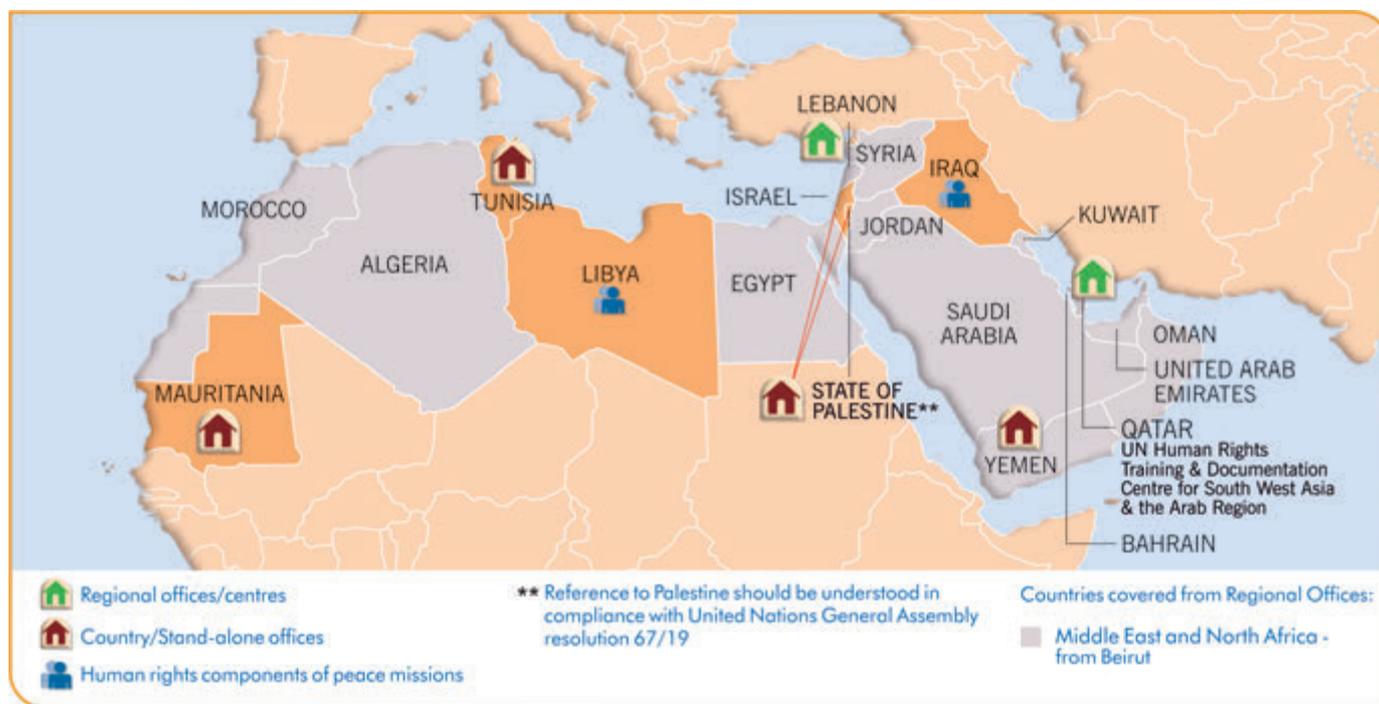


OHCHR in the field: Middle East and North Africa



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 (operates on a temporary basis from Beirut, Lebanon) UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha, Qatar)
Human rights components in UN Peace Missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iraq Libya

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

The effect of uprisings in the Arab region, which began in 2011 in Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, continued to be felt across the region, with unrest and instability evident on the political, social and security fronts. People in different countries of the region continued to voice their demands for social justice, human rights and basic freedoms and for inclusive participation in constitutional, institutional and legal reforms.

Throughout the year, OHCHR consistently responded to ongoing developments to assist people in the

region in their quest for the realization of human rights and fundamental liberties. The Office closely followed national efforts related to political, legal and institutional reforms and the establishment of democratic societies. It remained fully engaged with the transition processes in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Yemen and paid careful attention to the situation of human rights in Bahrain and Syria.

The ongoing conflict in Syria continued to inflict heavy losses on the civilian population. As of June 2013, at least 93,000 people had been killed. Violations of international human rights and humanitarian law continue to be committed on an alarming scale in Syria. The Independent International Commission of Inquiry (CoI) on the Syrian Arab Republic, mandated by the Human Rights Council, found that Government forces and pro-Government militia committed crimes against humanity and war crimes and armed opposition groups committed war crimes. While the Syrian authorities continue to deny access to the country to OHCHR and the CoI, the Office strengthened its monitoring and advocacy work through the deployment of a monitoring team to neighbouring countries in March 2013 and provided ongoing support to the CoI.

The civilian population in Iraq continued to suffer from internal conflicts, with high numbers of civilian casualties. OHCHR supported the human rights component within the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq. In Yemen, the transition remains precarious and OHCHR's new country office supported the integration of human rights considerations in the transition process and efforts to address human rights violations. In October 2013, OHCHR and the UN Support Mission in Libya issued a report on torture and deaths in detention in Libya and recommended swift action be taken to transfer detainees held by armed brigades to State control and renew efforts to build the capacity of the criminal justice system. In Tunisia, the Office assumed a leading advocacy role within the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) to entrench human rights in the draft constitution and develop a comprehensive and participatory approach to transitional justice which culminated in the adoption in December 2013 of the Law on Transitional Justice and the establishment of an Independent Commission on Truth and Dignity.

