a fact-finding presidential delegation in January to investigate the documented allegations of torture and ill-treatment. In February 2013, the delegation reported that 48 per cent of the interviewed detainees had experienced torture and ill-treatment at the time of their arrest and during interrogations undertaken by ANP and NDS officials. After receiving the delegation's report, on 16 February 2013, the President endorsed its recommendations and issued Presidential Decree No. 129. This decree ordered the NDS, the Attorney-General's Office, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice and the Supreme Court to investigate allegations of torture, prosecute alleged perpetrators, release detainees and prisoners in arbitrary detention and increase access of defence lawyers and medical personnel to detainees. The Supreme Court took action to implement Presidential Decree No. 129, including by issuing instructions to judges reminding them to reject confessions gained through torture and to dismiss cases that rely solely on evidence gained through torture. Additionally, the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General's Office and the Ministry of Justice conducted joint visits to several provincial prisons to review cases of individuals who had been held in arbitrary detention. As a result, more than 400 detainees were released, although very few were being held for conflict-related offences. Furthermore, in response to UNAMA's findings in its 20 January



2013 report, the International Security Assistance Force suspended the transfer of detainees it had captured to 35 Afghan detention facilities. Instead, it redesigned its detainee certification review process to include inspections, provided training and capacity-building for all ANP and NDS interrogators and detention staff on human rights principles and non-coercive interrogation techniques and offered mentoring.

Transitional justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ *National EA: Human rights, especially victims' rights, and accountability become integral parts of the peace, reconciliation and reintegration processes and mechanisms are established and functioning to this end.*

During 2013, UNAMA's support to the Afghan People's Dialogue on Peace initiative continued. By the end of 2013, approximately 6,500 ordinary Afghans from across the country have been consulted. The project is designed to promote a rights-based approach whereby ordinary Afghans, including women, men, youth and minority groups can express their view on prospects for peace, reconciliation, security, economic development, human rights, justice and the rule of law. The project is being progressively implemented in two phases; Phase I took place from October to December 2011 and Phase II began in June 2013 and will be completed in mid-2014.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ *National EA: Civil society organizations and human rights defenders increasingly advocate for human rights.*

Civil society institutions have made some achievements since the 2012 Tokyo conference,

such as the creation of a Civil Society Joint Working Group. Civil society is also actively engaging in the New Deal initiative that is focused on finding a general consensus between the State and civil society on joint priorities. During 2013, civil society organizations also stressed that peace processes should be inclusive and based on human rights principles. UNAMA's support to civil society organizations continued.

- ▶ *National EA: Increased participation and representation of those who have been traditionally marginalized in governance and political processes, including women and victims of the conflict.*

Afghanistan ratified CEDAW in 2003 and in 2004, enacted a Constitution that recognizes women's equality and basic rights, including to engage in political activity. The Constitution reserves at least 25 per cent of the seats in the Parliament for women. While 28 per cent of Parliamentarians are women, in August 2013, the Parliament adopted an election law which reduced the quota of seats for women in provincial councils from 30 to 20 per cent and altogether eliminated the quota in district councils.

The amendments to the election law which reduced women's parliamentary seat quotas are concerning as parliamentarians initially tried to remove all quotas for women at the local level and only included the lower 20 per cent quota for provincial councils following intense advocacy efforts undertaken by women's rights groups. UNAMA worked closely with civil society and the Parliamentary Commission on Women's Affairs to advocate for leaving the quota of seats for women in provincial councils at 30 per cent and to leave the quota in district councils unchanged.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ *National EA: Increased engagement with human rights mechanisms through the submission of all overdue reports to treaty bodies, the acceptance of visit requests by special procedures mandate-holders and follow-up to key UPR recommendations.*

Following the 2012 adoption of the National Action Plan, prepared by the Human Rights Support Unit in the Ministry of Justice, a number of recommendations issued by the UPR, CRC and CESCR were implemented in 2013. The Human Rights Support Unit maintained and updated its database on recommendations and their implementation status. The Government indicated its intention to create a matrix for tracking government actions to fulfil or respond to specific recommendations and is anticipated to be operational in 2014.

