OHCHR’s approach to field work

Background

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) implements its work at the country and regional levels, in line with the mandate of the High Commissioner under General Assembly resolution 48/141, including through the provision of advisory services and technical cooperation.

At the country level, OHCHR works with national counterparts to strengthen national protection systems and support the implementation of effective measures to overcome obstacles to the realization of human rights. This includes efforts to establish or reinforce justice and accountability mechanisms at the national level, such as undertaking effective monitoring and investigation, and helping to secure redress for victims of human rights violations. OHCHR prioritizes follow-up to recommendations that Member States have received from international human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The ultimate aim of these efforts is to strengthen national human rights capacities and national human rights infrastructure –through the establishment of coordination mechanisms for integrated reporting and follow-up, led by the executive with the active participation of State institutions, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and civil society organizations. Ensuring that this work is systematically and increasingly carried out in line with national development plans enhances the abilities of Member States to address gaps in implementation and revise legislation and practices to be in conformity with human rights norms and contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

OHCHR also responds to deteriorating human rights situations and early signs of emerging crises through the rapid deployment of monitoring missions or additional surge capacity for UN operations on the ground in the context of humanitarian emergencies.

As of the end of 2016, OHCHR was responsible for 60 field presences and provided support to other members of the UN system through the rapid deployment of human rights officers in response to emerging situations across regions.
OHCHR’S APPROACH TO FIELD WORK

Types of Field Presences

OHCHR operates through two main types of field presences: stand-alone offices and collaborative arrangements. The first category is composed of country and regional offices that are under the direct supervision of OHCHR. The second category consists of field presences with double reporting lines, namely human rights components of peace or political missions which report to the Head of the mission and the High Commissioner and to human rights advisers who in turn report to resident coordinators and the High Commissioner.

Country and stand-alone offices

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

OHCHR has 14 country or stand-alone offices which are composed of 13 offices in: Bolivia, Burundi, Cambodia, Colombia, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Mauritania, Mexico, the State of Palestine1, Tunisia, Uganda, and Yemen, as well as one field-based structure in Seoul covering the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

Regional offices and centres

Regional offices are established through an agreement with a host government and in consultation with other countries in the region. These offices have an important role in supporting governments in their engagement with the UN human rights mechanisms, specifically the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures and the UPR. They also focus on cross-cutting regional human rights issues, in close cooperation with regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations and civil society. Regional offices further support and cooperate with OHCHR country offices by providing assistance on institutional and thematic issues. In addition to the regional offices, OHCHR maintains regional centres with specific mandates established through General Assembly resolutions. Regional offices and centres are funded by the UN regular budget and voluntary contributions.

OHCHR maintains 12 regional presences which are composed of 10 regional offices in: East Africa (Addis Ababa), Southern Africa (Pretoria), West Africa (Dakar), South-East Asia (Bangkok), the Pacific (Suva), the Middle East and North Africa (Beirut), Central Asia (Bishkek), Europe (Brussels), Central America (Panama City), South America (Santiago de Chile), a subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy for Central Africa (Yaoundé) and a Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha).

Human rights components of United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions

During 2016, 14 UN peace missions maintained a human rights component and incorporated human rights promotion and protection into their mandated work in: Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iraq, Kosovo2, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan and the Sudan (Darfur). Heads of human rights components of peace missions report to the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights. They represent OHCHR in connection with the work of both pillars of the mission. In addition to monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation in-country, they support follow-up action with respect to recommendations received by the host country from all United Nations human rights mechanisms.

OHCHR took steps to actualize the Secretary-General’s report on the future of peace operations, which provides guidance on the implementation of recommendations issued by the High-level Panel Review on peace operations, and successfully advocated for human rights integration in the agenda of peace operations. In particular, OHCHR focused on the realization of the Secretary-General’s decision to consolidate specialized protection functions under human rights components of peace missions, prepared and issued a guidance note to all peace operations on this process and partnered with relevant UN entities to assess progress and further guide activities at both mission and headquarters’ levels. Moreover, OHCHR engaged proactively with the African Union (AU) to develop a robust human rights framework in the context of plans to finance AU peace operations.

OHCHR continued to further the integration of human rights in the day-to-day operations of the Departments

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

2 Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.
of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support by working with Integrated Operational Teams on mission concepts and defining strategic priorities. It provided technical guidance on the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy to peacekeeping missions and special political missions in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, Somalia and South Sudan, to the United Nations Police Division in the context of their support to national police and to the United Nations Force in the context of their support to the respective national armies. Advice was also provided to the Department of Field Support in relation to the recruitment, clearance and deployment of start-up teams to United Nations peace operations.

**Human rights advisers in United Nations Country Teams**

Human rights advisers (HRAs) are deployed at the request of resident coordinators on behalf of the United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs). Advisers support and assist the resident coordinators, Heads of UN agencies and members of UNCTs to integrate human rights through their programming strategies and their implementation and to build and strengthen national human rights capacities. Other functions include: advising and providing training to independent national human rights institutions and other stakeholders; advising State actors on the promotion and protection of human rights and other UN norms and standards; building networks with and providing practical support to civil society actors; providing operational support to human rights training and/or national capacity-building activities; promoting engagement with the international human rights mechanisms; and when applicable, advising on integrating human rights in humanitarian response and post-crisis recovery processes. Human rights advisers are funded through extrabudgetary contributions and, in some instances, cost-sharing agreements have been concluded with UNDP or relevant UNCTs and other UN entities at the country level. Since 2012, new deployments have been funded through a Multi-Donor Trust Fund established under the United Nations Development Group’s Human Rights Working Group (UNDG-HRWG), chaired by OHCHR, to support the implementation of the 2012 UNDG strategy for the deployment of new HRAs. A number of the UNCTs that received an adviser under the strategy have fulfilled their commitments under the cost-sharing arrangement for the third year of the deployment, while several others faced difficulties which resulted in the closing of their deployments. Where challenges remain in meeting these cost-sharing requirements, OHCHR will support local efforts to ensure the continuation of these important deployments.

During 2016, OHCHR deployed 25 human rights advisers or national human rights officers in: Bangladesh (closed in 2016 and a national officer appointed), Chad, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Serbia, Sierra Leone, the South Caucasus (based in Tbilisi and covering Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia), Sri Lanka, Tanzania (closed in June), Timor-Leste, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Zambia (closed in January) and for UNDG regional teams in Panama and Bangkok (closed in June and December, respectively).

**Engagement in Humanitarian Action**

The Office sustained strong engagement in humanitarian action at the global and field levels, with a view to ensuring that the protection of human rights remains a central tenet of humanitarian action in line with the United Nations Human Rights up Front Action Plan and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee’s (IASC) Centrality of Protection Agenda.

At the global level, OHCHR participated in the World Humanitarian Summit and made 32 commitments that will strengthen its engagement in humanitarian action. As part of the Summit, the Office was part of the roundtable on “Upholding the norms that safeguard humanity” and organized a side event on the protection of human rights in humanitarian crises. Throughout the year, OHCHR participated in global humanitarian leadership forums, including the IASC Principals, the IASC Working Group and the IASC Emergency Directors Group. The Office continued to serve as co-chair, along with InterAction, of the Global Protection Cluster Task Team on the IASC Protection Priority. The work of this team successfully concluded this year with the finalization of the first IASC policy on protection.

At the field level, the Office continued to work closely with Humanitarian Coordinators, Humanitarian Country Teams and Protection Clusters, ensuring that the protection of human rights was integrated into humanitarian preparedness and response. The Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights participated in the annual Humanitarian Coordinators retreat and OHCHR deployed three staff members to advise the regional- and country-level humanitarian leadership focused on the Syria crisis. OHCHR is a member of the

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2 Deployed through the UNDG-HRWG.
Humanitarian Country Team in Ukraine; continues to lead the Protection Cluster in the State of Palestine; and participates in the work of Protection Clusters or working groups in El Salvador, Haiti, Iraq, Myanmar, the Pacific, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Ukraine and Yemen. The Office also provides support to national partners, for example the Direction de la Protection Civile in Haiti, and promotes the involvement of human rights defenders in humanitarian action. During the reporting period, the Central Emergency Response Fund supported OHCHR’s engagement in Burundi.

* Reference to Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.
The work of OHCHR in Africa covers the 48 countries of sub-Saharan Africa. The Office supported four regional offices (Central Africa, East Africa, Southern Africa, West Africa); three country offices (Burundi, Guinea, Uganda); 10 human rights advisers (HRAs) in United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) in: Chad, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, United Republic of Tanzania (until June) and Zambia (until January); and nine human rights presences in United Nations peace missions in: Central African Republic (CAR), Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan (Darfur). OHCHR provided support to six special procedures country mandates, namely, Somalia (1999), Sudan (2009), Côte d’Ivoire (2011), Eritrea (2012), Mali (2013), and CAR (2013) and to the work of the International Commission of Inquiries on Eritrea, the United Nations Independent Investigation in Burundi (UNIIB) and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan.
During 2016, the African continent witnessed stagnation in democratization processes, prevailing problems with the rule of law, lack of accountability for serious crimes, withdrawal of some African countries from the International Criminal Court, shrinking of democratic space following violent suppression of peaceful protests, governance deficits and a return to relativism in a number of countries. On the one hand, mixed migration throughout Africa created opportunities for a number of Africans to seek a job but also to access enhanced natural resources out of their countries of origin or residence. Unfortunately, mass migration remained triggered by poverty and bad governance, and resulted in the deaths of thousands of Africans attempting to reach Europe. In other parts of Africa, including Burundi, CAR, the DRC, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan, the rise in armed conflict and other forms of violence that occurred in the context of elections, threatened human rights and endangered the lives of civilians.

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

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

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

The Office continued to strengthen cooperation with the AU, including by enhancing support to its human rights bodies (African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child), and working to mainstream human rights into AU peace support operations. OHCHR further supported activities within the framework of the African Year for Human Rights with a particular focus on the rights of women and the effective integration of a human rights and gender perspective into all AU policies, programmes and processes.

Country Offices

Burundi

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<th>Year established</th>
<th>2015</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff as of 31 December 2016</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure in 2016</td>
<td>US$4,733,372</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- Participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries are established; and follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms is integrated (EA 6)

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

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

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

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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

Widening the democratic space

A draft law for the protection of human rights defenders is adopted and a basket fund for the National Human Rights Commission is set up (EA 1)

The draft law for the protection of human rights defenders has been awaiting approval by the National Independent Commission on Human Rights since 2014. The draft has not yet been submitted to the Government for consideration.

The Independent National Human Rights Commission is fully functioning in accordance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)

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

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

Mechanisms and initiatives are adopted to increase human rights protection in contexts of conflict, violence and insecurity (EA 3)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Burundi: Expenditure in 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Personnel and related costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities and operating costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme support costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Guinea (Conakry)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff as of 31 December 2016</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Results**

**Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law**

- Justice sector is reformed; national courts increasingly invoke human rights principles and standards in the proceedings and final decisions and alleged perpetrators of serious crimes are investigated and prosecuted (EA 1)
- The new Criminal Law and Criminal Code of Procedure, which are both compliant with human rights standards, were adopted. OHCHR provided technical advice during the drafting process and supported civil society’s advocacy for the amendment of the texts.
- Formal learning institutions for gendarmerie and police include a programme for human rights training (EA 1)
- With the support of OHCHR, four human rights modules were developed and approved for the training centres for security forces. Forty representatives from the security forces were trained on the use of the modules.

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

- Integration of international human rights standards, including selected recommendations of the UPR, into the UNDAF 2013-2017, through its midterm review and in the UN Contingency Plan and UN Protection Clusters, particularly concerning the forest region (EA 11)
- Following a training session that was facilitated by OHCHR on a human rights-based approach (HRBA), 16 representatives of UN agencies based in Guinea committed to integrating a HRBA when developing their corresponding programmes. The Office trained an additional 50 representatives from mining companies, national authorities and local committees from the forest region regarding the social responsibility of mining companies.

**Guinea: Expenditure in 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Regular budget expenditure in US$</th>
<th>Extrabudgetary expenditure in US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel and related costs</td>
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<td>Activities and operating costs</td>
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**Uganda**

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<td>Staff as of 31 December 2016</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure in 2016</td>
<td>US$3,107,720</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Results**

**Strengthening international human rights mechanisms**

- National institutional mechanisms are in place and functioning to increase engagement with international human rights mechanisms, namely, the National Human Rights Action Plan and the National Human Rights Education Plan (EA 6)
- On 4 August, an online database was launched to monitor the status of the Government’s implementation of the recommendations formulated by international, regional and national human rights mechanisms. Following an initial pilot stage that was tested in five ministries and departments, efforts are now underway to roll out the database to other ministries. The database was developed by the Uganda Human Rights Commission, with support from OHCHR, and was praised by Government officials as a key tool that will enable governmental institutions to monitor their implementation of human rights recommendations.
- Civil society networks, NHRI and UN entities increasingly engage with the UPR process, treaty body reporting and special procedures (EA 7)
- In November, Uganda underwent its second cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR). OHCHR provided assistance to civil society organizations through the dissemination of information relating to the UPR process. In March, the Office supported consultation meetings between 120 representatives from civil society organizations from different regions in order to coordinate the elaboration of a joint shadow report, which was submitted in due time.
Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

The Uganda Public Finance Management Act 2015 requires compliance of financial instruments with gender and equity requirements. OHCHR supported the Equal Opportunities Commission to conduct technical dialogues with 45 technical officers on how to mainstream gender into their financial instruments and ensure that non-discrimination standards were integrated and respected. As a result, technical officers whose financial instruments had failed to comply with gender equality standards were able to revise and re-submit them to the Parliament.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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

Widening the democratic space

The Uganda Human Rights Commission increasingly implements its constitutional mandate in accordance with the Paris Principles, monitors and handles cases of human rights violations and undertakes human rights promotion interventions (EA 1)

Empowering victims in their fight for accountability

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

In 2016, OHCHR supported the ICD to review and validate its draft Rules of Procedure, with the aim of incorporating international norms and good practices into their working methods. The review facilitated the integration of provisions relating to victim participation and witness protection in proceedings of international crimes at different stages of the judicial process. The review assisted the judiciary in addressing gaps in current legislation and the absence of legislation related to witness protection and victim participation by making it mandatory for courts to uphold those rights. The Rules, which were published in the Official Gazette on 15 June, have been applied in proceedings before the ICD, including in ongoing trials related to terrorism and the Lord’s Resistance Army armed conflict. The Rules also resulted in a progressive judicial ruling that expressly affirmed victim participation in Uganda’s criminal justice proceedings. The Court also appointed a Counsel for Victims and as a result, victims have been able to influence the amendment of charges to include sexual crimes (e.g., Uganda v. Thomas Kwoyelo).

The need for institutionalizing witness protection measures stems from Uganda not yet having enacted a law for the protection of victims and witnesses that are called upon to testify in proceedings. In the absence of such a law (the draft Witness Protection Bill, developed with OHCHR support, is currently pending Cabinet approval), institutions such as the Directorate of Public Prosecutions have progressively resorted to offering protective measures to victims and witnesses on a case-by-case basis. In addition, the Rules of Procedure of the ICD were reviewed to avoid possible inconsistencies in the application of protective measures in the absence of a formal witness protection regime for the judiciary as a whole.
With the financial support of OHCHR, 230 staff members of the Uganda Human Rights Commission were deployed to 92 districts to conduct human rights monitoring during the elections, thereby enabling the Commission to implement its mandate during this sensitive period. In February, the Office trained these staff members on human rights monitoring.

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

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

### Regional Offices and Centres

#### United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa/OHCHR Central Africa Regional Office (Yaoundé, Cameroon)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year established</th>
<th>Staff as of 31 December 2016</th>
<th>Expenditure in 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>US$1,452,517</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Results

**Strengthening international human rights mechanisms**

- Increased ratification of international human rights instruments, with a focus on the ICMW, CRPD, ICCPR, ICESCR and their respective optional protocols (OPs), as well as on the OPs to the CRC and CAT in Cameroon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tomé and Principe (EA 2)
  - Partially as a result of sustained advocacy undertaken by the Regional Office, the National Assembly in Sao Tomé and Principe adopted a bill for the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), in October. The Central African Republic ratified the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

- NHRIs and civil society organizations effectively monitor human rights and engage with treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR in Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon (EA 7)
  - Civil society organizations in Cameroon are increasingly aware of the role of international human rights mechanisms and are more engaged in preparing shadow reports. As an example, a civil society network working on economic, social and cultural rights completed a shadow report under the ICESCR and the Cameroon Child Rights Network drafted and publicly presented its shadow report.

**Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere**

- National laws and development policies and programmes increasingly comply with international
human rights norms and standards, including those relating to business and especially in relation to indigenous peoples and minorities in Cameroon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon (EA 1)

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Regular budget expenditure in US$</th>
<th>Extrabudgetary expenditure in US$</th>
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<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
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<td><strong>171,549</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regional Office for East Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

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

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

Establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms in Djibouti, Eritrea and Ethiopia (EA 6)

The Government of Ethiopia enacted a law conferring the human rights reporting and follow-up responsibilities on the Office of the Attorney General, in the Ministry of Justice. In response to a request from this Office, OHCHR provided training on national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up to fo-
cal persons in different ministries, the Parliament and other government offices, with a view to enhancing the functioning of the new reporting and follow-up arrangements in Ethiopia.