The Office also continued to engage on human rights issues affecting Israel and the State of Palestine, including through information gathering, advocacy and reporting in support of the High Commissioner's mandate. OHCHR served as the Secretariat for the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 and supported the General Assembly's Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, as well as the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The Office also continued to lead the Protection Cluster Working Group in Palestine and in Mauritania.

In 2013, the Middle East and North Africa Section supported nine field presences in the region: the Regional Office for the Middle East in Beirut; the UN Centre for Documentation and Training for South-West Asia and the Arab Region in Doha; country offices in Mauritania, the State of Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen; the Human Rights Components of peace missions in Iraq and Libya, in addition to the Regional Office for North Africa, which is temporarily co-located with the Regional Office for the Middle East in Beirut.

Country Offices

Mauritania

Year established	2010
Staff as of 31 December 2013	8
Expenditure in 2013	US\$1,225,894

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ *National EA: A national plan of action against discrimination is developed.*

In February 2013, a study on the status of racial discrimination in Mauritania was finalized and a draft national plan of action against discrimination was presented. Notwithstanding the technical support provided by OHCHR to the consultant drafting the documents, the study and the draft plan of action did not fully reflect OHCHR's practical guide on the development of such plans. Consequently, the Office collaborated with the Commissariat for Human Rights to organize three regional fora with government authorities, civil society and the National Human Rights Commission in order to collect recommendations related to the 2014 revision of the draft national plan of action.

- ▶ *National EA: The child labour law is reviewed to reflect international standards and a more protective law on civil society is adopted.*

A draft law on private associations was drafted in 2012 but was not submitted to the Parliament. OHCHR advocated with the Ministry of Justice, the Parliament and the Commissariat for Human Rights for the compliance of the draft law with international human rights standards.

- ▶ *National EA: Reform of the criminal justice system to conform with international norms.*

In 2012, the Ministry of Justice collaborated with the European Union to publish a report on discussions held with different professional groups related to the justice sector, as well as three studies related to the prison system. Since that time, no further actions have been taken by the Ministry. Based on the findings and recommendations of the report, OHCHR and the Ministry of Justice undertook activities to promote the compliance of the criminal justice system with international standards.

- ▶ *National EA: Issuance by the Government of a roadmap to fight slavery.*

The roadmap on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on

slavery, which was developed in a participatory manner after her visit in 2009 and with the involvement of the Office, was neither adopted as policy nor published by the Government in 2013. Nevertheless, a presidential decree to create the National Agency to Fight against the Vestiges of Slavery was presented by members of the Government as the implementation of one of the recommendations of the roadmap.

- ▶ *National EA: Official discussions are initiated during the Etats Generaux de l'Education leading to a progressive integration of human rights in the school curriculum.*

In February 2013, OHCHR held a working meeting with the President of the *Etats Generaux de l'Education* and indicated that a recommendation was made during the meeting of the *Etats Generaux de l'Education* to include human rights in the revised curriculum and was subsequently mentioned in the final report prepared for the President of the Republic.

Ratification (EA 2)

- ▶ *National EA: Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT) and removal of general reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).*

The Government of Mauritania ratified the OP-CAT on 3 October 2012 and prepared a letter to the Secretary-General in order to replace its general reservation to CEDAW with one that is limited to articles 13 and 16. OHCHR advocated for the ratification of OP-CAT and consistently raised the issue of the withdrawal of the general reservation to CEDAW with government officials and during workshops and seminars with civil society and the National Human Rights Commission.

Transitional justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ *National EA: A national mechanism ensuring the right of Mauritians who suffered under the "Passif humanitaire" is set up according to international human rights standards.*

In April 2013, the Office organized the first public debate on transitional justice mechanisms that could potentially be adapted to the Mauritanian context. Following the debate, OHCHR held regular informal meetings with civil society and victims' rights organizations to increase their knowledge about transitional justice issues. Despite the fact that there is an increased awareness of this issue among civil society, a national transitional justice mechanism has not been established.



OHCHR staff visit an IDP camp in Mauritania.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ *National EA: Submission of outstanding reports to the Committee against Torture, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers (CMW) and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).*

In 2012, Mauritania submitted its State Party reports to the Human Rights Committee and CAT, and to CEDAW in 2013. OHCHR provided training on treaty body reporting to government officials and civil society prior to the finalization of these reports.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- ▶ *National EA: Increased number of NGOs submit information on slavery, women's rights and other human rights issues to the treaty bodies and special procedures.*

Following technical support provided by the Office on the procedures related to reporting, three consortia of NGOs submitted alternative reports to the Human Rights Committee and CAT in the context of their review of Mauritania's national reports.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ *National EA: Integration of human rights principles and standards and recommendations of the human rights mechanisms into United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) programmes.*

UNDP and UNICEF integrated human rights principles into their activities related to conflict prevention and juvenile justice, respectively, following support provided by OHCHR. The Office also collaborated on the implementation of these activities.