Afghanistan appeared before CEDAW in July 2013. Its State Party report substantially conformed to the Committee's reporting guidelines. In November 2013, the Government submitted its second report to the UPR. The report partially conformed to the reporting guidelines. As a result of various delays, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs began the preparation process five weeks before the report was due, thereby limiting the scope of the consultative process, the depth of its analysis and the degree to which it could realistically evaluate the potential for implementation. UNAMA provided advice and advocated for the implementation of recommendations issued by the UPR and the human rights treaty bodies and advised the Government on ensuring broad consultation with civil society in its preparation of the CEDAW report.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ *National EA: A human rights-based approach is used for the definition of UNDAF indicators and human rights issues are included in the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP).*

As part of the planning process for the drafting of the 2014-2017 Afghanistan UNDAF, the Human Rights Unit conducted a training session in November 2013 for all members of the UNCT on the application of a human rights-based approach in programming. The Human Rights Unit of UNAMA provided significant input on the structure and substance of critical areas for the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and UNDAF and contributed to the preparation of a human rights-based CCA and UNDAF.

Human Rights Advisers to UN Country Teams

Republic of the Maldives

Year established	2012
Staff as of 31 December 2013	1

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ *National EA: Increased compliance with international human rights standards by law enforcement personnel and by the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives in relation to peaceful protest.*

The Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM) increased its visibility and displayed greater confidence in publicly speaking out about international human rights standards, especially in the context of elections. Steps need to be taken to further strengthen the voice of the Commission. The HRA worked with the HRCM, including by sharing information, reports and other resources. Incidents of violence during protests and allegations of the excessive use of force by the police were significantly lower in 2013, despite the fact it was a difficult election year. The Maldives Police Service (MPS) oversaw a number of peaceful protests. The HRA contributed to this result by consistently underlining the importance of compliance with international human rights standards, providing lectures to MPS personnel, sharing information, particularly on good practices related to freedom of assembly and peaceful protest and regular engagement on issues of concern. Inspired by good practices in Nepal, the HRA communicated with the political parties about international standards of political advocacy during elections, including regarding non-violence during protests, damage to property and incitement to violence. These standards were translated into Dhivehi, widely shared throughout the country and used by others, indicating an overall increase in awareness.

Ratification (EA 2)

- ▶ *National EA: Withdrawal of reservations to article 21 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.*

The Maldives did not withdraw its reservations to the CRC or to other human rights treaties, despite extensive advocacy undertaken by the HRA. Nevertheless, the HRA increased awareness about the UN's position vis-à-vis reservations to the

human rights treaties, as well as of the practice of reservations among other Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) countries and the benefits of reservation withdrawal.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ *National EA: Women increasingly participate in decision-making processes and the development and monitoring of public policies.*

Following engagement by OHCHR and other UN partners in 2013, women in the Maldives have increased knowledge about international human rights standards and a greater awareness about the potential for realization of gender equality within an Islamic framework. More specifically, following collaborative advocacy undertaken by the HRA, UNFPA and UN Women, working through the Gender Advocacy Working Group, many participants to a workshop on gender issues reported on their evaluation forms that they felt more confident about challenging men, on the basis of Islam, to reclaim their rights to participate within the family and in public spaces. The HRA encouraged the UNCT to take the lead in creating the space for discussions around gender equality and Islam, based on examples of similar backgrounds and situations around the world. The HRA also developed linkages with the Government, facilitated the creation of networks with expert regional NGOs and Maldivian organizations and invested in tools and materials for wide dissemination.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ *National EA: Increased compliance and engagement by the State with UN human rights mechanisms and bodies (UPR, treaty bodies and special procedures).*

Acting on the encouragement of the HRA, the Government decided to reverse its decision to delay the submission of two State Party reports pending the updating of its common core document. Reports were therefore submitted to CEDAW in December 2012 and CRC in April 2013. The HRA also organized meetings for stakeholders and supported the drafting of other reports, notably for the CRPD and CAT (the latter of which was seven years overdue). In the fall of 2013, the Government submitted its UPR midterm assessment matrix, supported by the HRA. Nevertheless, due to poor coordination and a high turnover in leadership, the report preparation process suffered from an absence of resources and the limited capacities of staff. The Government consequently hired international consultants to draft some of the reports; a practice which the



The Human Rights Adviser in the Maldives visits the Thinadoo Police Station which was burned down during violent protests.