United Nations human rights mechanisms recommendations form an integral part of reviews of country situations by AU human rights bodies (EA 8)

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

Courts and police investigation units start implementing recommendations from the regional and international human rights mechanisms in Djibouti and Ethiopia (EA 1)

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

Strategies/resolutions adopted by the AU Commission and African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights on truth and reconciliation in specific country situations are informed by relevant international human rights standards (EA 8)

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

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

The strategy on the Post-2015 Development Agenda of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the AU systematically integrates vulnerable and disadvantaged groups (EA 10)

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

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

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

Regional Office for East Africa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Regular budget expenditure in US$</th>
<th>Extrabudgetary expenditure in US$</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel and related costs</td>
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<td>Activities and operating costs</td>
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<td>141,218</td>
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<td>Subtotal</td>
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<td>Programme support costs</td>
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<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>171,759</strong></td>
<td><strong>785,051</strong></td>
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</table>

Regional Office for Southern Africa
(Pretoria, South Africa)

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Year established</strong></td>
<td>1998</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Staff as of 31 December 2016</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditure in 2016</strong></td>
<td>US$745,663</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

- Establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms in Lesotho, Mauritius and Swaziland (EA 6)

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

- Positive reply to special procedures mandate holders’ requests to visit Swaziland and Zimbabwe (EA 6)

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

Meaningful participation of rights-holders in development and economic policies in Mozambique and South Africa (EA 5)

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

Widening the democratic space

NHRI establishment in Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe (EA 1)

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Regular budget expenditure in US$</th>
<th>Extrabudgetary expenditure in US$</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel and related costs</td>
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<td>460,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities and operating costs</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>78,681</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>134,412</td>
<td>539,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme support costs</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>71,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAND TOTAL</td>
<td>134,412</td>
<td>611,252</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regional Office for West Africa
(Dakar, Senegal)

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

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

Fully functioning participatory standing national coordinating bodies are established for reporting/responding to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all international human rights mechanisms; and an increased number of reports submitted by Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia and Senegal (EA 6)

The Government of Cape Verde finalized its reports under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child; Burkina Faso submitted its overdue report under the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women and engaged with the treaty bodies during the review of its reports under ICCPR, ICESCR and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; Ghana engaged with the Human Rights Committee during the review of its report under ICCPR; and Niger and Senegal engaged with the Committee on Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families during the review of their respective reports. All countries received technical support from the Regional Office in their engagement with the human rights treaty bodies. In relation to national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up, OHCHR trained members of the Gambian mechanism on...
the drafting of national action plans to implement the recommendations issued by the treaty bodies and in the context of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). In Senegal, a new national action plan was approved on the implementation of UPR and treaty body recommendations. Among other actions, the plan entails the establishment of an enhanced national reporting and follow-up mechanism.

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

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

**Enhancing equality and countering discrimination**

**National laws have been harmonized with regional and international standards on non-discrimination and equality in Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia and Senegal (EA 4)**

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

**Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere**

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

In Burkina Faso, the Regional Office participated in the annual evaluation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and provided information on the latest recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in relation to Burkina Faso, in view of the preparation of the new Common Country Assessment (CCA)/UNDAF. Similarly, in Senegal, OHCHR also provided information with regard to the implementation of UPR and treaty bodies recommendations relevant to Senegal in the context of the UNDAF evaluation. The Regional Office also interacted with the Peer Support Group of the Regional UNDG for West and Central Africa in the context of the programming process of CCA/UNDAF roll-out countries in the region, including Burkina Faso and Ghana. These steps were taken in order to ensure the integration of a human rights-based approach in the strategic documents.
Widening the democratic space

A national human rights institution has been established and works in conformity with international standards in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia and Senegal (EA 1).

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

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

Through its presence on the ground and interaction with civil society organizations, the Regional Office noted that fundamental freedoms, including the right to vote and freedoms of movement, assembly, expression and association, were generally guaranteed during the December Presidential and parliamentary elections in Ghana. Nevertheless, the level of participation of women was fairly low.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional Office for West Africa (Dakar, Senegal): Expenditure in 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regular budget expenditure in US$</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel and related costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities and operating costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme support costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Human rights clubs in Senegal

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

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

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

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year established</th>
<th>2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff as of 31 December 2016</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

- A comprehensive transitional justice strategy is adopted and implemented (EA 3)
  
The Government set up a technical task force to study the process of the establishment of a truth, reconciliation, justice and reparations commission. A comprehensive strategy on transitional justice has not been adopted. As a result, the HRD and MINUSCA continued to advocate with relevant ministries and parliamentarians to establish the Commission and develop a national strategy. In addition, the HRD conducted a mapping and reported on serious human rights and international humanitarian law violations that have been committed in the CAR since January 2003. The findings will be widely disseminated to State and non-State actors and will be shared with the Special Criminal Court, national courts and non-judicial mechanisms.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- Human rights-based approaches incorporated into the UNDAF midterm review and other UN development programmes (EA 11)
  
The HRD, in collaboration with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), mainstreamed human rights into the CAR’s five-year post-conflict recovery strategy. Among other issues, the strategy integrates the promotion and protection of human rights through its support for the establishment and strengthening of the National Commission for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

Widening the democratic space

- By 2017, the National Commission of Human Rights is established and functioning in accordance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)
  
A law for the establishment of the National Commission for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms was drafted and is awaiting adoption by the Parliament. The HRD supported this process by holding a review workshop with members of the Statutory Commission, which is responsible for examining bills,
OHCHR IN THE FIELD: AFRICA

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

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

- National protection mechanisms are established to ensure protection and greater accountability for human rights violations, including a national committee for the prevention of the crime of genocide (EA 3)
  
  In an effort to enhance national protection mechanisms, the HRD collaborated with the State to develop a joint strategy to ensure greater protection from human rights violations and abuses. To this end, the HRD held workshops with associations of victims in order to hear and mainstream their concerns into the strategy. In addition, the HRD conducted 81 field missions and over 400 regular field visits to assess the human rights situation in the country. Based on its findings, the HRD produced reports that will be used to advocate with the authorities for their compliance with international human rights and humanitarian standards.

- Human rights-based approaches incorporated into the work of MINUSCA’s components and peacebuilding policies and programmes (EA 11)
  
  A new Standard Operating Procedure for the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) was signed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and became effective, in December. Compliance with the Policy is now mandatory for all MINUSCA and UNCT entities, which are providing support to national security forces. The HRD organized two presentations on the Policy for members of the HRDDP Task Force and the UNCT, in September and December, respectively.

**United Nations Operation in Côte d’Ivoire**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year established</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Staff</strong></td>
<td><strong>64</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Results**

**Strengthening international human rights mechanisms**

- Improved engagement with the international human rights mechanisms by the Government through the establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; integrated follow-up to recommendations of all international human rights mechanisms and the timely submission of reports to treaty bodies and the UPR; and full cooperation with special procedures mandate holders, especially the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Côte d’Ivoire (EA 6)

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

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

**Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law**

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

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

**Widening the democratic space**

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

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

A National Strategy to fight gender-based violence and its National Action Plan are implemented (EA 1)

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

A mechanism to prevent violence in the context of elections and a Code of Ethics for security forces to prevent and respond to threats to civilians are in place before the 2015 elections (EA 3)

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

African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Year established 2008
Staff as of 31 December 2016 91

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- Significant increase of compliance with international human rights norms and standards by courts and traditional justice mechanisms, as well as police and prisons in relation to arrest and detention (EA 1)

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

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

*Establishment of frameworks, policies, mechanisms and initiatives to prevent and respond to human rights violations by State and non-State actors in the context of conflict, violence and insecurity (EA 3)*

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

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

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

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

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**United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th align="left">Year established</th>
<th align="left">1996 (as a stand-alone office) and 2008 (integration with the Human Rights Division of DPKO)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td align="left">Staff as of 31 December 2016</td>
<td align="left">124</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Results**

**Strengthening international human rights mechanisms**

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

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

**Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law**

*Increased number of convictions for human rights violations referring to international human rights law (EA 1)*

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

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

On 31 December 2015, the President promulgated legislation to implement the Rome Statute. This is a positive development with respect to the fight against impunity, as it addresses a gap in the previous legislative framework by adding definitions of...
international crimes to the Penal Code, abolishes immunity for officials, including the President and Members of Parliament, provides that there can be no amnesty for international crimes and contains provisions strengthening the cooperation of the DRC with the International Criminal Court. The legislation does, however, provide that the death penalty may be imposed for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. In July, the President promulgated two presidential orders for pardons and the reduction of sentences, which included the commutation of death sentences to 20 years imprisonment.

Widening the democratic space

- The draft bill for the protection of human rights defenders is adopted (EA 1)
  A draft law for the protection of human rights defenders, which has not yet been submitted for review by the Parliament, was elaborated and endorsed by a large number of human rights defenders as well as Senators. In addition, the UNJHRO provided technical and financial support through the organization of workshops on drafting, validation and dissemination for a wide range of actors, including experts from the Government and civil society.

- The NHRI is working in compliance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)
  The national human rights institution (NHRI) developed a strategic plan with the support of the UNJHRO, which trained 75 people, including NHRI officers, staff and experts. It also facilitated nationwide consultations aimed at collecting the primary human rights concerns of rights-holders in order to ensure that the strategic plan was developed in accordance with articulated needs. Support from the UNJHRO was also instrumental to the implementation of a number of activities by the NHRI, including the elaboration of a draft law on the protection of human rights defenders and human rights monitoring missions in Kinshasa, Goma and Beni. In addition, the NHRI issued its first annual report on the human rights situation in the DRC.

- Five functional protection networks operating at the provincial and national levels are established (EA 3)
  In 2016, the number of provincial protection networks increased by six, bringing the total number of operational networks to 11. The networks are currently active in Goma (North Kivu), Bukavu (South Kivu), Bunia (Ituri), Kisangani (Tshopo), Kinshasa (Kinshasa), Kalemie (Tanganyika), Matadi (Kongo Central), Mbuji Mai (Kasia Oriental), Loja (Sankuru), Equateur (Mbandaka) and Gbadolite (North Ubangi).

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

- Increased number of human rights violations cases investigated and brought to justice by Joint Human Rights Investigation Teams (EA 3)
  The UNJHRO provided financial and technical support to 13 Joint Human Rights Investigation Teams and six mobile court hearings for grave human rights violations, including in relation to an investigation which led to the arrest of a provincial Member of
Parliament and the first trial in a civilian court in the DRC for international crimes. The latter took place before the Lubumbashi Court of Appeals, during which 32 individuals were accused of genocide and crimes against humanity. In its judgment issued on 30 September, the Court convicted four individuals for genocide and sentenced them to 15 years in prison. The other defendants were acquitted. In terms of sexual violence, 16 mobile trials were organized by DRC courts, on the request of judicial authorities from eight provinces and with the support of the UNJHRO. The trials resulted in 126 convictions. Furthermore, 1,405 victims of sexual violence were assisted through 23 NGO-run legal clinics in 13 provinces, which provided victims with free legal assistance and information. This resulted in the conviction of 174 perpetrators of sexual violence.

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

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

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

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

### United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau

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#### Results

**Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law**

- **Human rights are an integral part of the training programmes of the Bar Association; the refresher courses for judges; and recruitment training for security forces (army and police) and corrections personnel (EA 1)**

  The United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBiS) developed two practical guides on human rights for civil society and for military personnel, respectively. The latter was launched on the national day of the armed forces, in November, during which the Minister of Defence pledged to integrate the content of the guide into the Military Training Centre’s curriculum for 2017. UN-
IOGBIS also mainstreamed human rights concepts into the new strategic plan for justice sector reform, in line with the national programme on that issue. The programme is aimed at promoting access to justice, fighting against impunity and contributing to the consolidation of the rule of law in Guinea-Bissau.

United Nations Mission in Liberia

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**Results**

**Strengthening international human rights mechanisms**

- **Establishment and functioning of a national body to coordinate human rights treaty body reporting. Identify and invite special procedures mandate holders and ensure systematic follow-up to treaty body and UPR recommendations (EA 6)**

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

**Enhancing equality and countering discrimination**

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

Between July and October, the HRPS provided technical support to the Judicial Institute’s Professional Magistrate Training Programme on the incorporation of a human rights module into their training. This support included the creation of a curriculum and the facilitation of 13 training sessions for 60 magistrates. The training contributed to strengthening the institutional and operational capacities of the judiciary by improving the awareness of the magistrates regarding human rights in criminal procedures.

**Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law**

- **Improvements in the administration of justice include: availability of remedies for violations; juvenile justice facilities and abolition of the death penalty for children; effective oversight mechanisms; periodic impact assessments; human rights mainstreamed into the core curricula of justice sector actors; and implementation of criminal justice reform priorities (EA 1)**

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

**Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere**

- **One Programme periodic and final reviews indicate that human rights have been mainstreamed into the majority of UN programmes and are based on a human rights-friendly monitoring and evaluation framework (EA 1f)**

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

**Widening the democratic space**

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

As a result of support and guidance from HRPS, Liberian authorities committed to providing national budgetary support for 20 monitors of the INCHR.
These monitors, who are distributed throughout the 15 counties of Liberia, are critical to the ongoing monitoring and assessment of the human rights situation on the ground. Partially as a result of HRPS advocacy, two new commissioners to the INCHR were appointed. As of the end of 2016, all vacant INCHR posts have been filled.

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

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

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

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

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

**United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali**

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**Results**

**Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law**

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

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

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

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

In February, OHCHR supported the association known as “Sigi Te Mogo Son,” which is translated from Bambara as “laziness does not feed.” The support was provided to help with the implementation of a wide-reaching project on the empowerment and socio-economic inclusion of people with disabilities in Mopti. While the project costs as little as US$37,000, it is promoting employment for people living with specific needs so that they can develop their independence as capable professionals and to facilitate their inclusion in the community. In the framework of this project, OHCHR supported a variety of activities, including equipping the shoemaking workshop with necessary materials; the building of a cattle breeding hangar and the purchase of 20 cows; the purchase of a mill; equipping a soap making workshop with necessary materials; equipping the association’s administrative space with office materials; and the purchase of 10 motor tricycles to transport members of the association. The project aims to economically empower 118 people, including 43 women, through sustainable income-generating activities such as sewing and the creation of local products. During the year, it also built upon and improved existing resources and expanded production. As stated by the organization’s president and the representative of the beneficiaries, the project enables “persons with disabilities to stop begging in the streets of Mopti, to become a recognized workforce and to positively contribute to the local economy.”

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

Mechanisms and initiatives are adopted to increase human rights protection in contexts of conflict, violence and insecurity (EA 3)

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

The Human Rights Due Diligence Policy is effectively implemented by MINUSMA (EA 1)

The HRPD assessed 26 projects funded by MINUSMA, provided regular risk assessments and recommended mitigating measures in line with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP). In December, the HRPD requested that the HRDDP Task Force recommend the withholding of two projects that will support Malian Defence Forces in Gao and Timbuktu because the mitigating measures had not been implemented. In addition, since the 2015 adoption of the Standard Operating Procedures on the implementation of the HRDDP in Mali, the HRPD integrated regular sessions on the HRDDP during the training of Malian defence and security forces.

United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia

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Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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

Widening the democratic space

- Legislation for the establishment of a NHRI and on the media adopted in compliance with human rights standards (EA 1)
  
  After years of negotiations, the Somali Media Bill was adopted in January. The bill guarantees certain freedoms, including the independence of public broadcasting, protects the right to information for journalists and prohibits censorship or forced reporting on issues that are considered contrary to the public interest. It also outlines certain prohibitions of what can be reported on, including broadcasting false reports, inciting hostilities and disseminating baseless propaganda. Nevertheless, there are concerns that the lack of clarity of some terms in the bill could lead to subjective interpretations and the application of undue restrictions or limitations on the right to freedom of expression. Furthermore, the Media Law provides for the imposition of high penalties and fines for journalists and media outlets for violations and provides the Ministry of Information with a wide margin of discretion to control the registration of journalists. Moreover, the Media Law provides for the establishment of an independent National Media Council to promote ethics, resolve disputes and complaints, discipline media workers and recommend the granting and withdrawal of licenses. The Council is composed of the National Human Rights Commission and nine members, including three

Somalia: Release of a man unlawfully detained

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

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

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

In January 2015, Ali Salad’s lawyer appealed to the Supreme Court and argued that the arrest, trial, conviction and sentencing of Ali Salad was against the law and that he should not be in prison because of a crime that his son had allegedly committed. The lawyer also demonstrated to the court that Ali Salad did not have any information regarding his son.

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

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

Having exhausted all local remedies, Ali’s family referred the case to the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, based in Geneva, and asked UNSOM to follow up on the case. In June 2016, the Working Group sent a communication to the Government of Somaliland and on 23 July, the Supreme Court dismissed the charges. Ali was released and reunited with his family.
from State-owned media, three from the private media and three from civil society. The process for the appointment of the members and the approval of the Council was strongly opposed by media organizations, which argue that the process lacked consultation and transparency.

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

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

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

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

**United Nations Mission in South Sudan**

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<tr>
<td>Staff as of 31 December 2016</td>
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**Results**

**Strengthening international human rights mechanisms**

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

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

**Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law**

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

  South Sudan has not ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. There is no official moratorium on the death penalty and death sentences continue to be imposed. The HRD has engaged with national authorities on the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR and, through its monitoring work, documented cases where death sentences were imposed.
Increased number of cases brought before the judiciary which follow fair trials and due process and in which customary law has been applied in compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

Constitution, laws and policies increasingly comply with human rights standards in relation to freedoms of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly, association, conscience, religion and belief, decriminalization of all forms of defamation and prohibition of incitement to hatred (EA 1)

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

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

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

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

Chad

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Results

**Strengthening international human rights mechanisms**

- The Interministerial Committee on reporting under international and regional human rights instruments is operational and half of the overdue reports are submitted (EA 6)

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

**Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere**

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

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

Kenya

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Results

**Strengthening international human rights mechanisms**

- An effective and efficient participatory standing national coordinating body on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all international human rights mechanisms is in place (EA 6)

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

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

In July, the HRA trained a group of 30 women human rights defenders from across the country on the hu-
man rights treaty bodies, the special procedures and the UPR. The training was part of efforts to strengthen civil society engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- Legal and policy framework on exploitation of natural resources is anchored in human rights law and guiding principles on human rights and business (EA 1)
  The HRA was invited to participate in the Steering Committee established by the Government when it launched a process for the development of an Action Plan on Business and Human Rights aimed at customizing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The HRA also provided recommendations to the Members of Parliament working on the Community Land Bill to ensure that women’s rights would be taken into account in the final text. The final bill that was endorsed by the Parliament is gender-sensitive and includes provisions that address women’s rights.