Mauritania: Expenditure in 2013		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	586,820
Consultants	-	19,650
Official travel	-	36,690
Contractual services	-	39,042
General operating expenses	-	132,937
Supplies & materials	-	124,488
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	145,235
Subtotal	-	1,084,862
Programme support costs		141,032
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,225,894

State of Palestine⁸

Year established	1996
Staff as of 31 December 2013	22
Expenditure in 2013	US\$3,165,053

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- *National EA: Increased compliance with international human rights standards by the Ministry of Interior of the Government of the State of Palestine in the areas of detention and freedom of assembly and expression; by the judiciary in relation to the death penalty and honour killings; and by the Israeli authorities with regard to violations relating to the occupation.*

OHCHR has made some progress regarding issues of arbitrary detention and ill-treatment with the Government of the State of Palestine. The Government recognized that issues remain in these areas and agreed to work with OHCHR on the revision of the Codes of Conduct for some security agencies. During the reporting period, a general drop in allegations of arbitrary detention was noted. The national human rights institution (NHRI) received 789 allegations in 2012, as opposed to 1,026 in 2011 and 1,880 in 2010. The Office conducted regular monitoring of detention centres, which may have had

⁸ Reference to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.

a preventive impact. The Government also announced it would stop requiring “security clearances” for positions in the civil service, in particular for teachers in State schools. The Office prepared a study focusing on the protection of the right to life of women in court judgments, which will form the basis for capacity-building activities for the judiciary during the next reporting cycle.

Ratification (EA 2)

- *National EA: Ratification of international human rights instruments, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).*

The State of Palestine was recognized as a non-Member Observer State by the General Assembly in November 2012 and has been a full member of UNESCO since late 2011, enabling Palestine to become a party to international human rights conventions. At the request of the Government, the Office provided advice on the ratification of treaties and technical cooperation to strengthen the Government’s capacity to fulfil its obligations under the ratified treaties. The Office also conducted and published a comprehensive study on the compliance of Palestinian legislation with the two international covenants. In addition, OHCHR worked closely with the Government to prepare a guidance document identifying human rights targets to be incorporated in the forthcoming Palestinian National Development Plan and will work with partners on monitoring implementation of the current and future development plans from a human rights perspective.



Commemoration of Human Rights Day in the State of Palestine.



OHCHR staff during a monitoring mission to Hebron.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ *National EA: Increased integration of human rights standards and principles into the work of the Humanitarian Country Team, including the Protection Cluster Working Group, and the UNCT.* The 2012 and 2013 Consolidated Appeal Processes included protection as one of its two main priorities. Human rights were consistently integrated into the humanitarian response and the Humanitarian Country Team adopted advocacy strategies with clear human rights messaging, largely due to the efforts of the Office and its leadership within the Protection Cluster. The UNCT Medium Term Response Plan initiated in 2009 was replaced with the first UNDAF which was developed in 2013. The Office was involved in the preparation of the document, including through active participation in the Task Force. This enabled the Office to steer its preparation and as a result, human rights are prominently integrated in the UNDAF.

State of Palestine: Expenditure in 2013		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	2,164,958
Consultants	-	64,135
Official travel	-	43,467
Contractual services	-	145,698
General operating expenses	-	326,314
Supplies & materials	-	70,480
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	(14,115)
Subtotal	-	2,800,937
Programme support costs		364,116
GRAND TOTAL	-	3,165,053

Note: negative figures resulting from prior year adjustments

Tunisia

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2013	17
Expenditure in 2013	US\$1,022,786

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ *National EA: Increased compliance of the justice system, law enforcement, correction and prison administration with international human rights standards.*

The drafting of the Code of Conduct of Human Rights and Law Enforcement was finalized by the Ministry of Interior, with the technical support of OHCHR. Its adoption is anticipated in early 2014. In addition, a draft text of the standard operating procedures on the use of force and firearms, in compliance with international human rights standards, was developed and is before the National Constituent Assembly (NCA), pending adoption. The Office contributed to the development of the standard operating procedures in collaboration with a technical committee that represented different branches and units of the Ministry of Interior. Moreover, legislation establishing a provisional body for the supervision of the judiciary was enacted as a major step towards the establishment of a permanent judicial body. OHCHR also conducted advocacy and provided technical support to the Government which contributed to the adoption of legislation on the establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) to fight torture. In terms of the capacity of government institutions to promote and protect human rights, a module on human rights has been institutionalized in the Ministry of Interior's training programme which is based on OHCHR's methodology and manuals. Since its establishment in 2011, the Office in

Tunisia has facilitated training and training-of-trainers courses for law enforcement officials, both from the police and the National Guard, as part of the compulsory human rights training included in induction courses.

The final draft of the new Constitution, which guarantees constitutional protection in areas such as elections, justice, human rights and the media, in accordance with international standards, was released by the NCA's Constitution Commission. Its adoption is expected for 2014. The Office provided comments and recommendations on the various drafts which were taken into consideration by the drafting Commission.

- ▶ *National EA: The legal basis of the Tunisian national human rights institution is in compliance with the Paris Principles.*

In 2013, the Higher Committee for Human Rights and Fundamental Liberties of Tunisia began working on draft legislation with the assistance of OHCHR and other partners to ensure that the NHRI is in compliance with the Paris Principles.