HRA strongly discouraged as it undermined the building of national capacities to prepare these reports. The HRA took steps to mentor and closely engage with government staff members during the drafting process. The experiences of drafting the report to CAT and the UPR midterm reports demonstrated that the Government is fully capable of producing quality reports on the implementation of its human rights obligations.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- ▶ *National EA: Civil society actors increasingly participate (i.e., contribute information) in the UN human rights mechanisms and utilize their outputs in their own work at the national level.*
- In the latter part of 2013, there was a significant increase in CSO interest in engaging with the human rights mechanisms. Civil society actors contacted OHCHR with a greater number of queries and a larger number attended briefings. In the last three months of the year, civil society actors sent three submissions for consideration by special procedures regarding threats to human rights defenders, freedom of expression and the independence of judges and lawyers. The HRA undertook numerous briefings and shared extensive resources, including examples of past communications of special procedures, to encourage continued CSO engagement.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ *National EA: Selected programmes of UN agencies integrate a human rights-based approach.*
- During the year, the UNCT integrated a human rights-based approach in activities related to communication, participation and the protection of human rights. The HRA supported this result by demonstrating the value and relevance of utilizing international human rights standards and mechanisms in their activities and the potential

results (i.e., increased credibility and legitimacy, improved public perception and the promotion of dialogue on issues of concern). Furthermore, the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers reignited the debate on judicial reform, which reinforced the importance of UNDP's governance activities. Presentations on the UN human rights system were organized for UNDP and UNICEF colleagues and UN Women and UNFPA reported that their trainings now contain a component on human rights.

The arrival of the Human Rights Adviser (HRA) to the United Nations Country Team in the Maldives provided it with a renewed impetus to address human rights concerns in the country, such as judicial independence, gender equality, flogging and corporal punishment and the death penalty. Previous inaction of the UNCT on these and other human rights-related issues had undermined its ability to exercise influence on these issues and subsequently weakened its credibility vis-à-vis the local population. The HRA helped the UNCT to recuperate its "voice" and reinvigorated its human rights work by, for instance, disseminating UN standards, public statements, concluding observations and reports by UN human mechanisms and by issuing public positions on matters of concern based on international commitments of the country.

Papua New Guinea

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2013	1

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ *National EA: A national human rights commission established in accordance with the Paris Principles.*

In 2013, the enabling legislation for the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, which consists of Constitutional amendments and the organic law, was submitted for review by the Office of the State Solicitor and the Office of First Legislative Counsel. The Constitutional amendments were approved and finalized, however, the review of the organic law is ongoing. The enabling legislation was developed in conformity with the Paris Principles and approved by the National Executive Council in 2012. Technical assistance was provided

by OHCHR, the Asia Pacific Forum and other members of the drafting team in 2010 and 2011 to ensure its conformity with international standards.

- ▶ *National EA: Increased compliance of law enforcement institutions with international human rights standards relating to the use of force and the prevention of torture.*

In 2011, OHCHR commissioned two consultants to undertake a human rights assessment of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary. The report was completed in 2012 and discussions were held in 2013 to consider and implement the recommendations related to training for police officers. It is anticipated that further progress will be made in 2014.

Ratification (EA 2)

- ▶ *National EA: Ratification of the CRPD and CAT.* On 26 September 2013, the Government of Papua New Guinea ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Activities directed towards its implementation and integration at the national level will begin in 2014.

