

Foreword by the High Commissioner



2013 was a landmark year for OHCHR. The 20th anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and the establishment of the High Commissioner's mandate gave us an opportunity to re-emphasize the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights. It coincided with a notable development: the reaffirmation of the responsibility of the entire United Nations system to uphold human rights norms and standards, in the form of the Secretary-General's plan of action, *Rights Up Front*.

Today, OHCHR supports 58 field presences, including 13 country/stand-alone offices, 14 human rights components in peacekeeping missions and special political missions, 12 regional offices and centres, and 19 human rights advisers operating with United Nations Resident Coordinators and country teams. They provide national authorities and stakeholders with direct and targeted assistance in addressing human rights issues.

Our work in 2013 was grounded in six thematic priorities.

Discrimination

As part of our effort to counter national, racial or religious hatred, my Office helped to create a detailed body of guidance, the Rabat Plan of Action. A separate database provides States with advice on policies and programmes to eradicate racial discrimination and to promote equality. We also focused strongly on sexual and gender-based violence, and partnered with UN-Women and UNDP to increase women's access to justice through law and justice reforms.

In July 2013, OHCHR launched *Free & Equal*, a global campaign for LGBT equality, and several meetings were organized to strengthen protection of the human rights of older persons.

Impunity and the rule of law

Accountability is vital to deterring rights violations and to rebuilding a sense of common destiny. In 2013 we helped States draft transitional justice laws in Libya, Tunisia and Yemen, among others. We supported inclusive and participatory transitional justice processes in Côte d'Ivoire, Tunisia and Guinea. OHCHR also co-chaired an interdepartmental process to evaluate implementation of the UN Rule of Law Indicators Project, including a detailed review in Haiti, Liberia and South Sudan of data on the reform of prisons, the police and the judicial system. The outcome identified ways to help Member States use indicators to measure change in accountability, integrity and performance.

We also continued our advocacy in favour of a moratorium on the death penalty, with the goal of its complete abolition. And, as Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) Working Group on Protecting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism, OHCHR developed

a series of practical human rights reference guides on security infrastructure and the stopping and searching of persons. Further guides are under development on the conformity of national counter-terrorism legislation with international human rights law.

Poverty and economic, social and cultural rights

Human rights must be at the core of all development processes. We pursued this objective through research, expert meetings, consultations, advocacy and public events, and by developing methodologies and selection criteria for post-2015 goals, targets and indicators. So far, each of the key milestones in the post-2015 process has recognized the value and centrality of human rights.

In May 2013, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights entered into force, reaffirming the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights. Two major publications on ESCR were issued in 2013: *Realizing the Right to Development*, which brings together practical guidance from more than 30 international experts; and *Human Rights Indicators*, a framework for improving measurement and implementation of human rights in local contexts.

Migration

Over the past four years, through its engagement in the Global Migration Group (GMG), the Global Forum on Migration and Development, and the High-Level Dialogue of the General Assembly, OHCHR has advanced a strong human rights approach to migration. The Office produced an analytical report, *Migration and Human Rights: Improving human rights-based governance of international migration* and supported the development of a study on management of the external borders of the European Union and its impact on the human rights of migrants. The resulting report provides practical guidance on the implementation of a human rights-based approach to migration policies.

Violence and insecurity

OHCHR has assisted almost 40 commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions and in 2013 we issued a publication of practical guidance. Protecting civilians is a vital part of peacekeeping missions, and OHCHR cooperated with DPKO and DPA to develop a joint policy to improve coordinated responses to the risk of human rights violations. We also stand ready to assist in humanitarian catastrophes, as with the team that OHCHR sent to the Philippines to support the UN country team in the aftermath of typhoon Haiyan.

Supporting human rights mechanisms

OHCHR supported 51 special procedures mandates in 2013, as well as the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review. The Office also prepared a comprehensive assessment of the complexity, workload and full cost of the treaty body system, which in April 2014 led to a General Assembly resolution to streamline its structures and functioning.

Management and funding

OHCHR is focusing on results. All parts of the Office now use an online system to plan, monitor and report on their work against targets. Of the 27 targets we set for 2012-2013, 14 were fully met or exceeded. For 10 targets, the percentage of achievement was between 50 and 99 per cent. The percentage of achievement was below 50 per cent in relation to only three targets (see Annex I for details). We also seek to control costs and deploy our resources effectively, and in 2013 we initiated a Functional Review, whose results will be released in 2014.

Voluntary contributions increased from US\$111.1 million in 2012 to US\$121.2 million in 2013. This is still far too little to meet the requests for our assistance. As the Office has grown more active and operational, it is expected to do more. As I pass the baton to my successor, I hope s/he will be able to count on more resources and support.



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High Commissioner for Human Rights

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