Widening the democratic space

- Adoption of human rights-compliant legal frameworks for public participation and to protect human rights defenders (EA 1)
  In October, a national steering committee was set up by the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Justice in order to lead the process of the development of a national policy on public participation. The HRA was invited to participate in the work of the National Steering Committee and, in 2017, the HRA will provide technical input into the draft policy and support a stakeholders meeting where input from different actors will be sought for inclusion in the policy. A draft policy for the protection of human rights defenders was developed by the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights but has yet to be adopted by the Government. OHCHR advocated for the adoption of a legislative and policy framework which protects human rights defenders, accompanied the process of the development of the draft policy to ensure its compliance with international standards and facilitated the inclusion of inputs from civil society organizations.

Reparations for victims of human rights violations in Kenya

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year established</th>
<th>2011</th>
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<tr>
<td>Staff as of 31 December 2016</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Results

**Strengthening international human rights mechanisms**

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

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

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

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

**Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere**

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

  Following OHCHR training events, 68 participants from civil society, local authorities, security forces, private security companies and representatives from mining companies in the southern and eastern regions increased their knowledge on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. As a result, short-term action plans were drafted and further cooperation was established between OHCHR and the two primary mining companies in Madagascar to increase their compliance with human rights standards.

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

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

**Widening the democratic space**

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

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

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

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

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

Malawi

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year established</th>
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Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- Interministerial participatory standing national coordinating body on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all international human rights mechanisms established and reports/common core document following the reporting guidelines are submitted to treaty bodies and UPR (EA 6)

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

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

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

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

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

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- The UNDAF midterm review, the new UNDAF and other UN joint programmes incorporate a human rights-based approach (EA 11)

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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**Results**

**Strengthening international human rights mechanisms**

- Establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all international human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

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

- Increased number and diversity of rights-holders, and of national human rights institutions and civil society actors acting on their behalf, making use of United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms and bodies (EA 7)

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

**Widening the democratic space**

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

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

Nigeria

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**Results**

**Strengthening international human rights mechanisms**

- Participatory interministerial standing national coordinating body on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms re-activated and functioning and at least four reports submitted to human rights treaty bodies in full conformity with reporting guidelines (EA 6)

  With support from the Human Rights Adviser (HRA), a concept note was adopted on strengthening the operations of the Interministerial Working Group as a standing national body for reporting and follow-up to recommendations.
Enhancing equality and countering discrimination
- Increased participation of women, children and persons living with disabilities in public processes affecting them (EA 5)

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

Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity
- Increased compliance of security agencies deployed in conflict zones with international human rights standards (EA 1)

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

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

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

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

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

Rwanda

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Results

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

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

- Human rights NGOs submit reports to the UPR and treaty bodies and engage with international and regional human rights mechanisms to articulate human rights issues affecting Rwanda (EA 7)

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

The Chairperson of the Rwanda Human Rights Commission addresses the audience during Human Rights Day celebrations in Rwanda. © OHCHR/Rwanda
The workshop, which brought together 55 heads of organizations and focal points involved in the UPR work, enabled the participants to develop strategies for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations.

**Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere**

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

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

**Sierra Leone**

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<td>Staff as of 31 December 2016</td>
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**Results**

**Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere**

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

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

**United Republic of Tanzania**

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<td>Staff as of 31 December 2016</td>
<td>- (The field presence closed in 2016)</td>
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**Results**

**Strengthening international human rights mechanisms**

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

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

**Enhancing equality and countering discrimination**

- *A national policy to prevent and protect against attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism is in place, a national education and awareness-raising campaign to combat superstition and stigma vis-à-vis albinism has been conducted and the Commission of Human Rights and Good Governance effectively monitors and reports on the human rights situation of persons with albinism (EA 4)*

  The Government of Tanzania made efforts to reinforce its legal response to crimes against people with albinism, including through attempts to regulate the activity of traditional healers and the appointment of a person with albinism as the Deputy Minister responsible for policy coordination, parliamentary affairs, employment and persons with disabilities. Work on albinism has been a priority for the HRA who has been instrumental in promoting a common understanding and approach regarding the human rights of persons with albinism on the part of the UN, the Attorney General, the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance and civil society organizations.

**Widening the democratic space**

- *Draft constitution and media laws are compliant with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

  Although the draft constitution was finalized in 2014, the referendum to approve the draft did not take place in April 2015 as originally planned. The Government’s position on the issue remains unclear. Furthermore, the current draft of the Access to Information Act may leave journalists, media houses and potential whistleblowers at greater risk when collecting and publishing their information. Efforts were undertaken by the HRA to raise concerns with the Human Rights Team at the Attorney General’s Office, which is responsible for drafting legislation.
In 2016, OHCHR continued its engagement with the Americas region from its headquarters in Geneva, the New York Office and its 12 field presences. These presences included two regional offices (Panama City and Santiago de Chile); five country offices (Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico); four human rights advisers in the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Paraguay and to the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Regional Team for Latin America and the Caribbean based in Panama; and one human rights component in a peace mission (Haiti). OHCHR also supported the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti and a special project in Barbados on supporting countries in the Eastern English-Speaking Caribbean on implementing recommendations issued by the international human rights

### OHCHR in the field: Americas

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<thead>
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<th>Type of presence</th>
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<td>Country offices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional offices</td>
<td>Central America (Panama City, Panama) South America (Santiago de Chile, Chile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human rights component in UN Peace Mission</td>
<td>Haiti (MINUSTAH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human rights advisers in United Nations Country Teams</td>
<td>Dominican Republic*, Jamaica*, Panama (UNDG Regional Human Rights Adviser for Latin America and the Caribbean)**, Paraguay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Deployed through the UNDG-Human Rights Working Group.
** Closed in 2016.
mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). In 2016, the country office in Honduras became fully operational and the mandate of the country office in Colombia was extended for another three years. In addition, OHCHR was given specific tasks under the peace agreement, approved by the Colombian Congress in November 2016, including monitoring and reporting on all human rights aspects of the agreement. In July, the post of the UNDG Regional Human Rights Adviser for Latin America and the Caribbean was discontinued due to a lack of funds.

The region continues to face widespread violence and insecurity and reports one of the highest murder rates in the world. In some countries, the situation of violence is further exacerbated by complex networks of organized crime and drug trafficking. Security and justice systems face enormous challenges in responding to this violence and governments frequently rely on the military to maintain law and order, which has serious human rights implications. Impunity remains a major concern. OHCHR assisted countries to adopt a human rights perspective to combat insecurity and violence, with a special focus on the fight against impunity. In 2016, the Office continued its work on widening the democratic space in the region with a particular emphasis on protection mechanisms for journalists and human rights defenders in Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico.

The year 2016 was marked by challenges in democratic governance and increasing political and social tensions, prompted in part by corruption scandals and the slow progress in governments’ efforts to reduce poverty and tackle social and economic exclusion. The expansion of extractive industries has negatively impacted on the rights of indigenous peoples and peasant communities, which exacerbated social and economic conflict in the region. Racial discrimination remains a significant barrier to the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights and to political participation. Violence against women continues to be of great concern in the region, which has one of the highest rates of gender-related killings. Progress but also setbacks were similarly observed in relation to women’s sexual and reproductive rights. Concerns remain regarding ongoing discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

An increase in hate speech against minorities and migrants was also reported during the year. Migrants and asylum-seekers, mainly from the Northern Triangle (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras) and the Caribbean, continued to be extremely vulnerable to human rights violations throughout the migration process. In response to the migration crisis, OHCHR began to develop national and subregional strategies. OHCHR continued its work on non-discrimination, including by strengthening United Nations local and regional capacities to integrate human rights into its policies, programmes and activities, such as the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

In 2016, OHCHR strengthened its partnerships with regional organizations, especially with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, with the view of developing joint strategies in key areas of concern, such as the protection of human rights defenders and migration. The Office also maintained cooperation with subregional organizations, including the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) and the Central American Integration System (SICA).

During 2016, OHCHR supported visits of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to Colombia, Ottawa and Washington D.C. and those of the Deputy High Commissioner to Ecuador as well as to Honduras where she participated in the official openings of the country offices. Support was provided for the visit of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent to the United States of America and in relation to two country visits of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti, during which he assessed the human rights impact of Hurricane Matthew, the largest humanitarian catastrophe that hit the region in 2016.

Country Offices

**Bolivia**

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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenditure in 2016</td>
<td>US$1,810,980</td>
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**Results**

**Strengthening international human rights mechanisms**

- A national coordinating body to report to treaty bodies, reply to individual communications and enquiries and ensure regular follow-up to recommendations of all international human rights mechanisms is established and effectively functioning (EA 6)

The National Body created by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the General State Prosecutor and the
Ministry of Justice, with the support of OHCHR, for the elaboration of State reports and the monitoring of recommendations formulated by the international human rights mechanisms, held regular meetings during 2016. It reviewed the State Party report under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the list of issues sent by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In addition, the design of the monitoring system (SIPLUS), which was launched by the Government in 2015, was enhanced with the support of a consultant hired by OHCHR. The system is now accessible to anyone interested in knowing all of the recommendations issued in relation to the Bolivian State as well as the State’s follow-up actions. SIPLUS also connects these actions to the human rights indicators developed by the Ministry of Justice, the National Institution of Statistics and OHCHR.

**The Creation of a Truth Commission**

Without doubt, the adoption of legislation, in December 2016, to create a Truth Commission, was a key human rights milestone for the Government of Bolivia. OHCHR had advocated for this result since 2008. Previously, Bolivia was the only country that had suffered military dictatorships in the Southern Cone that had failed to establish a Truth Commission. Despite numerous consultations between the Office, human rights civil society organizations and the Government, over time, it became clear that the Government was not ready to invest in the project. Instead, the Government focused its attention on providing reparations to more than 6,800 registered victims of the military dictatorships in accordance with Law 2640. The process took place between 2008 and 2014 and ended with limited and unsatisfactory results. Approximately 25 per cent of the victims received less than 20 per cent of the expected reparation. Further efforts to resolve this issue were initiated and halted due to concerns that the legislative proposals failed to meet international standards or severely limited the scope of the violations that could be investigated.

In 2014, a decision was made to focus on the creation of a Truth Commission as a measure that could provide, among other benefits, a means to adequately and fairly resolve the issue of reparations for victims. To bring this idea to fruition, all relevant civil society organizations were consulted to ensure that all alleged human rights violations would be fully investigated. Steps were taken to unify the criteria of the different organizations around a project that could result in consensus. With technical assistance from OHCHR, a draft bill was completed, which received a strong endorsement from victims’ organizations. Finally, international and regional experts were invited to Bolivia to share their insights. The presence of the experts, including from Peru and Colombia, was fundamental to supporting this process.

At the beginning of 2016, the draft lost support from the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission. Then, in April, Ms. Nora Quisbert, Deputy of the ruling political party and a highly respected indigenous leader in her community, agreed to sponsor the bill on behalf of the victims’ civil society organizations.

Ms. Quisbert was the daughter of a disappeared person and someone who had suffered as a result of the violence of the military dictatorships. Through a lifetime of struggle, she had overcome immense obstacles. She applied that same perseverance and commitment to ensuring that this historic legislation was adopted.

Ms. Quisbert contacted the President of the Chamber of Deputies to gauge the Government’s political will. She also attended meetings with other experts, took steps to ensure that the draft complied with international standards and addressed an empathetic public that had demanded an answer, for decades, about what had happened during the dictatorships.

It is anticipated that the Truth Commission will begin its investigations in 2017. After many years of struggle and tireless perseverance, including to fight against impunity, victims will finally have the opportunity to realize their rights to truth, memory, justice, reparation and to ensure that those human rights violations will never be repeated.
Enhanced equality and countering discrimination

- Measures are taken to protect groups in conditions of vulnerability, such as LGBTI persons, persons with disabilities and migrants, in compliance with international human rights norms and standards (EA 4)

The Office supported the National Committee of Persons with Disabilities in the development of its strategic plan and a training module, addressed to municipalities and civil servants, for the implementation of inclusive public policies for persons with disabilities.

- The National Committee against Racism effectively advises organizations of discriminated groups and monitors the implementation of the Action Plan (EA 4)

The National Committee against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination has made substantial progress in the holding of its regular sessions and facilitating the meetings of its Permanent Council. In addition, it has developed an Action Plan for 2016-2020 with the support of OHCHR. The National Committee, with technical advice from the Office, has also trained administrative judges who elaborated a protocol for the prosecution of cases of racism and discrimination in the public administration. The protocol has been approved by the National Committee and has been submitted for application by the Government at all levels (departmental, municipal and local).

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- The School for Judges, the School for Public Prosecutors and the Plurinational Academy of Consti-

- tutional Studies incorporate international human rights law into their curricula (EA 1)

The Plurinational Public Defence Service carried out the first postgraduate course in Human Rights and Administration of Justice, addressed to 50 public defenders from the nine departments of the country. Furthermore, the Public University facilitated the first postgraduate course on human rights in police work for a group of 47 officials working with the justice system. Both institutions received technical support from OHCHR for the development of the courses.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- State institutions increasingly incorporate a human rights-based approach into their annual plans, policies and budgets, including the use of human rights indicators, and apply the right to free, prior and informed consultation (EA 1)

The Ministry of Development prepared its 2017 budget according to the new National Economic and Social Development Plan and has incorporated many of the human rights indicators that were developed by the Ministry of Justice and the National Institute of Statistics with the support of OHCHR. Furthermore, both the Ministry of Justice and the National Institute of Statistics continued leading the development of indicators on nine priority rights (food, education, health, housing, labour, water and sanitation, access to justice and a fair trial, and the right of women to a life free of violence and the right to a life free of trafficking). There are currently 415 indicators that have been defined and information has already been collected for more than 60 per cent of these.

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

- State institutions implement effective policies and measures to foster gender equality and combat SGBV, in line with CEDAW and ICERD recommendations (EA 1)

OHCHR supported the implementation of the Integral System of Prevention, Attention, Sanction, and the Eradication of Gender Violence, led by the Vice Ministry of Equal Opportunities, by providing technical assistance for the development of different tools relating to the Integral Law to Guarantee Women a Life Free of Violence, as well as for the development of a training module to strengthen the capacity of the interdisciplinary teams of the Plurinational Integrated Justice Services and the Plurinational Defense Service for the Victims. In addition, the judiciary received support from OHCHR to develop and validate a protocol for judging in line with a gender-based approach.
Results

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- Decisions of the national justice system, including ordinary, indigenous and special jurisdictions (military justice), increasingly conform to human rights standards, norms and principles (EA 1)
- At the request of the Constitutional Court, the Office submitted a technical opinion on the lawsuit presented by several Colombians against Legislative Act 01 of 2015, which expanded the jurisdiction of the military justice system. In its February 2016 ruling, the Court reiterated the arguments put forth by the Office and declared the norm to be constitutional. The work of the Office thus had an impact on promoting respect for international standards both in relation to constitutional jurisprudence and within the military justice system.

- Transitional justice mechanisms, including accountability, truth, reconciliation and reparations mechanisms, allowing for the active participation of victims, established and/or functioning in accordance with international standards (EA 3)
- Progress towards the establishment of new transitional justice mechanisms was hindered by the failed October plebiscite that impeded the implementation of the Peace Accords. The parties renegotiated the terms of the agreement and the final Peace Accords, signed in November, reflect a robust combination of transitional tools to address victims’ rights to truth, justice and reparations. Through its work with various stakeholders, including the parties of the negotiations, various governmental agencies, Members of Congress, the judiciary and civil society, OHCHR successfully participated in the design of the mechanisms to ensure their compliance with human rights standards. The Office also actively participated in laying the groundwork to set up the special justice initiative and contributed to the overall design and rolling out of the mechanism.

As a result of significant advocacy efforts undertaken by OHCHR, human rights aspects were incorporated in the texts of the Peace Accords. The six chapters of the Accords with the FARC-EP are rights-based and OHCHR was assigned important tasks under the Final Agreement, including in the areas of transitional justice and victims’ rights, issues relating to the transfer of FARC-EP prisoners currently in detention centres and the individual and collective protection of community members and human rights defenders. This level of influence was due to OHCHR’s 20-year engagement in Colombia, its high level of credibility and its close interactions with key stakeholders throughout the process.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- Relevant institutions and programmes from the national, regional and local level increase their capacity to incorporate a human rights-based approach in policy design and the formulation of indicators that allow progress measurement in their implementation (EA 1)
- The Government prioritized the incorporation of a human rights-based approach into its public policies, focusing on ensuring that local authorities based their policies on this approach. The support provided by OHCHR to officials at the Presidential Advisory Office on Human Rights facilitated an assessment of the territorial entities that effectively incorporated a human rights-based approach into their development plans, which demonstrated that nearly 80 per cent had done so. Furthermore, the

OHCHR staff member monitors a demonstration by peasants in Colombia. © OHCHR/Colombia

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**Bolivia: Expenditure in 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regular budget expenditure in US$</th>
<th>Extrabudgetary expenditure in US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel and related costs</td>
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<td>Activities and operating costs</td>
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<td>Subtotal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programme support costs</td>
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<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>- <strong>1,810,980</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Colombia**

**Year established** 1997

**Staff as of 31 December 2016** 56

**Expenditure in 2016** US$7,728,434
Presidential Advisory Office on Human Rights, the Human Rights Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior and the National Planning Department received training from OHCHR on the inclusion of a human rights-based approach in public policies, especially the National Development Plan and municipal and departmental development plans. With technical assistance from the Office, they also designed booklets that explained the technical aspects of how to include a human rights-based approach in local development plans, which were distributed to the mayors’ and governors’ offices.