Transitional justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ *National EA: Justice and accountability mechanisms are in place for effective monitoring, investigation and the attainment of redress in relation to civil and political rights, in particular torture.*

In 2012, the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary launched a revised edition of the *Guide for Police Conduct and Behaviour*, a handbook for police officers on their responsibilities and obligations, in the context of widespread concerns about 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.



A victim of sorcery-related attack in Papua New Guinea.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ Result for which no National EA was set: Sixty members of marginalized settlements from around Port Moresby participated in consultations, facilitated by the HRA, to provide their perspectives on development goals and priorities for their communities in the context of the post-2015 development framework submission from Papua New Guinea. The submission was compiled by the Department of National Planning and the Institute of National Affairs, with support from the UNCT, and presented to the Office of the Secretary-General in June 2013.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ *National EA: Increased implementation of recommendations from CEDAW, the UPR and the Special Rapporteur on torture and increased responsiveness to requests from special procedures.* In 2013, two legislative developments addressed key recommendations by special procedures and treaty bodies. On 28 May 2013, the Sorcery Act of 1971 was abolished by the Parliament, yet in an effort to deter sorcery-related killings, the Parliament adopted legislation that classifies sorcery-related killing as wilful murder that is punishable by death. A letter to the Prime Minister and a media statement were issued by the UNCT

in Papua New Guinea advocating for the abolition of the death penalty. Both documents were drafted by the HRA. In another development, on 19 September 2013, the Family Protection Bill was adopted by the Parliament which made domestic violence an offence and provided legislative support for the issuance of interim protection orders by District Courts for victims of domestic violence. The Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions sent an official request to the Government of Papua New Guinea in April 2013. While the Government accepted the request and extended an invitation to the Special Rapporteur, an official date was not agreed upon and the visit was postponed until 2014.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ *National EA: UNDAF satisfactorily integrated international human rights standards and principles.* The HRA continued to advocate for human rights issues through the UNCT, the Development Partners Roundtable and other fora. Advocacy conducted by the UNCT resulted in the release of three media releases, two of which focused on extrajudicial killings related to sorcery accusations and another which advocated for the abolition of the death penalty and was sent to the Office of

Human rights film festival in Papua New Guinea

The Papua New Guinea Human Rights Film Festival has been organized annually since 2010 and is used as an awareness-raising tool to promote dialogue on human rights issues in the country. Since its inception, OHCHR has provided technical assistance to the planning committee regarding the selection of human rights themes and the organization of panel discussions with experts.

In 2013, the Film Festival showcased films and panel discussions related to the following six themes: asylum-seekers; gender and identity; discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons; housing rights and forced evictions; sorcery-related violence and killings; and the death



Human rights activists speaking during the film festival.

penalty. To maximize the reach of the festival, the panel discussions were broadcast on national radio and later summarized in a report; three screenings took place in an outdoor park in Port Moresby that was accessible to 150 settlement residents and low-income communities; and the festival travelled from Port Moresby to Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province and across five locations in the

Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Each year, the Human Rights Film Festival seeks to extend the scope of discussions on human rights issues affecting Papua New Guineans. In 2014, it will aim to expand this focus to include the Government, civil society and other stakeholders and enhance the understanding of basic human rights among rights-holders in Papua New Guinea.

the Prime Minister. The HRA also chaired the UN Human Rights Task Team in 2013, facilitated bimonthly meetings between eight UN agencies and coordinated all human rights work being implemented through the UN-Government Joint Annual Work Plan 2013.

Sri Lanka

Year established	2004
Staff as of 31 December 2013	4

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ *National EA: Increased compliance of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka with the Paris Principles.*

Following the 2012 capacity assessment of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) undertaken by the Asia Pacific Forum and UNDP, with the participation of OHCHR, the Commission adopted a number of recommendations related to its administrative functions. Other more critical recommendations have yet to be addressed. Through a UN Joint Programme, OHCHR supported the HRCSL to: enhance its engagement with civil society; strengthen the legal capacity of a number of its regional offices; and strengthen its capacity to engage with UN human rights mechanisms. These activities address some of the recommendations issued by the ICC-NHRI to the HRCSL in 2009 to improve its compliance with the Paris Principles.