Transitional justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ *National EA: A transitional justice mechanism is established by law, in accordance with international human rights standards, to monitor, investigate and redress civil and political, as well as economic, social and cultural human rights violations.*

On 15 December 2013, the NCA adopted the organic Law on transitional justice which established the Truth and Dignity Commission. OHCHR supported the drafting of this legislation through advocacy campaigns and by providing extensive comments on the latest draft, in particular regarding the composition and mandate of the vetting committee and the limitations of arbitration and reconciliation when dealing with gross human rights violations. These comments were taken into account in the adopted legislation.

Participation (EA 5)

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

Seven human rights clubs were set up in basic education schools as a result of collaboration between OHCHR, other UN Agencies and the Arab Institute for Human Rights. Through a participatory approach, the clubs raised awareness and provided students with a better understanding of human rights principles, concepts and frameworks. Civil society organizations working on economic,

social and cultural rights and particularly focused on those facing discrimination, such as women and youth, increased their knowledge about monitoring and advocacy tools through a series of training sessions conducted by OHCHR and Amnesty International. The sessions targeted 300 human rights defenders and representatives of civil society across the country. Subsequently, four civil society coalitions were established in the North-West, Centre, South-East and Mining Basin regions and a campaign for Tunisia's ratification of the OP-ICESCR was launched. Additionally, two human rights assessments of the local budgets of Jendouba and Gabes were carried out by these coalitions, with the participation of local mayors.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

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

Following Tunisia's ratification of the OP-CAT in 2011, the Law establishing the National Authority for the Prevention of Torture, Tunisia's National Preventive Mechanism, was adopted by the NCA in October 2013. The Office supported this process by promoting national consultations between State and non-State actors and convening a drafting committee in charge of its preparation. On the UPR, OHCHR provided State and non-State actors with training and capacity-building on reporting to and the functioning of the UPR in anticipation of Tunisia's second cycle review in 2012. The Government of Tunisia successfully submitted its report to the UPR and accepted most of the issued recommendations.

Tunisia: Expenditure in 2013

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	812,276
Consultants	-	(50,801)
Official travel	-	5,055
Contractual services	-	2,940
General operating expenses	-	35,798
Supplies & materials	-	8,894
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	90,958
Subtotal	-	905,120
Programme support costs		117,666
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,022,786

Note: negative figures resulting from prior year adjustments

Yemen

Year established	2012
Staff as of 31 December 2013	11
Expenditure in 2013	US\$1,688,920

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

► *National EA: Increased compliance with international human rights standards by State entities in Yemen, including national human rights institutions and the judiciary, as well as with domestic laws, policies and programmes.*

The Cabinet of Yemen approved the draft law on the establishment of the national human rights institution on 13 September 2013 and referred the project to the Parliament. Since 2012, the OHCHR Office in Yemen was involved in various capacity-building and advocacy activities to support the development of the draft. Six workshops were organized with national actors, including one with members of the Parliament which focused on the Paris Principles. The Office also provided technical advice on international human rights standards and compliance with the Paris Principles to the Ministry of Human Rights and the Ministry of Legal Affairs before the draft was submitted to the Cabinet of the Prime Minister. The last version was not fully compliant with international standards. As a result, OHCHR will continue providing technical advice to the Government to improve the draft. The draft law on Transitional Justice is currently pending approval by the Parliament. OHCHR provided technical advice to the Ministry of Legal Affairs on the draft which was substantially compliant with international human rights standards and subsequently approved by Cabinet. Upon submission to the Parliament, however, the draft underwent changes which conflicted with these standards. The main concern relates to the absence of any accountability mechanisms for past human rights violations. OHCHR worked closely with UNDP by organizing workshops to generate public debate over transitional justice issues and will continue advocating for the compliance of the draft with international human rights standards.

Transitional justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

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



The Deputy High Commissioner at a press conference at the end of her visit to Yemen, October 2013.

The National Commission of Inquiry, mandated to investigate the violations committed in 2011, was established by presidential decree in September 2012. Prior to its adoption, the Office advocated for the establishment of the Commission through a high-level workshop in 2012 with Government representatives. Although the Commissioners have been nominated, the President has not yet formally appointed the nominees. During her visit to Yemen in October 2013, the Deputy High Commissioner urged the President to appoint the Commissioners as soon as possible. The UN Human Rights Council similarly recommended the establishment of the Commission by early 2014. Another important mechanism which is expected to provide redress for past human rights violations is the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which will be established once the Transitional Justice Law is approved by the Parliament. In addition, both the Commission to Consider and Address Land Issues and the Commission on Forcibly Dismissed Employees were established and are functioning in accordance with international human rights standards. OHCHR, in collaboration with UNDP, provided technical advice to the Commissions, including by engaging two international experts who are working closely with the Commissioners to process the caseload. More than 100,000 complaints were registered by the two Commissions and are currently under review.



Image of Zinjibar, Yemen, after the 2012 fighting between government forces and rebels.