Increased compliance with economic, social and cultural rights standards by the Administrative Department for Social Prosperity and the Ministries of Health and Education (EA 1)

As a result of the work of OHCHR, local authorities made advancements in the application of right to health standards. For instance, the Mayor’s Office of El Bagre is in the process of establishing the Municipal Health Round-table, which will facilitate action to guarantee the right to health and has produced a communications and response protocol to be used in cases of violence in rural areas where people are wounded by gunfire; and the governments of Caquetá and Amazonas reached an agreement to provide health care to the indigenous population living in the border zone.

Increased integration of human rights standards into business operations (EA 3)

With technical assistance and support from OHCHR, in 2016, the Government began a training process

Manuel Bautista Pequi

Manuel Bautista Pequi belongs to the Nasa people from the northern region of Cauca (Colombia). When he was 12, he was recruited by FARC-EP. After a few years in this guerrilla group, he managed to leave and was reintegrated into his community. In the following years, he began to play different roles in his community and became a renowned leader. OHCHR knew Manuel when he was working with the Association of Indigenous Authorities of North of Cauca, one of OHCHR’s key counterparts in the Province of Cauca, in a programme of prevention against child recruitment and the social reintegration of recruited children.

In 2012, the army found his file in a “database” of the FARC-EP and the Attorney General’s Office issued a warrant for his arrest. He was captured in January 2013 and after being charged with rebellion, was detained in a high security prison. In 2015, he was sentenced to eight years in prison. OHCHR followed the case very closely, observed the hearings, visited Manuel Bautista Pequi while he was detained and stayed in contact with his family.

As a victim of recruitment, and in accordance with international standards, Manuel Bautista Pequi should not have been found guilty of rebellion, however, his victim status was never presented during the hearings. After the Court decision and based on the Colombian Constitutional Court’s jurisprudence, OHCHR provided legal advice and undertook advocacy efforts with relevant institutions to support Manuel’s request to serve his sentence in his resguardo (indigenous collective land) instead of prison. This request was accepted by the judge on 11 May 2015 and since 18 June 2015, he has been back in his community and with his family. The two and a half years that he had spent in jail had a profound impact on him, his family and his community. His current status (somewhat similar to house arrest) makes it difficult for him to economically support his family.

While in jail, Manuel learned to do some handicrafts, including a beautiful pencil with an OHCHR logo that he had designed and produced himself. OHCHR proposed that he produce promotional products for the Office, such as pencils and bracelets. In 2016, OHCHR concretized this “promotional handicraft products project.” While the project is small in scale, it has been very significant for Manuel Bautista Pequi and the Office. Through this project, OHCHR has supported a human rights defender in a different way and the Office has been able to offer a new kind of promotional product which tells a story, a human story.
for business leaders, public officials and civil society in the cities of Bogotá, Cali and Medellín, on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the National Action Plan. These trainings led to greater awareness among these groups, which contributed to improved integration of human rights standards in their work and business operations. OHCHR also provided input to businesses in relation to their discussions with communities, thereby contributing to finding just solutions in cases of involuntary resettlement, socio-environmental conflicts, attention to environmental emergencies and prior consultation processes. The Office’s comments and recommendations were adequately implemented by a number of these businesses. OHCHR also promoted the participation of businesses in the discussions and implementation of local development plans.

Rights-holders meaningfully participate in the design and monitoring of public policies, budgets and development projects particularly affecting their human rights (EA 5)

OHCHR contributed to the creation of dialogue spaces between duty-bearers and rights-holders, in particular in El Bagre, rural areas of Neiva, the department of Norte de Santander, Tibú, Bojayá and Leticia, with varying degrees of results. In the rural communities of Neiva, Tolima, and El Bagre, clear progress was made in the mobilization of political will and the building of capacities within civil society organizations for the joint formulation of public policies with a human rights-based approach.

Increased use of national protection systems to ensure free, prior and informed consultation (EA 5)

In several regions of the country, OHCHR supported the increased use of promotion and protection measures regarding the right of ethnic peoples to participate through prior consultation and free, prior and informed consent. The Office provided technical assistance for the formulation of prior consultation and free, prior and informed consent protocols for the Arhuaco people of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta; the Nasa people of the Cerro Tijeras reservation in Cauca; three Nasa communities in Southern Tolima; and four Afrodescendant communities from the Raposo, Anchicayá and the Campo Poblado communities. OHCHR also supported the access to protection measures related to the right to land for the Afrodescendant communities of Alto Mira and Frontera; the Awá people of Nariño and Putumayo; and the Bari people of Norte de Santander.

Finally, the Office supported the establishment of the Inter-Ethnic Commission on Peace and the Defence of Ethnic Peoples’ Territorial Rights and its advocacy efforts during the peace talks. Thanks to the Ethnic Commission’s advocacy and proposals, the final Peace Accords now include an ethnic chapter that guarantees that an ethnic and cultural perspective will be mainstreamed in the interpretation and implementation of all points of the agreement.

Widening the democratic space

National human rights institution functioning in accordance with Paris Principles (EA 1)

With the purpose of reinforcing its responsibilities related to the promotion and protection of human rights, the National Ombudsperson’s Office began a training process aimed at improving its response in terms of the protection of the rights of the communities where the FARC-EP will concentrate as part of the implementation process of the Peace Accords; enhancing its protection measures for leaders in these same territories; and reviewing its intervention strategies in these zones. OHCHR provided support and technical assistance to the national human rights institution in this process, shared reference documents, held monthly monitoring meetings and promoted the inclusion of international human rights standards in the training.

Effective mechanisms and measures are in place to protect civil society actors, including human rights defenders (EA 3)

As part of its risk assessment process and the implementation of protection measures, the National Protection Unit, through its participation in the Risk Assessment and Recommendation of Measures Committee (CERREM), improved its relevant decision-making process based on information provided by human rights organizations and OHCHR. On the basis of risk studies and information on human rights defenders who had been threatened, the Office provided technical assistance to the Unit during 44 CERREM sessions in 2016. Moreover, six municipalities, including Tibú, Medellín, El Bagre, Tumaco and Barrancabermeja, incorporated prevention measures in their respective prevention and contingency plans that apply relevant human rights standards. OHCHR provided technical assistance to mayors on the inclusion of human rights standards in the formulation of such plans.

Advances were also made with respect to increased effectiveness in the criminal investigation of homicides of human rights defenders. The Attorney General’s Office, with the technical assistance of OHCHR, designed a registry of the cases of attacks against human rights defenders in 2016 in order to enable a better understanding of the situation and suggest suitable measures to the Colombian State. The Attorney General’s Office also prioritized the investigation and monitoring of cases of human rights defenders who were killed and assigned 32 prosecutors from each of the regional divisions to focus on these cases. OHCHR coordinated its monitoring work with the regional divisions of the Attorney Gen-
eral’s Office, provided training on human rights defenders to public officials and technical assistance to each of the divisions.

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

- **Policies and regulatory frameworks applied by the national police and the armed forces in relation to security and the use of force, including in the context of demonstrations, increasingly comply with human rights standards (EA 1)**

  The Ministry of Defence strengthened the incorporation of human rights principles by issuing a directive to the Armed Forces Command and the national police to include key principles related to the respect and guarantee of human rights in line with its human rights policy. This provides a basis for guaranteeing increased citizen security in the protection of the rights and freedoms of people facing threats to their dignity, personal integrity and property. The Ministry also designed “Comprehensive Citizen Security Plans,” including human rights standards. OHCHR supported this development by providing human rights framework documents; sharing information gathering methodologies; supporting the inclusion of standards in training programmes, as well as the inclusion of statistical information for analysis and implementation of prevention policies. Also, the national police’s “Citizen Security, a Path Towards Development” document, published in September, includes citizen security and the realization of human rights as priorities of the public and political agenda, especially with regard to the responsibility of political and administrative authorities in the area of citizen security. During this process, OHCHR provided technical assistance to the national police and political and administrative authorities, including a methodology for mainstreaming human rights standards in the document.

- **Legal frameworks, public policies, State institutions, as well as non-State actors, increasingly comply with international human rights standards in the area of prevention and response to human rights violations in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity (EA 1)**

  OHCHR supported the municipal government of Neiva, the Public Ministry, the local community, the Attorney General’s Office and public security forces in the design and implementation of an intervention strategy to prevent human rights violations (particularly extortion) by post-demobilization groups and FARC-EP. The preliminary results have been positive with a significant reduction in extortion cases as community members felt better protected by State entities.

- **Mechanisms for dialogue and negotiation are in place to enable the Government and CSOs to resolve disputes and avoid escalation of violence, including in the event of a peace agreement (EA 3)**

  The Office continued to facilitate negotiations between the national Government and the Agrarian Summit, accompanying four of the five regional round-tables that are part of this national space and in five other regional spaces that were created after specific social protests. This engagement contributed to the reduction of distrust between the parties; the incorporation of new technical and methodological tools to monitor the agreements; and the reduction of the use of force and violence during the nationwide protests that took place in the middle of the year when the discussions were suspended. During the June protests, OHCHR deployed staff to 47 locations where protests were taking place and helped to prevent confrontations between protesters and public security forces in at least 15 locations. Overall, 108 agreements were reached between protesters and the Government with mediation undertaken by OHCHR.

- **Preparedness, response and recovery policies, protocols and mechanisms of the United Nations to deal with national disasters, conflict and other situations of violence and insecurity comply with human rights standards (EA 11)**

  The United Nations Country Team accepted OHCHR’s technical assistance to ensure the incorporation of a human rights-based approach in its work to support the implementation of the Peace Accord. In particular, OHCHR worked with FAO, UNODC and WHO, as well as the Ministry of Justice and Law, on a road map for the formulation of a public policy on drugs and to ensure that the implementation of Point 4 of the Peace Accord, “Solution to the Drug Problem”, was undertaken with a human rights-based approach. Furthermore, OHCHR drafted and shared with the Special Political Mission the document “Areas of Cooperation and Coordination between OHCHR and the Special Political Mission based on UN Human Rights Policies.” This document identified seven key types of human rights complaints that the Mission would have to be prepared to address in its deployment and operations. As a result, OHCHR and the Mission agreed to focus on the following areas of collaboration regarding human rights issues: personnel screening; orientation on human rights and the human rights context; protocols on human rights cases and situation management, information sharing and reporting; accountability of Mission staff for human rights misconduct, especially relating to sexual exploitation and abuse; population and civil society engagement under the “Do No Harm” principle; and public information.
Colombia: Expenditure in 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personnel and related costs</th>
<th>Extrabudgetary expenditure in US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,303,264</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities and operating costs</td>
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<td>Subtotal</td>
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<td>Programme support costs</td>
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<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
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Guatemala

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year established</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff as of 31 December 2016</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure in 2016</td>
<td>US$3,793,007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- Indigenous organizations, traditional authorities and communities use litigation as a channel to demand recognition of their rights (EA 5)
- In the framework of the National Dialogue on justice reform, OHCHR, as part of the Technical Secretariat jointly with the NHRI, the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), the Office of the Attorney General and the Resident Coordinator, was able to promote and facilitate the participation of at least 225 indigenous Mayan, Garifuna and Xinka authorities in seven regional events, enabling them to articulate their proposals on the general content of the constitutional reforms and highlight the limitations of the recognition of indigenous jurisdiction in the Constitution. In addition, through the Maya Programme, OHCHR followed up on and provided technical assistance to both indigenous peoples and the Government on the application of relevant international standards in relation to 11 litigation cases, including on the rights to land and resources, the protection of traditional knowledge in textile weavings, the legal recognition of indigenous community radio stations and the recognition of culturally appropriate health services.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- The Attorney General’s Office, the judiciary, public defender and Constitutional Court increasingly incorporate human rights norms and standards in their policies and decisions (EA 1)

Based on international human rights standards, the Constitutional Court issued important decisions on the protection of indigenous peoples’ rights, the unconstitutionality of the death penalty in murder cases and the unconstitutionality of the diminution of the minimum wages in some municipalities. The Office contributed to these results through a number of capacity-building activities for magistrates and legal clerks of the Constitutional Court related to transitional justice, the rights of indigenous peoples and labour rights. Furthermore, an OHCHR analysis of the jurisprudence of the Constitutional Court on the rights of indigenous peoples demonstrates that international human rights standards have progressively been incorporated in the decisions of the Court. In addition, sentences handed down by judges and magistrates of the judiciary, including the Supreme Court of Justice, are increasingly based on human rights standards, in particular, in verdicts regarding transitional justice, indigenous peoples, women and the abusive use of criminal charges against human rights defenders. OHCHR’s capacity-building programmes substantially contributed to this result. For example, the Office continued delivering its training programme, as well as other activities, for judges in relation to transitional justice, the right to reparation and the criminalization of human rights defenders. Additionally, OHCHR integrated a Technical Secretariat with the NHRI, the CICIG, the Office of the Attorney General and the Resident Coordinator, to propose reforms to the Constitution to strengthen the justice system. The Technical Secretariat engaged with and received inputs from various actors of the Guatemalan society and presented a document which was used as the basis for the constitutional reform bill currently being discussed at the Parliament.

OHCHR staff member on a joint mission with UNHCR, FAO and the Red Cross to monitor the situation of migrants and internally displaced persons in Izabal and Petén, Guatemala. © OHCHR/Guatemala
Widening the democratic space

The NHRI fulfils its mandate in accordance with international human rights standards in investigating human rights abuses (EA 1)

The national human rights institution (NHRI) has been operating in increased compliance with human rights standards and, in 2016, undertook several joint investigations with the Office, including on issues such as pretrial detention, protection measures for human rights defenders and internal displacement. The Office and the NHRI were also in regular contact to coordinate efforts regarding specific cases that required follow-up with authorities and civil society. Furthermore, both institutions developed a joint study on the issue of pretrial detention. The recommendations were shared and discussed with relevant State actors for their feedback and implementation.

Strengthened protection mechanisms for human rights defenders working in accordance with international standards (EA 3)

Although the Unit for the Analysis of Attacks against Human Rights Defenders of the Ministry of the Interior held weekly meetings to coordinate inter-institutional protection efforts, OHCHR raised concerns about the effectiveness of the Unit to analyse patterns of attacks against human rights defenders in accordance with its mandate. Apart from this, civil society actors increasingly demonstrated strong knowledge of relevant human rights standards and international protection mechanisms and some cases are being brought to the attention of these mechanisms. The Office contributed to this result by providing guidance and capacity-building to civil society actors, including human rights defenders.

Increased advocacy and awareness of national protection systems by the general public, particularly by youth and women (EA 5)

As part of the assistance provided to the Board of Education for Peace, Human Rights and Memory, which is composed of over 35 civil society organizations, the Office contributed to the design of the National Strategy for Citizenship Education. The Strategy includes practical guidelines for teachers of primary and secondary education and is focused on five thematic axes: human rights, democracy, historic memory, multiculturalism and a culture of peace. The Strategy was launched by the Minister of Education in November and represents a key step in advancing human rights education in the official education system.

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

Public policies in the area of security incorporate human rights standards (EA 1)

The Migration Code was adopted due in part to advocacy undertaken by civil society and UN agencies. In addition, Security State Institutions made progress in incorporating a human rights approach into their policies with the adoption of a plan by the Ministries of the Interior and Defence to prevent the use of the army in citizen security matters. Also, the police improved their internal procedures to limit the use of force in the context of judicial evictions. Moreover, with the guidance of OHCHR, the new authorities of the General Direction that regulates private security services improved their control over companies that provide these services.

State policies and practices increasingly address SGBV, including through the application of national legislation by the judiciary (EA 1)

Together with the School of Judicial Studies and the Supreme Court of Justice, OHCHR finalized a toolkit for the application of a human rights-based approach and a gender perspective in verdicts related to femicide cases and other forms of violence against women. This toolkit is based on a study elaborated by the School of Judicial Studies, the Supreme Court of Justice and OHCHR which identified how criminal and ordinary tribunals have integrated these approaches into their work. The toolkit has been disseminated to all judges of specialized tribunals and to 75 judges of the ordinary tribunals. It has also been shared with other Latin American countries, for example Bolivia, where it has been used as a reference tool by OHCHR and the judiciary to elaborate a protocol on the integration of a gender perspective in all judicial decisions.
### Guatemala: Expenditure in 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Regular budget expenditure in US$</th>
<th>Extrabudgetary expenditure in US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Personnel and related costs</td>
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<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>3,793,007</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Honduras

- **Year established**: 2015
- **Staff as of 31 December 2016**: 12
- **Expenditure in 2016**: US$1,039,263

### Results

#### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- **Establishment of a participatory standing national coordinating body on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all international human rights mechanisms (EA 6)**

  A draft decree for the establishment of a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up has been produced under the leadership of the Secretariat for Human Rights and Justice. The draft has been transmitted to the Council of Ministers for approval. The Office provided technical advice on the draft decree and all of its recommendations were included.

- **Submission of reports in conformity with reporting guidelines (EA 6)**

  In 2016, the State Party reports of Honduras were reviewed by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee against Torture (CAT), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Committee on Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW). The drafting of the State Party reports was supported by UNDP and OHCHR and all were prepared in compliance with the reporting guidelines of the respective committees.

- **Increased number of substantive submissions to the human rights mechanisms by NHRI and civil society organizations (EA 7)**

  With support from OHCHR, a coalition of national civil society organizations submitted a shadow report to the CMW, the National Preventive Mechanism drafted its independent report to CAT and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) prepared a report to CEDAW.

#### Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- **Increased compliance of national legislation, policies, programmes and institutions with international human rights norms and standards relating to the deprivation of liberty and the prohibition and prevention of torture and ill-treatment (EA 1)**

  Following technical advice that was provided by the Office, a Criminal Code Bill was drafted with a revised definition of certain crimes in accordance with human rights standards. OHCHR drafted three documents regarding the definition of those crimes and shared the documents with the National Congress and other relevant stakeholders, including the Supreme Court. The Congress will review the draft Bill in 2017.