- ▶ *National EA: Legislation adopted related to disappearances, the right to information and witness and victim protection in compliance with international human rights standards.*
No legislation on disappearances, the right to information or witness and victim protection was adopted during the period under review.

Transitional justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ *National EA: A transitional justice process is established in compliance with human rights standards.*

In accordance with the March 2012 and 2013 Human Rights Council resolutions on Sri Lanka, OHCHR provided substantive technical assistance to the Government on implementing the recommendations issued by the Lessons Learned and Reconciliation Commission. Although the



The High Commissioner meets relatives of missing or disappeared persons in Sri Lanka, August 2013.

High Commissioner formally extended offers of technical assistance regarding transitional justice in 2012 and 2013, by the end of the year, the Government had not responded to the offers and no transitional justice process had been initiated.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ *National EA: Increased compliance and engagement by the Government of Sri Lanka with the special procedures.*

Only one special procedure mandate-holder was invited to visit Sri Lanka during the period under review. The Special Rapporteur on human rights and internally displaced persons travelled to Sri Lanka in December 2013. Invitations were extended to the Special Rapporteurs on education and on the human rights of migrants to undertake visits to Sri Lanka in 2014. The nine outstanding requests for country visits by other mandates-holders have not yet been accepted.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- ▶ *National EA: Increased use of the outputs of the UPR, treaty bodies and special procedures by the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka and civil society actors.*

OHCHR continued its work in support of civil society's engagement with all the UN human rights mechanisms. It is worth noting that the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka submitted its first report in the context of the second cycle of the UPR on Sri Lanka in November 2012.

Responsiveness of the international community (EA 10)

- ▶ *National EA: The international community is alert and responsive to ongoing to human rights violations in Sri Lanka.*

The international community continued to be attentive to the situation in Sri Lanka as reflected by

the Human Rights Council resolutions on Promoting Reconciliation and Accountability in Sri Lanka, adopted at its March 2012 and 2013 sessions. The two resolutions called on the Government to implement the constructive recommendations emanating from the Lessons Learned and Reconciliation Commission; encouraged OHCHR to provide support through technical assistance; and requested the High Commissioner to report any progress made to the Council at its in March 2013, September 2013 and March 2014 sessions.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ *National EA: Increased integration of human rights standards and principles into the work of the UNCT.*

The Government signed off on the current UNDAF in late 2012. The HRA participated in the activities of the pillar on Governance, Human Rights, Gender Equality, Social Inclusion and Protection, contributed to the mapping of UN agencies and programmes related to these areas and to the definition of priorities for 2014.

Timor-Leste

Year established	2013
Staff as of 31 December 2013	1

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ *National EA: Increased compliance with international human rights standards by all State entities, including the national human rights institution and the judiciary, as well as domestic laws, policies and programmes.*

In 2013, the Provedoria for Human Rights and Justice (PDHJ) reported the enhanced cooperation of the police in investigations against members of the police force. An increasing number of recommendations issued by the PDHJ to the police were implemented, although PDHJ could not provide exact numbers. The PDHJ Human Rights Directorate was regularly requested by government institutions to conduct human rights training for community leaders and police officers. The HRA provided technical support to the PDHJ for its programme of human rights training for the police. It also provided financial support for a joint UNDP/OHCHR project on capacity development for staff of the PDHJ's human rights directorate.

Human rights are now included in the National Police Training Centre's standard training programme for new recruits. The National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL) increased their understanding and application of human rights in their daily work through trainings conducted by the HRA and the UN mission. In 2013, 248 police recruits were trained by PDHJ, with the support of the HRA, on human rights standards and their relevance to their work.

Transitional justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ *National EA: Justice and accountability mechanisms established and functioning in compliance with international human rights standards to monitor, investigate and redress violations of civil and political as well as economic, social and cultural rights.*

Activities related to this EA were focused on supporting the Provedoria for Human Rights and Justice, the results of which are reported under national laws, policies and institutions (EA 1).