Participation (EA 5)

► *National EA: Rights-holders, particularly women and discriminated groups, increasingly use existing national protection systems and participate in decision-making processes and the development and monitoring of public policies.* The National Dialogue Conference in Yemen was initiated in March 2013 and is facilitated by the UN Department of Political Affairs. The conference is part of the Gulf Cooperation Council's plan for the negotiated transition in Yemen that was expected to last six months. Out of over 500 participants in the nine working groups, 30 per cent are women. In addition, the Rights and Freedoms Working Group included substantive interventions regarding the enhancement of women's rights, with a special focus on participation. OHCHR supported the Conference by providing technical advice to the Working Group regarding international human rights law and international human rights mechanisms. At the end of 2013, the Working Group drafted a report with comprehensive recommendations for the inclusion of a range of human rights provisions into the new Constitution. These recommendations will serve as a platform for the constitutional review process which is planned to begin in 2014.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

► *National EA: Increased integration of human rights standards and principles into the work of the Humanitarian Country Team, including the Protection Cluster Working Group and of the UNCT.*

During 2013, the Humanitarian Country Team in Yemen developed the Humanitarian Strategic Response Plan. OHCHR provided substantive inputs related to human rights and gender mainstreaming through its active participation in the drafting process. In addition, the UNCT worked on a Peacebuilding Priority Plan for Yemen and the Office provided substantial advice on mainstreaming human rights and gender into the Plan. OHCHR also chaired the Rule of Law and Security Sector Reform Working Group, in the context of the Peacebuilding Fund coordination mechanism, which resulted in a better understanding of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.

Yemen: Expenditure in 2013

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	756,269
Consultants	-	5,927
Official travel	-	50,139
Contractual services	-	39,620
General operating expenses	-	167,144
Supplies & materials	-	387,153
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	88,367
Subtotal	-	1,494,619
Programme support costs		194,301
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,688,920

Regional Offices and Centres

Regional Office for the Middle East (Beirut, Lebanon)

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2013	10
Expenditure in 2013	US\$1,204,420

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ *National EA: Increased compliance of laws with international human rights standards in the area of the protection of migrant domestic workers.*

A Code of Conduct for the Syndicate of the Owners of Recruitment Agencies was jointly prepared by the Syndicate and the Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre and launched in June 2013. The Code of Conduct provides guidance for recruitment agencies in Lebanon on adopting practices that are respectful of the rights of migrant domestic workers. OHCHR provided technical advice during its development to ensure its compliance with international human rights standards. The discussion and adoption of the Lebanese draft law on Migrant Domestic Workers have been deferred as a result of the ongoing challenges related to the formation of a government in Lebanon.

- ▶ *National EA: Legislation and policies in the region allow stateless persons a higher degree of enjoyment of human rights.*
By participating in meetings and conferences and undertaking studies jointly with UNHCR and NGOs, the OHCHR Regional Office for the Middle East contributed to the increased awareness of the human rights of stateless persons in the region. In particular, the Istanbul Conference on Good Practices in Addressing Statelessness, organized by UNHCR, served as an opportunity for OHCHR to engage with representatives of the Gulf Cooperation Council in examining the causes and consequences of statelessness, reviewing its scope, highlighting the regional norms and identifying the best practices to address the issue. Nevertheless, no significant changes can be reported in relation to legislation or policies in targeted countries.
- ▶ *National EA: In Lebanon, a National Human Rights Action Plan is adopted in compliance with international human rights standards.*
In December 2012, a National Human Rights Action Plan was adopted by the Parliamentary

Human Rights Committee. The vote on the Plan in Parliament is pending due to delays in the formation of a government. The Plan was prepared with the technical support of OHCHR. Once approved and implemented, it will provide a comprehensive framework for translating Lebanon's international commitments into concrete actions for the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

- ▶ *National EA: National Human Rights Institutions are established in Lebanon, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates and are working increasingly in compliance with the Paris Principles in Bahrain, Jordan, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.*

The NHRI in Bahrain began working in 2013 and its establishing legislation is partly in compliance with the Paris Principles. In Lebanon, the draft law to establish the NHRI was developed in 2012 but its adoption has been postponed due to delays in the formation of a new government. The Saudi Human Rights Commission is not in conformity with the Paris Principles. A NHRI was not established in the United Arab Emirates during the reporting period. OHCHR has advocated for the establishment of NHRIs in countries of the region in compliance with international standards and has offered technical advice when requested.

Transitional justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ *National EA: Increased compliance of Lebanese Internal Security Forces with international human rights standards.*

The Code of Conduct for Lebanon's Internal Security Forces was launched in 2012 and outlined professional and ethical standards of behaviour of security forces to guarantee respect for human rights and protection of public freedoms. It was expected that the Code of Conduct would be complemented by anti-torture legislation, which is pending adoption by the Parliament. OHCHR, jointly with the Beirut Bar Association and the Lebanese American University, facilitated training sessions for the Internal Security Forces and provided technical advice for the incorporation of international human rights standards into both the Code of Conduct and the Anti-Torture Law.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ *National EA: Rights-holders participate in decision-making processes, development and monitoring of economic, social and cultural rights policies within the right to development framework.*