#### Widening the democratic space

- **The ombudsman’s office works in conformity with international standards (EA 1)**

  In March, the National Commission on Human Rights (CONADEH) was reviewed by the Sub-Committee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and confirmed its “B” status. CONADEH is not operating in full compliance with the Paris Principles in areas such as independence, immunity and representativeness. At CONADEH’s request, OHCHR conducted an assessment of its institutional capacity to fully and effectively implement its mandate. The Office is currently providing support for the drafting of an institutional development plan.

The Deputy High Commissioner addresses the audience at the official opening of the OHCHR office in Honduras, November 2016. © OHCHR/Honduras
A protection mechanism for human rights defenders and journalists is in place (EA 3)
Efforts were put in place by the Government to advance on the implementation of the Law for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, Social Communicators and Justice Personnel, adopted in May 2015, including through the adoption of the regulation of the law, the appointment of the Director of the National Mechanism for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and the recruitment of key personnel. From its inception in 2015 until September 2016, the Mechanism received 60 requests for protection, 35 of which were found to fall within its purview. The protective measures granted include 29 police measures, three temporary rehousing measures and one assisted exit from the country. The Office assisted the Ministry of Human Rights, Governance, Justice and Decentralization in the operationalization of the Mechanism and contributed to the development of its rules and regulations. While the efforts put in place are commendable, concerns remain at the limited progress achieved in terms of accountability for crimes against human rights defenders. Accountability is key to preventing further threats and attacks.

Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity
UN agencies increasingly apply a human rights-based approach to their violence and insecurity programmes (EA 11)
OHCHR finalized the systematization of the recommendations of the UN human rights mechanisms by thematic areas. This overview was shared with the UN Inter-Agency Group on Human Rights and will be shared with the other groups of the UNCT so that the recommendations can be used to guide their work while also ensuring the integration of human rights into their respective programmes.

### Honduras: Expenditure in 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Regular budget expenditure in US$</th>
<th>Extrabudgetary expenditure in US$</th>
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<tbody>
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### Mexico

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure in 2016</td>
<td>US$1,881,766</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Results

#### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms
The National Human Rights Plan and respective local and sectorial programmes are elaborated in compliance with international human rights principles and standards (EA 6)
OHCHR supported the development of local human rights assessments in the states of Estado de México, Querétaro and San Luis Potosí; the elaboration of the first Human Rights Programme in Estado de México; the first update of a local Human Rights Programme in Mexico City; and the evaluation of the National Human Rights Programme. The Office also accompanied the process of elaborating the first National Business and Human Rights Programme and provided technical assistance on human rights...
public policies and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. It ensured that the views and perspectives of different actors, such as civil society organizations and indigenous communities, are taken into account.

**Enhancing equality and countering discrimination**

- **Human rights-compliant legislation adopted on anti-discrimination issues and/or same-sex marriages and/or sexual and reproductive rights (EA 4)**
  A bill allowing same-sex marriage was approved by the Congress of the state of Michoacán in May. OHCHR advocated for the approval of the bill. Nevertheless, in November, the Congress rejected a proposition by the Federal Government to amend the Federal Constitution and the Civil Code in order to recognize the right of same-sex marriage.

- **Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law**
  - An increasing number of local states derogate the figure of “arraigo” and the federal law and the laws of an increasing number of states include the definition of enforced disappearance and torture in accordance with international standards (EA 1)
  
  OHCHR submitted recommendations in relation to the draft national law on criminal sanctions in order to reinforce the rights of people deprived of their liberty, some of which were incorporated into the law that was adopted in June. In addition, the Office continued lobbying for the approval of the general law on torture and other forms of ill-treatment by participating in meetings with civil society organizations and providing inputs regarding international standards on torture and other forms of ill-treatment. The Senate approved a draft law that is almost entirely in accordance with international human rights standards. The draft is currently awaiting approval from the Deputies’ Chamber.

  - **Human rights indicators are adopted by an increasing number of federal and local institutions and are being used to evaluate the impact of public programmes and the level of implementation of recommendations of international human rights mechanisms (EA 1)**

  In collaboration with the Mexican Commission of Judicial Powers, UN Women, the National Statistics Institution, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Women, the fair trial indicators system of the judiciary was redefined to include a gender perspective and incorporate human rights measurement into all stages of the penal process. The system was officially adopted in March and has been implemented by all 32 judicial powers. It contains over 4,000 variables and provides data on the socio-demographic characteristics of both victims and judged persons. The indicators framework for measuring the right to security was updated in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Security and is now operational. The Office contributed to the definition of indicators and mechanisms for measuring the human rights of detained persons in collaboration with the Mexico City Penitentiary and NGOs; the implementation of penal reform and the impact of capacity-building activities undertaken by the Attorney General; the effectiveness of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) in collaboration with NGOs and the NPM; and the results and impact of the National Human Rights Action Plan.

**Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere**

- **Legislation adopted on the right of indigenous peoples to prior consultation and on the rights to food and water are in compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)**
  The secondary legislation on the right to food is being discussed at the Congress and may be adopted in early 2017. The Office met with Senators involved in the discussion to advocate for its approval.

- **Paradigmatic human rights cases raised by OHCHR relating to violations of economic, social and cultural rights, business and the right to free, prior and informed consultation of indigenous peoples, receive a positive response by authorities (EA 3)**

  During 2016, OHCHR monitored at least eight cases related to alleged violations of economic, social and cultural rights and the rights of indigenous peoples to prior consultation in the states of Sonora, Oaxaca and Campeche. In a case relating to the right to consultation in Campeche, OHCHR’s observations on the consultation process were taken into account by authorities. OHCHR is being increasingly recognized as a key player in cases relating to the right of indigenous peoples to prior consultation as a result of its regular engagement with all actors involved, including authorities, indigenous communities, NGOs and businesses.

**Widening the democratic space**

- **Paradigmatic human rights cases raised by OHCHR result in the implementation of protection measures by the Protection Mechanism’s Governing Board, when relevant (EA 3)**

  OHCHR maintained its constant presence in the National Protection Mechanism’s Governing Board, overseeing the decisions related to the protection schemes for human rights defenders and journalists at-risk. OHCHR provided written observations for 47 cases and, in most cases, was able to successfully advocate for adequate protection measures. Furthermore, in the state of Chihuahua, the Office met with authorities to discuss the adoption of an early warning system for human rights defenders and journalists at-risk and is currently supporting the implementation of the system.
Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity

Legislation adopted on the use of force, military jurisdiction, victims’ rights and asylum-seekers in line with international human rights standards (EA 1)

While the Federal Congress passed a bill aligning military justice procedures with the new justice system, it also included some regulations that would extend military jurisdiction to civil matters. The Office analysed the bill and communicated a series of observations to the Congress, some of which were publicly cited by congresspersons who opposed the bill. The National Ombudsman submitted an appeal to the Supreme Court, which has not yet handed

Mexico: the “war on drugs” and the case of Corina and Denise

Corina Utrera Domínguez, 29, and Denise Blanco Lobato, 37, are two young Mexican women who are among the many victims of the serious human rights violations committed by Federal Government forces in the so-called “war on drugs.” This “war,” launched by the Government in 2006, has resulted in an escalation of violence, huge numbers of enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions and fabricated accusations of innocent people. The case of Corina and Denise is a shocking (but by no means exceptional) example of the routine use of torture, including sexual torture of women, by Mexican security forces, as well as rampant impunity for such grave human rights violations.

Before their detention, Corina and Denise were living together as a same-sex couple in Villahermosa, Tabasco, in the south of Mexico. Both were employed in a commercial company and were active sportswomen, playing baseball and football. On 27 August 2011, their lives changed dramatically. Without any previous warning, a unit of the Mexican Navy broke into their house and detained them, without search warrants or arrest. The Government had given the Marines sweeping powers to conduct public security tasks in order to fight organized crime in the “war on drugs.”

The initial detention was extremely brutal. The Marines threw the women to the ground and kicked them in their faces and bodies. One agent stuck the muzzle of his gun into Corina’s mouth. Another agent fondled the breasts and genitals of Denise before she received a severe blow to her head. Both women were blindfolded, undressed to their underwear, tied by their hands and dragged by the hair outside of their home. Then they were taken to a windowless transport vehicle. The Marines fondled their breasts and genitals repeatedly and once they were inside the vehicle, they raped them.

As a consequence of the rape, both victims suffered from heavy bleeding. Denise had a head injury which has resulted in permanent physical and psychological consequences. Thirty-six hours passed before they were brought before the Federal Public Prosecutor’s Office, inexplicably, in the state of Veracruz. They both reported that they had been subjected to sexual torture, but the prosecutors paid no attention to their claims. Instead, they accused them of being part of organized crime and placed them in pretrial detention. Their access to adequate legal representation was restricted. Moreover, they were not allowed to contact their families when they were transferred to a distant prison in the state of Baja California, in the north of Mexico.

Corina and Denise remained in pretrial detention for four years. Their torturers were not prosecuted and remained in their jobs, in charge of public security functions.

In July 2015, OHCHR learned about the case of the two women from other victims in the same prison, the Federal Prison in the State of Nayarit, where cases were being documented. At the time, OHCHR’s human rights officers visited Corina and Denise in the Nayarit prison and then in a different prison to which they were transferred in March 2016.

OHCHR met with the judge of the case and outlined international human rights standards on personal freedom and torture, in particular sexual torture. The standards were subsequently integrated into their judicial files. OHCHR is following up on the investigation of their torture with the Attorney General’s Torture Investigation Unit. The Office’s work on the case continues to be undertaken in coordination with a coalition of national and international human rights NGOs that are actively campaigning to eradicate sexual torture in Mexico, as well as with the Federal Institute of Public Defence. The Office also ensured that the relevant special procedures were adequately informed about the case.

On 15 November, Corina and Denise, together with other defendants who were being tried for organized crime and other federal crimes, were acquitted of all charges after having spent over five years in pretrial detention. They now face extensive challenges in trying to heal the psychological and emotional trauma that was caused by the torture and reintegrating into society after five years of being unduly deprived of their liberty. They will seek compensation for the harm they have suffered and will continue to fight for justice so that the perpetrators of the sexual violence they endured are prosecuted. Denise and Corina, who have been reunited with their families, would like to see their cases contribute to preventing, eradicating and sanctioning sexual torture in Mexico.
down its decision. In relation to the draft laws on torture and disappearances, OHCHR’s recommendations were included, namely to establish that torture, other forms of mistreatment and disappearances will always be investigated by civil authorities. In relation to a bill that would amend the Federal Constitution on the right to seek and enjoy asylum, OHCHR and UNHCR presented some observations in accordance with international human rights standards and international refugee law and met with Senators to lobby for the inclusion of these observations. The Congress approved the amendment, which included the comments provided by OHCHR and UNHCR.

Establishment of a national mechanism to search for disappeared and missing persons (EA 3)

Although the need to have a specific mechanism to search for disappeared people has been recognized by federal authorities and in several Mexican states, no legislative developments have been undertaken. OHCHR advocated for the approval of legislation which includes search mechanisms and met with authorities in different states to discuss the need for specific search efforts. The authorities have subsequently assigned specific resources to support these efforts.

Cases related to violations of human rights raised by OHCHR have had a positive response by authorities (EA 3)

During 2016, OHCHR documented 56 cases related to torture, disappearances, arbitrary detentions, executions and the right of indigenous peoples to prior consultations. Concerns regarding these cases were conveyed to relevant authorities through meetings and written correspondence which made reference to relevant human rights standards. In more than half of the cases, a positive reply was received from the authorities and included judicial or executive decisions, protection measures being issued or meaningful information being provided to OHCHR.

Mechanisms and initiatives are adopted to increase human rights protection in contexts of conflict, violence and insecurity (EA 3)

In December, a law was passed by the Coahuila state Congress that establishes the obligations of authorities to identify all human remains. The law recognizes the rights of the families of those who were disappeared to participate in all processes to locate, identify and return all human remains with full respect for their dignity; recognizes the right to determining the identity of the dead; establishes a new approach in forensic services; and regulates the management of information in order to facilitate identifications. This outcome is the result of months of advocacy undertaken by the families who have been demanding the identification of more than 450 bodies buried in mass graves in the state. As part of the steps taken by OHCHR to implement the recommendations issued in 2011 by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances in relation to Mexico, the Office supported the drafting of the legislation by organizing, together with the International Committee of the Red Cross, a forum with international experts, human rights defenders and families of individuals who had been disappeared in the state, to collect best practices, needs and suggestions. Based on this information and an analysis of relevant Mexican legislation and international human rights standards, a first draft of the law was produced and circulated among families and local authorities for their feedback. Several rounds of consultations were organized in Coahuila to facilitate the participation of all stakeholders and led to the development of a draft law in line with human rights standards.

<table>
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<th>Mexico: Expenditure in 2016</th>
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<th>Extrabudgetary expenditure in US$</th>
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<td>GRAND TOTAL</td>
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</table>
Regional Offices

Regional Office for Central America (Panama City, Panama)

Year established 2007
Staff as of 31 December 2016 9
Expenditure in 2016 US$1,265,059

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- Increased ratification of international human rights instruments, especially CPED and the OPs to CRC (3rd) and ICESCR and increased number of declarations under article 14 of ICERD (EA 2)
  
  The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador informed the Regional Office of its intention to remove its reservations to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT). These reservations had been perceived as the primary reason that El Salvador had not ratified the Optional Protocol to the CAT. OHCHR contributed to this achievement through advocacy, including a visit to the country with a member of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

- Establish fully functioning participatory standing national coordinating bodies in some of the countries covered by the regional office and strengthening the existing ones in Costa Rica and Panama to report/reply to individual communications and enquiries; Integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms (EA 6)
  
  The Regional Office and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Costa Rica supported the national mechanism for reporting and follow-up, through the deployment of a consultant, to enhance its working methods, prepare its 2016 workplan, establish a permanent mechanism for the participation of civil society and prepare two State Party reports under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, respectively. In Panama, a consultant was also deployed, with the support of OHCHR, to assist the national mechanism for reporting and follow-up in the drafting of overdue reports under CAT and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

- Increased number of civil society organizations, NHRIs and UN entities making substantial submissions to the international human rights mechanisms (EA 7)
  
  With the technical support of the Regional Office, several reports were submitted by civil society organizations from Nicaragua in relation to the review of the country’s State Party report by the Committee on Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Moreover, NGOs from Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago submitted shadow reports in relation to the consideration of their respective State Party reports by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Human Rights Committee.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- Public policies, legislative frameworks and practices in the area of non-discrimination (racial discrimination, gender equality) are in compliance with international human rights standards (EA 4)
  
  In Costa Rica, OHCHR’s intervention was critical to facilitating the first meeting of the Inter-Institutional Commission on sexual and reproductive rights. The meeting resulted in the development of recommendations that were taken into account for the elaboration of an action plan within the framework of the National Policy on Sexual and Reproductive Rights 2015-2019. Furthermore, in Costa Rica and Panama, OHCHR established a dialogue with national human rights institutions and Afrodescendant organizations to support the elaboration of national reports on racial profiling.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- Increased number of consultation processes between States and indigenous peoples in order to obtain the latter’s free, prior and informed consent in line with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EA 5)
  
  In Costa Rica, the process for establishing a national mechanism for consulting with indigenous peoples...
was initiated in January with the participation of the eight ethnic groups from the 24 indigenous territories of the country. The process is expected to be finalized by March 2017. The Regional Office supported the initial information gathering phase, provided training for the indigenous representatives and the Government’s team in charge of the process and provided technical advice to ensure the overall compliance of the process with human rights standards. In Panama, OHCHR contributed to promoting dialogue between the Government and indigenous authorities from the Comarca Ngabe-Bugle to guarantee the participation of indigenous peoples in the decision-making process related to the exploitation of natural resources affecting the Ngabe peoples’ rights. The ongoing dialogue aims to revise the agreement that was signed between the Government and the indigenous peoples and includes compensation for the communities affected by a dam as well as measures to reduce the social, economic, cultural and environmental impact of the project.

UNDG LAC integrates a human rights-based approach in its support to countries in the context of the Millennium Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda and implements the “Rights up Front” plan of action (EA 11)
The Inter-Agency Protection Group was reactivated in 2016 in order to coordinate efforts on the situation of migrants in Central America. With the active participation of OHCHR, a draft workplan for 2017 was prepared. In addition, practical guidance tools to address human rights and protection issues affecting refugees, migrants and returnees were developed and disseminated to UNCTs in the region.

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

- Measures taken to combat gender-based violence, in particular through the use of the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women (EA 1)
As a result of various capacity-building workshops facilitated by OHCHR, judicial officials in Panama are more aware of the applicable international human rights standards related to the investigation of femicide cases. As an example, staff members of the Regional Office participated in two different training programmes of the Public Ministry’s Training School: one on the use of the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women and another on sexual violence crimes and assistance to victims. In both activities, the Regional Office stressed the key role of duty-bearers in providing victims with effective access to justice and guaranteeing the impartiality of judicial operators.

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- At least one international human rights treaty and five optional protocols are ratified (EA 2)
The Regional Office used every opportunity at its disposal to advocate for the ratification of treaties, including through high-level meetings with government representatives and during capacity-building activities. In 2016, Peru ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and Venezuela ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. In Chile and Peru, OHCHR shared with Members of Parliament a compilation of recommendations issued by international human rights mechanisms that require legislative commitments. It also highlighted the human rights treaties that have not yet been ratified.

- Improved timely submission of treaty bodies and UPR national reports in compliance with the reporting guidelines (EA 6)
Support was provided by OHCHR for the development of national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up to recommendations issued by international human rights bodies. In Argentina, the Regional Office provided technical assistance to the Federal Human Rights Council to strengthen a mechanism that is in place to monitor reporting to the human rights mechanisms. The Government of Chile is establish-
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ING a mechanism to follow up on recommendations issued by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Office is advocating for a more integrated approach to include recommendations emanating from all international human rights mechanisms. In Ecuador, the Regional Office is providing technical advice to the Government in relation to implementing its online platform, SIDERECHOS, which is being used to draft the State report for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). In Uruguay, the Regional Office is supporting the implementation of SIMORE, the follow-up database that was developed in Paraguay with the assistance of OHCHR, as well as the establishment of a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up.