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ *National EA: Rights-holders, especially women and discriminated groups, increasingly use existing national protection systems and participate in decision-making processes and the development and monitoring of public policies.*

Civil society organizations representing discriminated groups expressed a strong interest in receiving capacity-building training on human rights standards and how to work with the mechanisms at the national and international levels. A programme of support for civil society will commence in 2014.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ *National EA: Increased compliance and engagement by the State with United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms (treaty bodies, special procedures, Human Rights Council/UPR).*

Some progress was made in implementing priority recommendations, particularly on: (a) the inclusion of human rights in school curricula; (b) training of the police; and (c) promoting gender equality. While human rights education is being offered in both primary and secondary schools, the Ministry of Education initiated a process in September 2013 to improve the quality of the primary school curricula, including regarding human rights education. The HRA provided technical advice to the Ministry, shared its experiences on human rights education during

the UN peace mission and shared its human rights education materials, including a manual on human rights in the national language that was produced by the UN mission's Human Rights and Transitional Justice Section. Training for police in Timor-Leste continued in order to strengthen their knowledge on protecting and respecting human rights. The Provedoria for Human Rights and Justice reported a decrease in the number of complaints received from the public against police. This was attributed, inter alia, to the training it conducted in collaboration with the HRA. The Government, supported by the UN and civil society, continued carrying out programmes and activities directed towards guaranteeing gender equality.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ *National EA: Increased integration of human rights standards and principles, including the right to development, into UN system policies and programmes with respect to development, humanitarian action, peace and security and economic and social issues.*

By the end of 2013, the UNDP Poverty Reduction and Environment Unit had begun drafting guidelines on integrating human rights in the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of its projects. The HRA provided training on the application of human rights-based approach and shared materials and information on relevant standards.

The draft UNDAF for 2015-2020 has a focus on providing assistance to discriminated groups and the realization of their rights. The document assesses pertinent human rights issues in relation to social, economic, civil and political rights. It refers to various recommendations issued by UN human rights mechanisms and includes a specific indicator on ensuring increased reporting under human rights treaties in accordance with the respective reporting guidelines. The HRA provided technical advice to sector working groups that were drafting the UNDAF situational analysis and matrix, conducted training on the application of a human rights-based approach for 39 UNCT staff members (including 21 women) and shared relevant materials and information on standards related to human rights mainstreaming.

"Voices of Youth": Involving youth in the discussions on sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda

More than 100 high school students expressed their views on sustainable development and its linkages with human rights through art works and speeches in the presence of approximately 300 people, including Timor-Leste's Vice Prime Minister and other government officials. The students were part of so-called "human rights clubs," which were established and supported by the Human Rights Component of the former United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste to encourage individuals and groups to become human rights defenders who would promote human rights values in their communities and beyond. Between 2010 and 2012, bi-weekly interactive training and discussion sessions, which used games and art, were facilitated for club members. The clubs then organized campaigns in their schools to raise issues of concern, including quality of education, corporal punishment

in schools and the environment. In October 2013, the Human Rights Adviser, in close collaboration with UN Volunteers (UNVs) and the NGO "Na Terra," trained 53 high school students (35 of whom were female) from three districts. The focus of the training was on human rights and sustainable development and the importance of making the voices of youth heard in ongoing discussions related to the post-2015 development agenda. As part of a competition supported by UNV, the students wrote letters and produced paintings, poetry, music and theatre performances, calling for improved access to quality education, health services and water and sanitation, which were displayed in front of the Government's Palace on International Volunteers Day on 5 December 2013. One of the club members from Dili District addressed the gathered audience and called on the youth of Timor-Leste to demand their



Letters drafted by high school students to claim their rights.

rights and fulfil their obligations to contribute to national development. She felt "proud to stand in front of the crowd and it is because of the human rights club activities I was involved in, supported by the UN's Human Rights Office, that I feel confident to share my views with all of you."