Technical advice provided by OHCHR to a regional NGO resulted in the development of a

manual for monitoring economic and social rights. In addition, civil society organizations enhanced their capacity to advocate for the realization of economic and social rights following capacity-building activities carried out by the Regional Office.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ *National EA: Increased integration of human rights standards and principles into UN system policies and programmes at the national level.* The Strategy for the Protection of Civilians of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) integrated a human rights perspective as a result of the Regional Office's engagement with and technical support to UNIFIL. Furthermore, OHCHR's engagement with the UNCT in Lebanon contributed to the increased integration of human rights perspectives in the work of the UNCT, particularly in relation to Outcome 2 of the UNDAF on enhanced monitoring and accountability for the effective implementation and enjoyment of human rights. The integration of human rights standards and principles into programmes and policies of UN agencies in other countries of the region, such as Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Syria, remain inadequate due to limited engagement with their respective UNCTs.

Regional Office for Middle East (Beirut, Lebanon): Expenditure in 2013		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	887,041
Consultants	-	(8,080)
Official travel	-	24,272
Contractual services	-	(1,474)
General operating expenses	-	213,885
Supplies & materials	-	(5,445)
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	(44,340)
Subtotal	-	1,065,859
Programme support costs		138,561
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,204,420

Note: negative figures resulting from prior year adjustments

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

Year established	2012
Staff as of 31 December 2013	4
Expenditure in 2013	US\$529,072

Results

Transitional justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

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

In December 2013, the OHCHR Regional Office for North Africa organized a regional seminar on transitional justice with the participation of parliamentarians from Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen to promote the exchange of experiences and good practices and discuss challenges regarding legislative processes in their respective contexts. The seminar provided an opportunity to highlight the role of parliamentarians in transitional justice processes and advocate for the adoption of laws to establish transparent, participatory and strong truth-seeking bodies, in compliance with international standards. In Egypt, a Minister for Transitional Justice has been appointed and there is increasing discussion at the national level regarding a potential transitional justice law and the establishment of an independent commission on transitional justice. In Tunisia, the organic law on transitional justice establishing the Truth and Dignity Commission was passed by the National Constituent Assembly on 15 December 2013.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ *National EA: Increased compliance and engagement by countries of the region with UN human rights mechanisms and bodies (UPR, treaty bodies and special procedures).* Regarding treaty body reporting, the Government of Algeria submitted its overdue periodic reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), in compliance with the reporting guidelines, which were reviewed by the Committee in 2013. Periodic reports were also submitted to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and CEDAW, but they were not in full compliance with the reporting guidelines of

the Committees. In the case of Egypt, it submitted its overdue second, third and fourth periodic reports to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), which were examined in November 2013. Morocco submitted its first periodic report to the CMW in 2013. Concerning the UPR, the second cycle reports of Algeria and Morocco were submitted in conformity with the reporting guidelines and were examined in 2012.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- ▶ *National EA: Rights-holders in North African countries, especially women and discriminated groups such as children, youth, migrants and refugees, increasingly use international protection mechanisms in relation to the administration of justice.*

Civil society organizations in North Africa increasingly engaged with international human rights mechanisms to raise human rights issues of concern. This was reflected in a high number of alternative reports submitted to the mechanisms. For instance, 11 submissions were presented to the CESCR in the context of the Committee's review of Egypt's periodic report; six documents were submitted to the CMW prior to its review of Morocco's periodic report; and five alternative reports were presented by civil society organizations from Algeria in anticipation of the country's review by CEDAW.

Regional Office for North Africa (Beirut, Lebanon): Expenditure in 2013

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	206,593
Consultants	-	8,953
Official travel	-	117,539
Contractual services	-	4,713
General operating expenses	-	35,083
Supplies & materials	-	(16,185)
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	111,509
Subtotal	-	468,205
Programme support costs		60,867
GRAND TOTAL	-	529,072

Note: negative figures resulting from prior year adjustments

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

Year established	2009
Staff as of 31 December 2013	4
Expenditure in 2013	US\$1,448,092

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ *National EA: Increase compliance with international human rights standards by the police.*

The first activities of the UN Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (hereinafter Centre) on police training were conducted in Qatar. From 9 to 13 December 2012, in cooperation with the Human Rights Department of the Ministry of Interior of Qatar, the Centre organized a training programme on human rights issues which was attended by 26 police officers from various departments covering functions such as human rights, drug prevention, criminal evidence and information. The event contributed to increasing the awareness of participants about human rights issues relating to law enforcement activities.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- ▶ *National EA: Increased number and diversity of rights-holders and NHRIs and civil society actors in the States under the Centre's mandate make use of the international and regional human rights mechanisms and bodies.*

The Centre has contributed to an increased understanding by civil society actors of the work of the human rights mechanisms and how to engage with them, including by carrying out a number of training activities on the treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR. In particular, following a workshop attended by 23 participants, a checklist of issues that needed to be addressed prior to the UPR was developed to facilitate their engagement with that mechanism.