CSOs and NHRIs, when applicable, make substantive submissions to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela (EA 7)

The Regional Office contributed to the increased engagement of civil society organizations in Ecuador, which resulted in the submission of reports to the UPR by 13 of these organizations.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

Improved legislative and policy anti-discrimination frameworks in all countries in the region (EA 4)

In Peru, advocacy undertaken by the Regional Office contributed to the adoption of a technical instruction guide on reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities in the workplace. It also contributed to the approval, in July, of the National Development Plan for Afrodescendants.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

National Preventive Mechanisms against torture (as per OP-CAT) are functioning in conformity with international human rights standards in at least three countries (EA 3)

While most of the countries covered by the Regional Office have established National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs), their mandates and resources are generally limited. In this regard, the Office worked to strengthen the mandates and overall capacities of NPMs so that they can work in accordance with international human rights standards. It did so through the promotion of laws establishing strong NPM mandates and the adequate allocation of resources as well as through workshops and various high-level meetings. For instance, OHCHR and the Ministry of Justice of Peru co-organized a high-level regional meeting to discuss progress made and challenges faced in relation to prison systems in the region. The meeting was attended by several NPMs of the region.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

Constitutions, laws and policies increasingly protect human rights, especially land and housing rights, with particular attention to non-discrimination and gender equality, in the context of development and exploitation of natural resources (EA 1)

In collaboration with the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, the Regional Office organized a Regional Consultation on Business and Human Rights in the Framework of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. The consultation contributed to, among other issues, the identification of the main challenges in the region, in particular conflicts related to the operation of the extractive industries and the negative impact of business enterprises on the human rights of indigenous peoples. In addition, a discussion was held on the development of a road map on how to move forward in the region. Following the event, and with the support of OHCHR, initial steps have been taken toward the preparation of national action plans on human rights in Chile and Uruguay.

UNDAFs of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela incorporate a human rights-based approach (EA 11)

The Regional Office supported the United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) in Brazil and Peru in aligning their respective United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) for 2017-2021 with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The UNDAFs integrate human rights principles and include a matrix matching each strategic component of the
UNDAFs with relevant SDGs and recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

**Widening the democratic space**

- **Increased interventions of the international community to promote and protect civil society actors, including against reprisals (EA 10)**
  
The Regional Office prepared an analysis of the legal, institutional and public policy framework in Brazil in relation to human rights defenders in the country and the challenges that they face. The analysis also included a set of recommendations to encourage a more active role of the UN system in Brazil, particularly in relation to cases of reprisals.

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

- **Intervention protocols and internal instructions of security forces are in line with human rights standards in Brazil and Chile (EA 1)**

In relation to the excessive use of force applied in public demonstrations in some countries of the region, OHCHR has been working with authorities to draft legislation, police protocols and internal instructions for police officers in accordance with human rights standards. To contribute to this objective, the Regional Office has collaborated with the national human rights institutions (NHRIs) of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama, Peru and Uruguay to develop guidelines on monitoring social protests. These guidelines will constitute a tool for monitoring cases of excessive use of force in the context of social protests. This is a role that is often undertaken by NHRIs in the region.

### Regional Office for South America (Santiago, Chile): Expenditure in 2016

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Regular budget expenditure in US$</th>
<th>Extrabudgetary expenditure in US$</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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### Human Rights Component in a UN Peace Mission

#### United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

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<tr>
<td><strong>Staff as of 31 December 2016</strong></td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Results

#### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- **Fully functioning and effective participatory standing national coordinating body on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms (EA 6)**

Following the non-renewal of the designated human rights focal point at the end of 2014, the Interministerial Committee on Human Rights continued to work, albeit at a slow pace. The Human Rights Section (HRS) of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti continued to advocate for the reinstitution of a high-level governmental focal point on human rights. The Human Rights Council reviewed Haiti’s human rights record in November 2016 as part of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process. At the end of the session, 213 recommendations were made by Member States. Haiti accepted 175 of these recommendations, noted 33 and deferred five. On 21 December, the Haitian delegation that had attended the UPR in Geneva held a workshop with Members of Parliament and the Senate, the diplomatic corps, civil society and UN agencies to discuss follow-up to the recommendations.

#### Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- **Increased openness to recognizing equal treatment for LGBTI persons and discussing legislation for the recognition of their rights (EA 4)**

In 2016, the Masi Madi Festival, a cultural gathering related to the conditions and rights of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people was cancelled due to political pressure and an interdiction from the Prosecutor of Port-au-Prince. The HRS denounced the prohibition as a restriction of the freedom of speech and association, guaranteed in the Haitian Constitution.
Widening the democratic space
► NHRRs established and functioning in accordance with Paris Principles (EA 1)
With OHCHR’s technical support, the Office de la Protection du Citoyen (OPC) is on the path to becoming an independent and reliable mechanism. In 2016, the OPC developed a plan of action to strengthen its presence in all 10 departments of Haiti and reinforce its capacity and resources.

Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity
► Mechanisms and initiatives are adopted to increase human rights protection in contexts of conflict, violence and insecurity (EA 3)
After hurricane Matthew hit Haiti in October, the HRS supported the Directorate for Civil Protection in the implementation of protection measures in line with international standards, which led to the coordinated provision of humanitarian assistance, especially to groups in vulnerable situations.

► Increased number and variety of stakeholders engaged in conflict prevention, peace building and other violence-reduction processes (EA 5)
Concerning the deportation of Haitian migrants or citizens of Haitian descent, including unaccompanied minors, from a neighbouring country, the HRS and civil society organizations conducted regular monitoring and documented a number of allegations of violations of international human rights standards during the deportation process. The findings were used in advocacy activities with the Government and other UN entities.

Human Rights Advisers in UN Country Teams

Dominican Republic

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year established</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms
► By the end of the period, the Dominican Republic has a National Human Rights Action Plan as well as a permanent, participatory and strengthened human rights mechanism within the Executive to effectively engage with international human rights mechanisms, including by fulfilling reporting obligations, as well as follow-up and implementation of their recommendations (EA 6)
The launch of the National Human Rights Action Plan, originally planned for December, was postponed until the first quarter of 2017. The engagement of the Human Rights Adviser (HRA) with high-level Government authorities was key in reactivating the development of the Plan. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs further requested that the HRA facilitate a meeting with civil society organizations in 2017 in order to begin discussions on the development and adoption of the mechanism that will be used to monitor the implementation of the Plan.

► Increased number of submissions by civil society organizations, NHRI and UN entities to international human rights mechanisms (EA 7)
A coalition of civil society organizations submitted an alternative report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) in the context of the review of the fourth periodic report of the Dominican Republic in September. The HRA facilitated the engagement of the coalition with the Secretariat of the CESCR to ensure the timely submission of the report.

► Recommendations from human rights mechanisms have been integrated by the UNCT in at least three of its programmes (EA 11)
The roll-out exercise for the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) was initiated in 2016. The HRA trained the United Nations Country Team on the human rights-based approach and shared a compilation of the main recommen-
Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity

Mechanisms and initiatives are adopted to increase human rights protection in the contexts of conflict, violence and insecurity (EA 3)

The new Law for the Police was approved in 2016. Although the HRA did not play an active role during the final phase of approval, he provided technical advice, in 2014 and 2015, to the Legislative Commission on Justice and Security on key aspects of human rights and security sector reform. Some of the recommendations made at that time were taken into account during the development of the law, particularly in relation to the need to establish independent and robust external and internal oversight mechanisms.

Human Rights Adviser to the Regional UN Development Group for Latin America and the Caribbean

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year established</th>
<th>2014</th>
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Results

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- Human rights standards and principles are integrated into UN development frameworks and the work of UN agencies, particularly on housing, water, sanitation and land (EA 11)

The Common Country Assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework documents of Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador and Uruguay have integrated a human rights-based approach as a result of support provided by the Human Rights Adviser (HRA). The HRA was actively engaged in the preparation of documents, delivered training sessions on the human rights-based approach for United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) from Costa Rica, Guatemala and Haiti and contributed to the planning of a number of UNCTs in the region by providing information on recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms. The HRA also contributed to the implementation of the Human Rights up Front Action Plan by increasing the awareness of UNCTs about the initiative.

Jamaica

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Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- Establishment of a participatory standing national coordinating body on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms and timely submission of reports to treaty bodies and UPR (EA 6)

The Interministerial Committee for Human Rights, led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, is an ad hoc committee that was established for reporting to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, yet bears the reporting obligations under all ratified treaties. The Human Rights Adviser (HRA) facilitated training activities for the Committee, including a mock session, and engaged in discussions on the implementation of a database, currently under development, for following up on the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- Common country programming documents, namely the 2012-2016 and 2017-2021 UNDAFs developed and implemented in line with a human rights-based approach (EA 11)

The six Caribbean United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) agreed on a Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF), signed by Jamaica in November, which integrates a human rights-based approach. In addition, the evaluation of the 2012-2016 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) highlights the contribution of the HRA to the UNDAF principles and programmes. The HRA participated in all of the regional thematic inter-agency groups that designed the monitoring and evaluation framework of the MSDF and reviewed the narrative of the document. The HRA also provided guidance on follow-up to recommendations and a table with all of the recommendations that have been issued by the international human rights mechanisms in relation to Jamaica that fit within the MSDF outcome areas.

Widening the democratic space

- The Government and the Office of the Public Defender, in consultation with civil society stakeholders...
ers, implement the road map for the establishment of a NHRI compliant with the Paris Principles (EA 1)
During its 2015 UPR, the Government of Jamaica pledged that it would establish a national human rights institution that is compliant with the Paris Principles. A change in the ruling party following the general elections in February, however, delayed the process. The HRA advocated for the necessary legislative changes by preparing a document to support the reform of the legislation and meeting with the Minister of Justice.

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

National Strategic Action Plan for Ending Gender-Based Violence is implemented (EA 1)
The National Strategic Action Plan for Ending Gender-Based Violence was finalized in June and submitted to the Cabinet for approval in November. The HRA provided inputs to the monitoring and evaluation framework, in particular on human rights indicators, and compiled the international recommendations relevant to the Action Plan.

Paraguay

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Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

Increased compliance and engagement of the State in the follow-up to international recommendations (EA 6)
The Government of Paraguay prepared its reports for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) second cycle, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, based on the information available in SIMORE, an online database that was developed for following-up on the recommendations issued by international human rights mechanisms. Furthermore, Paraguay has been actively sharing its experiences on follow-up mechanisms at the request of other governments, including Chile, the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Uruguay. The Human Rights Adviser (HRA) provided technical assistance to the Government to update the SIMORE with the latest recommendations.

Increased number of rights-holders and civil society actors acting on their behalf making use of UN special procedures and UPR (EA 7)
With technical advice from the HRA, at least 20 reports were prepared by NGOs for the second UPR of Paraguay, one report was submitted to the CERD and three communications were sent to the special procedures.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

Civil society supports participatory mechanisms to enhance equality and counter discrimination, particularly against indigenous peoples, women, persons with disabilities and LGBTI persons (EA 5)
The first national seminar on human rights defenders was jointly organized by the HRA and a group of NGOs, bringing together more than 200 human rights defenders to discuss the challenges related to their work. The event also provided participants with an opportunity to enhance their capacities to document and analyze cases and identify potential joint advocacy strategies.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

Functioning protection and accountability mechanisms to prevent and monitor the investigation of allegations of torture and ill-treatment and violations of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty (EA 3)
The General Prosecutor’s Office prepared a set of indicators on the right to a fair trial. The indicators were developed with the technical support of the HRA and drew on the previous experience with the Supreme Court of Justice. The upcoming selection process for a new General Prosecutor, among other challenges, will determine when the indicators will be formally approved and implemented.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

Development and poverty reduction policies increasingly promote and protect human rights, especially those relating to land, education, non-discrimination and gender equality (EA 1)
From adversity to empowerment: The history of a human rights defender in Paraguay

Mario Rubén Marecos is 37 years old. He was born with a physical disability. Since 96 per cent of his physical functions are limited, he needs someone to do most things for him. He grew up in an institution for children with disabilities and at 18 years of age, he was adopted by a family. He also defied the doctor’s sentence of a very short life expectancy.

Rubén Marecos lives in Paraguay and is a human rights defender, working tirelessly for the rights of persons with disabilities. He is one of the civil society representatives for the National Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Commission is a political decision-making body that enables the State and civil society to jointly develop public policies linked to the sector.

His active participation in the elaboration of the National Action Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities progressively demonstrated his leadership. He is proud of being a protagonist of the first public policy for the sector, which was approved by presidential decree in 2016. The same year, Rubén began participating in new working spaces with other human rights networks, served as the voice of the persons with disabilities and therefore enriched the traditional spaces of debate and advocacy of civil society organizations. His leadership was recognized by civil society organizations for his evident commitment to the defence and promotion of human rights and by overcoming the barriers and discrimination which he faces each day.

Through his knowledge, experience and a strong sense of empowerment that he gained in participating in various activities and spaces, Rubén Marecos is providing a critical and constructive view of the challenges faced by persons with disabilities in order to ensure that their rights are fully guaranteed and respected and that they have the possibility to live an independent life.

Human rights indicators related to the rights to education, health, food, adequate standards of living, which were developed with the technical support of the HRA, were included in poverty eradication programmes implemented by Paraguay’s Secretariat for Social Action. This enhanced the State’s capacity to monitor the impact of its social policies and programmes.

Widening the democratic space

Policies, particularly of the National Secretary for the human rights of persons with disabilities, the National Institute for Indigenous Issues and the Ministry of Education increasingly respect, protect and guarantee human rights standards (EA 1)

The National Action Plan on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted in November 2015, was formally endorsed by the Government through a Presidential Decree in June. The Plan was designed with the active engagement of civil society and the technical support of the HRA, in particular for the development of human rights indicators to monitor its implementation.

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

Legal frameworks, public policies and institutions are in place and functioning to combat sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking and related exploitation (EA 1)

A law protecting women from all forms of violence, including the crime of feminicide, was approved by the Congress. The HRA supported this development by organizing a series of meetings and activities with national stakeholders to promote the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women. Advocacy activities, jointly held with UN Women and civil society organizations, contributed to ensuring that the legislation was more closely aligned with international standards. For instance, the mandatory conciliation envisaged in the early drafts was eventually removed. Other recommendations, such as the inclusion of references to gender, were not taken into account.
The Asia-Pacific region is the world’s largest region, both in terms of its geography and the size of its population, and accounts for more than half of the world’s population. OHCHR in the region covers 39 countries, from Iran in the west, Mongolia in the north, Kiribati in the east and New Zealand in the south. In 2016, the Office supported diverse field presences, including one country office in Cambodia; six human rights advisers in Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and a United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Regional Human Rights Adviser for Asia-Pacific based in Thailand (discontinued in December); two regional offices for the Pacific and South-East Asia; one peace mission in Afghanistan; and one field-based structure based in Seoul that covers the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK). While
negotiations for a country office in Myanmar were ongoing in 2016, the Regional Office for South-East Asia continued to sustain the temporary deployment of OHCHR staff to Myanmar. Additionally, OHCHR supported two national officers in the Offices of the Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh (from June 2016 onwards) and the Maldives, respectively, and four special procedures mandate holders on Cambodia, the DPRK, Iran and Myanmar.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Royal Government of Cambodia and OHCHR, signed in December, extended OHCHR’s operational presence in the country for technical cooperation for an additional two years. Support was provided for the preparation of the High Commissioner’s report to the Human Rights Council on violations and abuses of human rights against Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar. In addition, a thematic report was published on the human rights dimension of the involuntary separation of Korean families.

OHCHR’s intensified efforts to address human rights in the DPRK included a report to the Human Rights Council focusing on the latest developments and the work of its newly established presence in Seoul, as well as the designation of two independent experts by the High Commissioner on accountability, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 31/18. The experts undertook several missions during the last quarter of 2016 and will submit their report to the Human Rights Council in 2017.

In February, the High Commissioner visited Sri Lanka to assess any progress that had been made by the Government on accountability and reconciliation as a follow-up to the Human Rights Council resolution that was co-sponsored by Sri Lanka in September 2015. During the year, OHCHR provided technical support to diverse stakeholders in relation to the implementation of this resolution. In December, the Sri Lankan Consultation Task Force presented its landmark report to the Government, which emphasized the importance placed on reconciliation and accountability by those who are affected by the conflict. Legislation for the Office of Missing Persons was also adopted during the year.

In addition to its programmed work, the Asia-Pacific Section responded to unexpected requests to address severe human rights violations in the region. In December, an OHCHR team visited Bangladesh to carry out an assessment mission on reported human rights violations in the northern Rakhine State of Myanmar. The team was tasked with meeting the various stakeholders, including alleged victims and witnesses from the Rohingya community, who had sought refuge in Bangladesh.

OHCHR strengthened its Regional Office for the Pacific to expand its ability to engage with a wide range of actors and to provide technical support and monitor the diverse human rights situation in the region. A key focus of the Office was on the human rights situation of migrants/refugees at the offshore processing centres in Nauru and, to a lesser extent, on Manus Island, Papua New Guinea. The centres are operated by Australia. The asylum-seekers held at these centres are alleged to be disproportionately exposed to human rights violations. In mid-November 2016, an agreement was reached between the United States of America and Australia to relocate approximately 1,250 refugees held in Nauru and Manus Island to the United States of America.

Climate change is having a dramatic impact on the Pacific islands, including as a result of rising sea levels. For many, this poses a grave threat to their survival and sustainability. A deeper understanding of the links between climate change and human rights was initiated by OHCHR’s participation in the 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP 22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

In August/September, the Deputy High Commissioner joined the Secretary-General on his visits to Myanmar and Sri Lanka in order to encourage various governmental counterparts to renew their confidence in undertaking human rights reforms.