United Nations Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha, Qatar): Expenditure in 2013		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	735,420
Consultants	-	174,415
Official travel	-	298,150
Contractual services	-	25,502
General operating expenses	-	37,012
Supplies & materials	-	(5,808)
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	16,806
Subtotal	-	1,281,497
Programme support costs		166,595
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,448,092

Note: negative figures resulting from prior year adjustments

Human Rights Components in UN Peace Missions

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

Year established	2004
Staff as of 31 December 2013	42

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ *National EA: By 2013, the Iraqi National Human Rights Commission (INHRC) is established and complying with the Paris Principles and the national action plan is approved and under implementation. The judiciary, domestic laws, policies and programmes are in increased compliance with international standards.*

The Iraqi National Human Rights Commission was formally established with the appointment of 14 commissioners in April 2012. The law establishing the INHRC is in compliance with international standards and establishes it as an independent body with a mandate to monitor, report on and investigate individual cases and make recommendations to the Parliament and the Government on ways to improve the protection of and respect for human rights in accordance with Iraq's international obligations. The Human Rights Office of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), together with UNDP, has worked to build the capacity of commissioners and staff to ensure they implement the mandate of the Commission according to its establishing legislation (Law 54 of 2008), the Constitution of Iraq and in conformity with international law. The Commission has commenced its monitoring work based on individual complaints it has received regarding human rights violations and its work on thematic human rights priorities. Despite these positive developments, the Commission has not yet elected a President as required by Law 54. Regarding the National Action Plan on Human Rights adopted in December 2011, the



Syrians streaming into Kurdistan, Iraq.

Government appointed an interdepartmental committee in 2012 to oversee the implementation of the Plan. UNAMI holds a seat on the committee and offers technical advice and support. The committee met on two occasions in 2013 following the receipt of reports from relevant government departments on progress achieved in implementing the Plan. According to the Government, 33 of the 135 UPR recommendations accepted by Iraq have been fully implemented, a further 99 recommendations have been partially implemented and another three remain to be implemented.

Ratification (EA 2)

- ▶ *National EA: By 2013, the Iraqi Government has signed and ratified at least one more treaty.* Iraq ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in March 2013. The Human Rights Office of UNAMI undertook extensive advocacy with the Government of Iraq, in partnership with civil society organizations and international actors, to ensure that the ratification of the Convention was part of the National Action Plan on Human Rights adopted by the Government. The Law enacting the provisions of the Convention at the national level was passed by the Iraqi Council of Representatives on 7 September 2013, yet it failed to fully adhere to the provisions of the Convention, particularly in relation to the requirement for an independent mechanism to oversee and monitor the implementation of the Convention and make recommendations to the Government on how to enhance the protection and respect for the rights of persons with disabilities.

Transitional justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ *National EA: By 2013, human rights violations, in general, and violence against civilians, in particular, are increasingly monitored and investigated by the Government.* The Ministry of Human Rights is proactive in investigating all claims of human rights violations and abuses and the Ministry of Justice is active in investigating allegations of abuse, ill-treatment or torture in prisons and places of detention under its authority. The Government also established a directorate in the Council of Ministers to enhance the access of citizens to goods and services by receiving and forwarding their complaints to responsible Government departments for action. UNAMI undertook monitoring of all prisons and places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of Justice, made recommendations to improve respect for due process and fair trial



Image of a camp for Syrian refugees in Iraq.

standards and collaborated with the Ministry of Human Rights and the Ministry of Justice to facilitate a number of workshops with security forces personnel, judges and prosecutors to build their capacity and enhance their compliance with human rights standards.

Access to justice and basic services (EA 4)

- ▶ *National EA: Increase in the number of laws and policies adopted to ensure access of selected discriminated groups to justice and selected basic services.* The Council of Representatives adopted a number of laws in 2013 to improve access of discriminated groups to justice and basic services. On 7 May, the Council of Representatives enacted the Amendment to the Social Care Law of 1980 to provide enhanced protection and care to children in shelters and orphanages and focus on children who are victims of domestic violence and under the care of the State. In a positive development regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, the Council of Representatives endorsed the Law for the Care of Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs in September. Nevertheless, UNAMI remains concerned that certain aspects of the Law do not fully comply with Iraq's obligations under the CRPD, particularly in relation to the establishment of an independent oversight mechanism. UNAMI, in partnership with the Human Rights Parliamentary Committee and the Iraqi Alliance of Disability Organizations, undertook advocacy with the Government of Iraq and proposed a series of amendments to ensure the conformity of the Law with the Convention. In June, the Kurdistan Region Parliament enacted legislation on access to information for the Kurdistan Region which guarantees the right of citizens of the region to uninhibited access to information held by public authorities, except in instances regulated by law.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ *National EA: By 2013, the UN in Iraq is increasingly integrating a human rights-based approach to development into its programming and policies.*

UNAMI provided feedback on policy documents of UNCT members and as a result, the policies, programmes and activities of UN agencies are rights-based and promote the protection and respect of human rights in Iraq. Examples include: UNDP programmes aimed at enhancing women's access to justice and capacity-building of the Family Protection Units; UNICEF and UNHCR emergency responses to the influx of Syrian refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) fleeing from armed violence in Iraq; programmes conducted by UNESCO and UNAMI to foster respect for the rights of freedom of assembly and expression; and economic and social rights policies and programmes developed by various UNCT members. The Human Rights Office also provided advice to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq and to Heads of Units within UNAMI to ensure that its policies, programmes and activities are based on human rights. The new UNDAF is being developed by the UNCT in cooperation with the Government of Iraq and civil society organizations. The Human Rights Office of UNAMI participates in the UNDAF Development Committee and offers technical assistance to ensure the process is based in human rights and the final document promotes the protection of and respect for human rights in Iraq.

United Nations Support Mission in Libya

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2013	6

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ *National EA: Constitutional and electoral reform improve compliance with international human rights standards.*

The drafting of the Constitution suffered significant delays as the election of a Constitution Drafting Assembly was postponed to 2014. Nevertheless, the Human Rights, Transitional Justice and Rule of Law Division

(HRD) of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) carried out a number of activities to advocate for the inclusion of human rights standards and considerations in the new Constitution. For example, it advised on provisions related to child rights and co-organized a seminar with the National Council on Civil Liberties and Human Rights and the Ministry of Defence on key constitutional issues involving government officials and civil society.

- ▶ *National EA: Reforms of the justice and security sectors improve compliance with international human rights standards.*

In 2013, the General National Congress, with the support of the HRD, adopted a law withdrawing the jurisdiction of military courts in cases related to civilians and a law criminalizing torture, enforced disappearances, unlawful killings and discrimination. Both pieces of legislation are largely compliant with international standards. Additionally, Law 29 of 2013 on Transitional Justice was promulgated in December 2013 and reflected many of the comments of the HRD, including regarding the establishment of a new truth commission and a separate reparations body. The HRD also advocated for the establishment of an independent commission on missing persons under the previous regime and during the 2011 conflict to reduce the risk of discrimination. A law providing for such a commission was adopted at the end of 2013. In terms of administration of justice, a primary issue in Libya is the number of conflict-related detainees being held without due judicial process. The HRD monitoring activities have focused on these individuals and have paid frequent visits to approximately 30 detention centres during which they raised issues and cases with the authorities which in turn led to some improvements. The HRD has observed increased compliance with international human rights standards in a number of the detention facilities and noted marked improvements in one facility following its handover to the judicial police. To this end, the HRD worked to strengthen the capacity and independence of the judiciary by, inter alia, supporting the reform of the membership of the Supreme Judicial Council and facilitating training courses for judges and prosecutors on a variety of topics, including on investigations, screening of detainees and prosecutorial strategies. The HRD also worked closely with the judicial police to advise on organizational and prison reforms and provide training on treatment of detainees and security of prisons.

Transitional justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ *National EA: Reforms of the justice and security sectors improve compliance with international human rights standards.*

The National Council on Civil Liberties and Human Rights was established in 2011 but effectively began operating in 2013. Throughout the reporting period, the HRD provided advice and training to build the capacity of the Council. Although the Fact-Finding and Reconciliation Commission was established in 2011, it remained largely inactive due in part to the conservative interpretation by the Commissioners of their role. As noted above, the Transitional Justice Law, promulgated in December 2013, includes provisions for an improved truth commission, in line with comments provided by the HRD.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ *National EA: Rights-holders in Libya, especially women and discriminated groups, increasingly participate in decision-making processes and the development and monitoring of public policies.* As a result of capacity-building activities carried out by the HRD, civil society organizations, including victims' groups, increased their awareness about their rights to participate in decision-making processes and consequently have a greater capacity to undertake monitoring and advocacy. For instance, in May 2013, the HRD supported the convening of a two-day human rights conference in Al-Baida, with extensive civil society participation, which resulted in the adoption of recommendations for the Government. The HRD has also been in regular contact with the three main minority groups, the Amazigh, Tabu and Tuareg, to support their advocacy efforts for adequate representation in the electoral law and constitutional process. The HRD engaged in advocacy for adequate representation of women and provided advice on a draft law for victims of sexual violence. While women and minority representatives have greater awareness of their rights, their participation in decision-making was hindered by the deteriorating political context and the decision of the minorities, at the end of 2013, to boycott the elections of the Constitution Drafting Assembly.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ *National EA: Increased compliance and engagement by Libya with UN human rights mechanisms.*

Libya has overdue reports to the Committee against Torture; the Human Rights Committee; the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; Committee on the Rights of the Child; and the Committee on Migrant Workers; none of which were submitted during the reporting period. The HRD offered assistance in this area, both to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Council for Civil Liberties and Human Rights, and sought to establish a framework for reporting. In relation to the special procedures, in February 2012, Libya accepted the recommendation made during the UPR to issue a standing invitation, which was subsequently confirmed in January 2013. Since then, visits by the Working Groups on Enforced Disappearances and on the Use of Mercenaries were agreed upon but were postponed because of security concerns. Furthermore, out of three special procedures communications sent to the Libyan Government, the only response received was in relation to the destruction of religious and historical sites.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ *National EA: Integration of human rights standards and principles within UNSMIL.* Through briefings and meetings led by the HRD, the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy and the Joint Policy on Human Rights Components in Peacekeeping or Special Political Missions are better known within UNSMIL. Additionally, HRD contributions are reflected in the Mission's programming in areas such as national dialogue, legislative support, the Constitution, minorities, and sexual and gender-based violence. The HRD also worked closely with the UNCT to ensure that a human rights-based approach, including gender mainstreaming, is adopted in projects and programmes.