Country Office/ Field-based Structure

**Cambodia**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year established</th>
<th>1993</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff as of 31 December 2016</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure in 2016</td>
<td>US$2,268,439</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Results**

**Strengthening international human rights mechanisms**

- The Cambodian Human Rights Committee coordinates the implementation of the 2014 UPR and the 2015 Human Rights Committee recommendations (EA 6)

In the first half of 2016, OHCHR supported the Cambodian Human Rights Committee to conduct Universal Periodic Review (UPR) follow-up activities.
in relation to their plans to submit a midterm review report by September. Initial assistance was provided in terms of establishing a standing national mechanism. Following a change in the leadership of the Committee, however, the idea was not pursued.

At least three outstanding reports are submitted to the treaty bodies in conformity with reporting guidelines (EA 6)

The overdue reports under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) were scheduled to be submitted in late 2016 and late 2017, respectively. Due to a change in leadership in the relevant government agencies, the ICESCR report was delayed until 2018 and there is no proposed date for the ICERD report. The responses to the list of issues sent by the Committee Against Torture and to the 2010 and 2014 reports from the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment are also overdue. Several requests were made to OHCHR, in October, to provide training on report writing, which will take place in 2017. Additionally, the national consultative workshop on the review of the draft report under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was conducted by the Disability Action Council. Technical assistance was provided by OHCHR. The report is expected to be submitted in 2017.

Civil society organizations and UN entities, in particular UN Women and UNICEF, submit reports to treaty bodies, including the Human Rights Committee, CRPD and CAT, and use the individual complaints procedure of CEDAW (EA 7)

In an effort to identify potential individual cases to be addressed to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), OHCHR and UN Women organized two trainings on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women addressed to NGOs working on women’s rights, human rights and legal aid. Nevertheless, no claims have been submitted since Cambodia ratified the Optional Protocol in 2010. OHCHR financially supported the preparation of the first individual communication to CEDAW by a national NGO and provided technical support to another NGO for a request for an inquiry procedure on the issue of the rape of women and girls in Cambodia and the response of the Cambodian justice system.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

Improved compliance with international human rights standards of legislation in the area of justice, in particular the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Criminal Code, the Law on the Bar Association and the Juvenile Justice Law (EA 1)

In July, legislation related to justice was strengthened with the enactment of the Juvenile Justice Law. The legislation provides for the development of a separate juvenile justice system that focuses on “diversion” rather than punishment, in compliance with the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. OHCHR, along with UNICEF, UNODC and many NGOs, advocated for the approval of the law for many years and provided comments on several successive drafts. OHCHR also joined the Working Group on the Implementation of the Juvenile Justice Law and will provide technical assistance for its practical implementation in 2017. OHCHR further advised the Anti-Corruption Unit on the draft legislation on whistleblowers and on witness protection, including by liaising with the experts from the Witness and Expert Support Unit of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. The Trade Union Law, enacted in April, also impacted on the justice sector as it foresees the creation of Labour Courts. In an effort to ensure that the draft was consistent with international human rights standards, OHCHR carried out a human rights analysis, which was submitted to the National Assembly and disseminated via social media platforms. Nevertheless, the law was adopted without the modifications suggested by OHCHR.

All prisons under the authority of the Ministry of Interior improve compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)

Although detention conditions and the treatment of prisoners improved in some prisons, particularly in terms of access to physical exercise, health services, food, water, sanitation and family visits, most prisons still face severe challenges. These challenges include overcrowding that lead to increased tensions, limited sleeping space and reduced outdoor time.
The new General Director of Prisons agreed to work with OHCHR, ICRC and UNOPS on the finalization of minimum standards on prison construction and the drafting of sub-legislation on prison inspections and various prison procedures, in particular regarding internal rules, sentence reduction and pardons. OHCHR’s authorization for prison visits in 2016, however, did not allow for confidential interviews with prisoners. This meant that it was not possible to proceed with dedicated monitoring on the use of disciplinary measures and their compliance with international standards. The Office was able to report to the General Director of Prisons, as well as prosecutors, on key issues such as allegations of ill-treatment or cases of excessive detention or long-pending appeals. Through effective collaboration with the courts, OHCHR secured the release of five prisoners who had overstayed their prison sentences.

The Lawyers Training Centre and the Royal Academy of Judicial Professions include a human rights training module focusing on fair trial rights (EA 1). The capacity of 54 trainee lawyers was enhanced as a result of a joint human rights training programme that was facilitated by OHCHR, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute and the Lawyers Training Centre. The programme, delivered in March, consisted of 10 training modules, which shared practical knowledge on the international human rights standards, good practices of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia and ideas on how to engage with the UN human rights mechanisms.

General Department of Prisons and the police academy systematically train prison staff on good prison management practices and integrating human rights core values and principles (EA 1). Professional training of prison staff has not been yet systematized for all new recruits, yet some progress was achieved in reducing the backlog and increasing the capacity of the prison trainers. During the year, the General Director of Prisons sent 50 prison staff to the Prison Staff Training Centre to attend a three-month initial training programme and other 50 staff members to a one-month training programme. As of December, there were approximately 300 officials who had not been trained. OHCHR was invited to deliver a half-day presentation on the international human rights instruments relating to the treatment of prisoners, the prevention of torture and the use of force as part of the one-month training programme. To make the three-month training more practical and concrete, OHCHR supported and accompanied two one-day visits to prisons for the staff trainees with a view to helping them better realize the implementation gaps with regard to domestic and international norms.

Good progress was achieved in continuing to build the capacity of the prison staff trainers as the Office supported the trainers in the development of their own prison curriculum. In September, OHCHR co-organized a workshop that was attended by 29 trainers. Feedback was gathered from previously trained prison staff, findings from earlier study tours were reviewed and OHCHR’s inputs to improve the current prison training programme and curriculum were discussed.

A National Preventive Mechanism against torture is established and functioning to monitor places of detention in compliance with OP-CAT (EA 3). The National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) does not comply with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and fails to effectively monitor places of detention. In May, the Government set up a new working group to review and revise the 2009 Sub-decree on National Preventive Mechanisms and indicated that the legal framework would be adopted as legislation. In August, authorities announced that they would be unable to establish the new mechanism due to a lack of financial and human resources. The Ministry of Interior nevertheless expressed, in writing, that the Government wished to develop and adopt legislation on a NPM, as soon as possible, and that it would upgrade the 2009 Sub-decree to a Royal Decree.

Allegations of torture and ill-treatment by the police, including the military police, are promptly investigated and where confirmed, appropriate action is taken by police chiefs and prosecutors (EA 3). To raise awareness about the rights of all persons who are arrested and held in police custody, and to contribute to the prevention of torture and ill-treatment, OHCHR launched a new smartphone ap-
plication to disseminate information, in the Khmer language, about people’s rights upon arrest in accordance with Cambodian law. OHCHR cooperated with the Office of the Prosecutor in Prey Veng province to improve the capacity of local police officers to respect and uphold the laws of Cambodia as well as the provisions of the international human rights treaties to which the country is a State Party. As a result of these efforts, the awareness of local police increased in relation to international and national standards on torture and ill-treatment. In close cooperation with the Office of the Prosecutor, OHCHR delivered a series of human rights briefings to more than 460 local police officers in all districts within the province, covering topics such as arrest, custody and methods of interrogation. The briefings were followed by joint visits with prosecutors to local police stations.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- Relevant institutions, namely the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Rural Development, apply human rights principles and standards in handling land issues (EA 1)

The management of land issues by the Government showed some signs of accelerated progress in 2016, particularly after the nomination of a new Minister of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction in April. The new Minister vowed that the issue of land registration would be tackled by 2018 and that the long-standing land dispute cases would be registered at the national level by 2017, including by creating 36 dedicated working groups. As of August 2016, the Government estimated that land titles had been provided to 62 per cent of the country’s estimated 7 million parcels of land and that only 800 land disputes were awaiting resolution. OHCHR monitored 74 land disputes involving communities, authorities and businesses in both rural and urban areas. Seven of those were new cases and 11 were resolved during the year.

Progress was also noted with regard to the number of indigenous communities engaged in the Communal Land Title process. As of October, 118 communities had been recognized as indigenous communities by the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Interior had endorsed and registered 90 indigenous communities as legal entities. Despite this progress, only 13 communal titles had been issued by the Ministry of Land, which had committed to issuing 10 land titles per year in 2014. OHCHR worked at the national and subnational level and organized trainings and meetings with subnational authorities to explain and discuss the land titling process. It also actively supported the work of the Ministry of Rural Development in the registration of eight indigenous communities in one province. Some progress was achieved through the finalization of the work of the Interministerial Commission to Inspect, Demarcate and Assess Economic Land Concessions. According to public data, 32 economic land concessions were revoked and 87 were downsized. As of December, no information had been received as to how these parcels would be reassigned to local communities.

- Existing dispute resolution mechanisms, including the courts, improve their compliance with human rights standards in handling land issues (EA 3)

Existing dispute resolution mechanisms, including the courts, have not significantly improved the way they handle land issues, nor have they improved their implementation of business and human rights standards. The Office raised issues related to the management of land concessions and large infrastructure projects in high-level discussions with government officials, with limited results. OHCHR nonetheless contributed to an increased awareness among duty-bearers, businesses operating in Cambodia, as well as rights-holders, on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including by delivering trainings and briefings to over 600 stakeholders, such as businesses, chambers of commerce, NGOs, youth and the media. Some progress was achieved in the promotion of non-judicial resolution mechanisms while OHCHR actively engaged with the private sector on the role and responsibilities of corporations to protect human rights. As a result, in 2016, five international companies operating in Cambodia sought support from the Office to better understand business and human rights standards and to facilitate their interaction with indigenous peoples, local communities and workers to discuss consensual solutions to existing land and work environment-related disputes. OHCHR advised them on practical considerations and the steps that needed to be taken in order to engage in open, meaningful consultations and sustained dialogue with the communities and establish a transparent grievance mechanism. Consequently, a company is elaborating its external grievance policy for Cambodia, which has incorporated OHCHR advice, several compensation agreements are being discussed and OHCHR is supporting the dialogue and pre-mediation process concerning disputed lands in an emblematic rubber plantation case. The Office also supported communities of indigenous peoples through advocacy, training and legal aid for their applications on communal land titles. As a result, legal claims related to land disputes were prepared by the communities and submitted to relevant authorities.
Rights-holders meaningfully participate in the design of public policy related to land and housing and the management of natural resources (EA 5)

As a result of 24 trainings that were facilitated by OHCHR, rights-holders enhanced their capacity to meaningfully participate in processes that affect them with regard to land and housing rights and the rights of indigenous peoples. In total, training was provided to approximately 1,300 rights-holders from seven provinces who were affected by land disputes. The rights-holders were primarily community members and included indigenous peoples. OHCHR participated in the consultation process of the Ministry of Environment on the draft environmental code and the draft Guidelines on Public Participation on Environmental Impact Assessments and the Ministry of Agriculture on the draft Law on Agricultural Land. More specifically, the Office provided comments to strengthen key provisions relating to public participation and the free and prior informed consent of indigenous peoples and facilitated the participation of indigenous peoples representatives in the consultations. Furthermore, as a result of support from OHCHR, indigenous peoples were better able to participate in the communal land titling process. Four indigenous communities from two provinces were provided with technical assistance to obtain communal land titles and eight others in another province successfully registered the identity of indigenous peoples.

Widening the democratic space

Improved compliance with international human rights standards of legislation in the area of freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association (EA 1)

The legal and institutional framework pertaining to fundamental freedoms was altered with the adoption, in April, of the controversial Trade Union Law. The law was adopted despite concerns raised by trade unions and other civil society actors about requirements that could allegedly have a negative impact on independent unions. OHCHR thoroughly analysed the draft and identified provisions that are inconsistent with human rights standards on freedom of association, particularly on the establishment, functioning and dissolution of trade unions. The Office and other local actors called for full and meaningful public consultations. The consultations were eventually held during a half-day session at the National Assembly and resulted in the adoption of one amendment. At the end of 2016, the Office organized a symposium on the six-month review of the Trade Union Law, which brought together 129 representatives from trade unions across sectors, the Cambodian Federation of Employers and Business Associations, ILO and the international community. Trade unions discussed the challenges faced under the new law and made recommendations for amendments to improve its compliance with Cambodia’s obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and ILO conventions.

As of the end of 2016, other bills with potentially profound implications for human rights were in various stages of the drafting process, including in relation to access to information, whistleblower protection, cybercrime and State secrets. A limited number are open to public consultation.

Subnational governments use human rights standards and principles in applying the law on peaceful demonstrations (EA 1)

Implementation of the 2009 Peaceful Demonstration Law remained uneven at the subnational level and has been applied in a manner inconsistent with the rights to freedom of expression and assembly. According to authorities, organizers are obliged to provide notification and seek authorization before holding demonstrations. Gatherings that do not qualify as peaceful demonstrations, such as community fora, trainings or simple meetings, that do not fall under the scope of the law, are subjected to similar demands for prior authorization, particularly when the focus is on issues that are deemed to be sensitive by the authorities. For example, in December, Human Rights Day celebrations were stopped in Kampot province while in Phnom Penh, public gatherings and marches were prohibited by the municipal authorities. Throughout the year, the Office contributed to raising the awareness of civil society actors on the right to peaceful assembly under international human rights law and domestic legislation. The Office widely disseminated information on the Law on Peaceful Demonstrations and a guide to its implementation and built local capacity to comply with the law. OHCHR achieved this result through a number of training sessions that benefited over 130 persons from 10 provinces across the country, including community, youth and indigenous activists, journalists, activist monks, trade unionists and staff from NGOs, as well as human rights and legal aid organizations.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Cambodia: Expenditure in 2016</th>
<th>Regular budget expenditure in US$</th>
<th>Extrabudgetary expenditure in US$</th>
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<td>Personnel and related costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRAND TOTAL</td>
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OHCHR field-based structure to strengthen monitoring and documentation of the situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2015</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Staff as of 31 December 2016</td>
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Results

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Responsiveness of the General Assembly, Human Rights Council and Security Council to crimes against humanity in the DPRK (EA 10)*
  The OHCHR field-based structure provided support to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) and engaged with other special procedures mandate holders when relevant. It also drafted the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights with regard to the situation of human rights in the DPRK (HRC/31/38) and, following the adoption of resolution HRC/Res/31/18, the field-based structure supported the visit to the region of the group of independent experts to focus on issues of accountability for human rights violations in the DPRK.

Widening the democratic space

- *Increased awareness through outreach relevant to a DPRK audience and organizations that support them, including CSOs and the media (EA 5)*
  In 2016, the OHCHR field-based structure, which is located in Seoul, provided information on the situation of human rights in the DPRK to the media, civil society organizations and diplomats in Seoul, Geneva and New York; participated as a speaker in 39 seminars organized by governments, NGOs and academic institutions; and met regularly with representatives of civil society and media groups. In the course of these activities, OHCHR sought to include people from the DPRK and emphasized concerns related to vulnerable groups. The OHCHR field-based structure was also active on social media and by the end of the year, it had 3,500 subscribers to its Facebook account and more than 1,500 followers on Twitter. In addition, public events organized by the Office enjoyed significant media coverage, including a seminar in May on the rights of women in the DPRK and the launch of a public report on the involuntary separation of Korean families.

Torn apart: The human rights dimension of the involuntary separation of Korean families

For years, Hwang In-cheol was told that his father, Mr. Hwang Won, was away on a business trip. “Nobody told me about my father when I was young,” he remembers. When Hwang In-cheol was around 10 years old, he was finally told the truth. On 11 December 1969, his father had boarded a plane, which was hijacked and flown to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK). While 39 passengers were allowed to return to the Republic of Korea in 1970, the whereabouts of Mr. Hwang Won and 10 other passengers and crew members remain unknown. Hwang In-cheol was two when his father was abducted.

Following his father’s abduction, Hwang In-cheol and his family faced many instances of discrimination and ignorance. Those around them sometimes suspected the relatives of abductees of being susceptible to manipulation by the DPRK. “Even if you are a victim, society looks down on you and you are considered a spy,” he stated.

These days, Hwang In-cheol is determined to break the silence that has surrounded his father’s abduction for too long. Starting as a one-man campaign, he is now actively involved in raising awareness within the Republic of Korea and internationally. He is one of the individuals featured in OHCHR’s report, “Torn apart: The human rights dimension of the involuntary separation of Korean families.” Speaking at a panel discussion held to launch the report on 7 December, he stated, “[t]here is no reason whatsoever that my father should continue to be held in the DPRK.”

In 2010, Hwang In-cheol submitted a case to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. The DPRK authorities replied two years later and stated that there was “no person in [their] country who ha[d] been enforcedly or involuntarily disappeared or detained against his or her will.”

The Government of the Republic of Korea has published a list of 516 individuals who were abducted by the DPRK after the 1953 armistice. It has not yet finalized the list of individuals who were allegedly abducted during the war, primarily due to the difficulty of collecting accurate information. According to the Korean War Abductees Family Union, estimates of wartime South Korean abductees range between 82,000 and 100,000 individuals.

In 2002, the Government of the DPRK acknowledged that it had abducted 13 Japanese nationals. Five were allowed to return to Japan and the Government claimed that eight were deceased. The Government of Japan continues to seek further information on their whereabouts and those of others that the Government of Japan believes were abducted by the DPRK.
Regional Offices

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

Year established 2002
Staff as of 31 December 2016 15
Expenditure in 2016 US$1,728,078

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- Increased engagement with special procedures by civil society actors in Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Singapore (EA 7)
  
  In Indonesia, there was a significant increase in the engagement between civil society organizations and the UN human rights mechanisms as result of support provided by the Office. For instance, civil society organizations have engaged with the international human rights mechanisms in relation to violence in Papua and West Papua and have submitted 12 communications to the special procedures. In addition, the National Human Rights Commission, the National Commission on Violence against Women and civil society organizations were engaged in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, including by preparing submissions to the second UPR of Indonesia scheduled for 2017.

- Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law
  
  - Countries in the region abolish the death penalty or increase the compliance of relevant legislation and policies with international standards, particularly in relation to the reduction in the number and scope of the crimes covered (EA 1)
    
    OHCHR undertook advocacy related to the abolition of the death penalty. The Regional Office provided inputs to a letter sent from the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Government of Indonesia expressing concerns regarding information received on the imminent execution of 14 prisoners, calling for a stay of the executions and the need to take steps towards the establishment of a moratorium on death penalty. In November, the Office issued a statement urging the Government of Singapore to halt the execution of a Nigerian national who had been convicted of drug trafficking, and calling for the reinstatement of a moratorium on the death penalty. Despite the fact that the Philippines is a State Party to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Government has signalled its intention to re-introduce the death penalty. In response, the Office provided regular briefings and information to the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), the Commission on Human Rights, legislators and civil society on relevant international law and outlined the position of the UN on the death penalty.

- National Preventive Mechanism against torture (under OP-CAT) established and/or functioning in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand (EA 3)
  
  As part of its efforts to end the use of torture in Thailand, the Regional Office undertook training activities to raise the awareness of Thai officials on the importance of the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT) and the establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM). The Thai Government agreed to ratify the OP-CAT by 2017. In the Philippines, two bills aimed at establishing a NPM were introduced to the 17th Congress and one of them was discussed in the House Committee on Human Rights in November.

- Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere
  
  - Human rights related to land and natural resources, along with recommendations for increased compliance with international standards in South-East Asia, are raised in international fora (EA 10)
    
    In the Philippines, a study on human rights challenges, including land rights, faced by indigenous peoples’ communities across the country, was jointly produced by OHCHR and UNICEF. A national validation workshop was held in December to present the initial findings and the final report will be published in 2017. The findings will be used to raise national and international awareness on key human rights chal-
lenges faced by indigenous peoples and will inform policies and programmes of the Government, the international community and civil society.

Widening the democratic space

- Increased responsiveness of governments to allegations of violations of freedom of expression (EA 3)
  In Thailand, the Office’s advocacy with the Government and its monitoring of the freedom of expression helped to secure space for the civil society organizations, journalists, academics, the general public and other stakeholders to advocate for their rights. It is believed that OHCHR’s monitoring activities and engagement with the Government were useful in preventing human rights violations and helped political activists and civil society actors to exercise their rights, in particular during the peaceful demonstration in the run up to the constitutional referendum in August.

- Human rights defenders use national protection systems to initiate credible State investigations and prosecutions, particularly in emblematic cases or for the release of human rights defenders from custody (EA 5)
  In Thailand, the Regional Office supported the Government in its establishment of the Working Group on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, which paved the way for an institutional framework that was developed for their protection.

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

- Increased responsiveness of the international community to potential, emerging or existing human rights crisis situations, with human rights protection as an integral element of this response (EA 10)
  OHCHR conducted public advocacy aimed at ensuring that the attention of the international community in Yangon, Geneva and New York was focused on critical human rights issues in Myanmar, including in relation to accountability issues, discrimination and the situation in Rakhine State. Advocacy efforts included the provision of inputs to briefing notes and talking points, briefings to diplomatic missions based in Geneva and support to missions undertaken by high-level UN officials, including the visit of the Secretary-General and the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights in August.

- UN entities in the region apply a human rights-based approach to policing and prosecution of sexual violence; humanitarian operations and international responses to situations of violence and conflict (EA 11)
  The Regional Office actively participated in and provided advice to key UN groups and fora in Myanmar, including the UNCT, the Humanitarian Country Team, the Theme Group on Human Rights, Protection Working Group and the Gender Working Group. Based on its monitoring, OHCHR shared information on individual cases, trends and patterns which fed into UN notes and documents, including the report on the “Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar” (A/HRC/32/18) presented at the Human Rights Council’s 32nd session.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional Office for South-East Asia (Bangkok, Thailand): Expenditure in 2016</th>
<th>Regular budget expenditure in US$</th>
<th>Extrabudgetary expenditure in US$</th>
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<tr>
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<table>
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<th>Regional Office for the Pacific (Suva, Fiji)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Year established</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff as of 31 December 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure in 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- Six new ratifications/accessions of human rights treaties with a focus on ICCPR, ICESCR and CAT (and their optional protocols) in the subregion (EA 2)
  Fiji ratified the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in March; Samoa ratified all three optional protocols under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in May, and ratified of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), in December; and the Federated States of Micronesia also ratified the CRPD, in December. OHCHR has been advocating for years for the increased ratification of human rights treaties by countries of the region.

- Increased engagement with international human rights mechanisms, including through the establishment of national coordination bodies to support national reporting and implementation of recommendations, the use of a common core document approach, participation in the second cycle of the
UPIR and acceptance of visit requests by special procedures mandate holders (EA 6)

In relation to the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), OHCHR provided extensive support to Samoa and the Solomon Islands prior to their respective reviews. Technical assistance was provided to Samoa for the drafting of its report and, for both countries, the Office organized a mock-UPR session which was effective in preparing the respective delegations for the review in Geneva. Concerning the establishment of national reporting and follow-up mechanisms, Samoa established a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-Up, in October. OHCHR advised on the structure and scope of the mechanism and facilitated a three-day induction retreat during which a draft implementation plan was prepared for all recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in relation to Samoa. To further support the work of the mechanism, a website was developed to focus on the monitoring of implementation and data collection and will be launched in 2017. The Office has also worked with the Kiribati national human rights task force, which began developing a comprehensive UPR implementation plan. In addition, the Office provided logistical and technical support to the visits of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders to Australia (September); the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants to Australia and Nauru (November); and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to Australia and Fiji (December).

Rights-holders or their representatives increase their submission to treaty bodies and/or special procedures in areas such as torture and ill-treatment, sexual and gender-based violence and/or housing rights (EA 7)

Ahead of Samoa’s second cycle UPR, guidance and assistance was given to local civil society organizations, leading to an increased number of report submissions compared to the first cycle UPR. In addition, a forum with the participation of governmental and civil society actors was organized in advance of the review to encourage dialogue and better inform the Government’s delegation on stakeholder submissions. Furthermore, in collaboration with a regional NGO umbrella (PIANGO), OHCHR increased the capacity of a group of civil society organizations to effectively use the UN human rights mechanisms. As a result of a training organized in August, PIANGO made a submission on West Papua ahead of Indonesia’s second cycle UPR.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- Development and implementation of human rights-compliant legislation and policies regarding violence against women, asylum-seekers, minorities, indigenous peoples and LGBTI persons (EA 4)

In 2016, the Government of Nauru decided to decriminalize same-sex relations. A Nauruan activist, who participated in the Free & Equal campaign that was launched by OHCHR in the Pacific, was key in advocating for legal reforms in his country. Similar efforts are underway in Samoa and Tonga. OHCHR also pursued efforts to raise public awareness about the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers in Nauru, including by issuing a public statement in relation to the Australian High Court case, submitting a letter from the High Commissioner to the Government of Australia and undertaking a monitoring mission to Nauru in August. None of the asylum-seekers involved in the case have been returned to Nauru from Australia.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- Human rights training is institutionalized in the police academies and/or penitentiary services in Fiji and Vanuatu (EA 1)

While developing a training curriculum is not a current priority for the Vanuatu Corrections Service, it sought OHCHR’s assistance for the review of the Correctional Services Act in order to bring it in line with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. As an outcome of the review, the Vanuatu Corrections Service agreed to request the abolition of solitary confinement in the revised legislation. In Fiji, OHCHR agreed to provide support to the Corrections Service’s training team and review the training curriculum in 2017. With regard to the police, the Fiji Police Training Academy agreed to work with OHCHR on the provision of human rights training and the integration of human rights into the training curriculum.
Widening the democratic space

A Paris Principles-compliant NHRI is established in Fiji, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu (EA 1).

In June, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions accredited the Office of the Ombudsman of Samoa with “A” status. It is now the only national human rights institution (NHRI) among the Pacific Island countries that has achieved this status. OHCHR provided extensive support to the NHRI, including by deploying a staff member to its office, conducting training sessions on treaty reporting for their staff and providing technical assistance for the development of its annual human rights report. While the Fiji NHRI appointed a director in 2016, two of its five commissioners resigned and have not yet been replaced. Other countries, such as Cook Islands, Nauru, Tuvalu and Vanuatu expressed renewed interest in establishing NRHIs, some of which have requested OHCHR’s technical assistance for 2017.

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

National Disaster Management Offices and/or relevant ministries, particularly in Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, and the Pacific Humanitarian Team, integrate human rights into their disaster preparedness and response efforts (EA 11).

The capacity of Fiji Government officials and civil society organizations to integrate human rights into their disaster preparedness and response efforts was enhanced through a training workshop organized by UN Women. During the workshop, OHCHR delivered a session on protection. After Tropical Cyclone Winston hit Fiji in late February, OHCHR conducted several missions to monitor protection around the eastern and northern parts of Fiji’s largest island and identified several issues of concern, which were shared with Fiji’s Protection Cluster.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional Office for the Pacific (Suva, Fiji): Expenditure in 2016</th>
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<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme support costs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
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</table>

Human Rights Components in UN Peace Missions

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year established</th>
<th>2002</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff as of 31 December 2016</td>
<td>88</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Results

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

National police, National Directorate of Security and the Ministry of Interior observe due process and procedural guarantees for detainees and implement oversight and accountability procedures to prevent the use of torture in their places of detention (EA 1).

The Government achieved little progress in meeting the commitments set out in its 2015 National Plan on the Elimination of Torture. The Human Rights Unit (HRU) of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) continued to note a pervasive lack of accountability for those who allegedly subjected detainees to torture or other forms of ill-treatment. Furthermore, in May, the Government executed six convicted prisoners who had been sentenced to death for crimes against national security. These were the first executions of conflict-related detainees to be carried out in Afghanistan since February 2015. In view of concerns over the torture and ill-treatment of detainees for the purpose of obtaining confessions, the HRU continued to advocate with the Afghan Government to ensure that trials leading to the imposition of the death penalty strictly respect the guarantees related to a fair trial provided for in the Afghan Constitution, the Criminal Procedure Code and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In addition, the HRU was instrumental in the preparation of a letter sent by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in May, to express his concerns regarding the executions that were carried out following trials that did not meet relevant international standards. In October, the HRU participated in a drafting workshop that was chaired by the Ministry of Justice. The workshop reviewed aspects of the draft Anti-Torture Law which is being finalized. While the draft provides for the establishment of a National Commis-
sion for the Prevention of Torture, the Commission will lack the functional and operational independence required of a National Preventive Mechanism identified in the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which Afghanistan has not yet ratified.

- **Peace processes and transitional justice mechanisms operate in accordance with international human rights standards and good practices, ensuring consolidation of human rights gains and promoting accountability (EA 3)**

In 2016, the High Peace Council adopted its five-year strategy focused on reconciliation with high-level leaders of anti-government armed groups and a peace agreement between the Government and Hezb-i-Islami Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, which provides for judicial immunity of the parties. The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and civil society groups have voiced concerns over the peace agreement and called for the rights of victims to be respected and ensured in the peace process. The High Commissioner for Human Rights also wrote to the President to express his concerns.

In terms of promotion of the recommendations emanating from the Afghan People’s Dialogue on Peace (APD), the HRU finalized 17 provincial road maps for peace, which were also approved by the APD Steering Committee and will be used in relation to peacebuilding initiatives undertaken by civil society. In addition, the HRU continued to support the provincial APD Advocacy Committees in their efforts with local officials to implement the recommendations of the provincial road maps for peace. Phase IV of the Peace Dialogue has been discussed with the Steering Committee but was put on hold until further progress could be achieved in the implementation of the road maps.

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

- **Provincial authorities, law enforcement and prosecutors work together to support victims and improve investigations of violence against women cases to support prosecution (EA 1)**

The Government stepped up its efforts to ensure women’s representation in the public sphere, for example, by approving the Election Law on 22 August, 2016.

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**Filming the consequences of armed conflict in Afghanistan**

“I found the festival theme to be very strong and useful and therefore I was motivated to make a short film about the effects of armed conflict on Afghan children” (Mahbooba Barat, Director and Producer of the winning film, “Ja Khali”)

On 3 September, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan collaborated with members of the Department of Information and Culture, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, civil society, the local media and the arts community to hold the first Film Festival on the effects of armed conflict on children in Herat, Western Afghanistan.

The Best Film distinction was awarded to a 16-year-old, former high school student named Mahbooba Barat, who also clinched the award for Best Director for her film entitled “Ja Khali” (“Empty Space”). The film depicts the story of a young boy who desperately wants to continue his education but is forced to quit school and become his family’s sole breadwinner after his father’s conflict-related death.

Unfortunately, this is a reality for a growing number of children throughout Afghanistan and for the filmmaker herself. At the age of 15, Mahbooba’s father prohibited her from going to school.

Using her smartphone, Mahbooba secretly filmed Ja Khali. She intentionally chose a male actor to play the role, even though she believes that all children, girls and boys, suffer from the consequences of war and that all children desire the opportunity to go to school.

Since winning the Festival, Mahbooba has shared her story and the film in a number of fora in Herat and Kabul. Upon seeing the film and in recognition of her talent, Mahbooba’s father has permitted her to continue making films. In December, she was handpicked by an international organization and is currently part of a filmmaking training programme in Kabul. She is still not allowed to return to school.
which contains a number of temporary special measures, such as reserving at least 25 per cent of seats for women representatives in the provincial, district and village councils. Efforts continued to be taken to address violence against women and girls. The President inaugurated a dedicated fund to provide women who are survivors of acts of violence with support, including medical treatment and temporary accommodation. On 11 June, the Government approved the 2016-2020 Strategy and Action Plan on the Elimination of Violence against Women. Nevertheless, the prevalence of violence against women continued to be of serious concern. The ongoing conflict contributes to sustaining a culture of impunity and denying victims effective remedies and reparations. The HRU continued to work closely with relevant actors from the UN and civil society to advocate for the integration of international human rights norms with respect to the protection of women from violence.

Government policies and regulations related to civilian protection and civilian casualty mitigation are formulated and implemented by all forces in line with international humanitarian law and international human rights standards (EA 3)

With the transfer of the Civilian Casualties Avoidance Mitigation Board from NATO to the Afghan authorities on 26 January, the Afghan-led Board began functioning as an operational mechanism to identify areas for improving civilian casualty mitigation efforts. It drafted the National Civilian Casualty Prevention and Mitigation Policy and established a working group to draft an action plan for its implementation. The Government also established a senior-level Protection Working Group aimed at facilitating a policy-driven dialogue on existing protection measures related to civilian concerns and supporting the implementation of improved practices to reduce civilian casualties. The HRU advised the Ministries of Interior and of Defence, the National Security Council and the Resolute Support Mission on international humanitarian and human rights law to draft national and ministerial policies to prevent civilian casualties. The HRU also issued three public reports, which focused on civilian deaths and injuries, analyzed key trends and made recommendations to all parties to the armed conflict.

UN support to national institutions is in compliance with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (EA 11)

In the context of the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy, the HRU worked closely with an international consultant who was tasked with designing a strategy on mitigation measures and a standard operating procedure (SOP) for its implementation. A number of workshops were held to review the SOP with the senior leadership of the Afghan national police force and the Ministry of Interior.

Human Rights Advisers to UN Country Teams

Bangladesh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Year established</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increased compliance and engagement of Member States with international human rights mechanisms (EA 6)</td>
<td>Staff as of 31 December 2016</td>
<td>(The field presence closed in 2016)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

With support from the Human Rights Adviser (HRA) and the United Nations Country Team, Bangladesh drafted its reports under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. The last two reports were submitted in 2016.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

Increased use of the UNCTs of a human rights-based approach to programming (EA 11)

The new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Bangladesh was finalized and is in overall compliance with the programming
principles of a human rights-based approach and gender equality. In addition, the UNDAF contains a chapter on the general human rights situation in the country. The HRA was part of the group developing the UNDAF results framework as well as other sections of the document.

Human Rights Adviser to the Regional UN Development Group for Asia and the Pacific

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year established</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff as of 31 December 2016</td>
<td>- (The field presence closed in 2016)</td>
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</table>

Results

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- **Human rights standards and principles are integrated into UN development frameworks and the work of UN agencies, particularly on housing, water, sanitation and land (EA 11)**

As a result of the advice and training on a human rights-based approach provided by the Human Rights Adviser (HRA), the capacity of United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) of the region, especially in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, India, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam, has been strengthened. This ensured the enhanced integration of a human rights perspective into the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs). The HRA also supported the roll-out of the new UNDAF Programming Guidance in this context, with a particular focus on highlighting the linkages between achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the human rights obligations and commitments of States.

Widening the democratic space

- **Increased interventions of the international community to promote and protect civil society actors, including against reprisals (EA 10)**

The HRA led the development of an Issue Brief on civil society space; a knowledge product addressed to UNCTs in the region that was prepared in order to enable UNCTs to understand recent trends relating to shrinking civil society space; provide training on relevant human rights standards; identify opportunities to strengthen the space for civil society within their programmatic work; and devise strategies and advocate in support of civil society representatives who may be in need of protection.

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

- **Human rights are integrated into United Nations preparedness, response and recovery efforts of crises emanating from natural disasters, conflict and other situations of violence and insecurity (EA 11)**

Coordination, policy coherence and cooperation, including in the context of the Human Rights up Front Action Plan, were facilitated through information sharing, analysis, advocacy and capacity-building initiatives undertaken by the HRA. Regular meetings were set up within the United Nations Development Group’s Regional Group to discuss the main outcomes of Regional Quarterly Reviews. This enabled the Regional Group to address the implications of global discussions for regional and country-level policies, advocacy efforts and programming work. The HRA provided assistance in relation to the preparation of the Regional Quarterly Reviews and provided support to UNCTs for their follow-up to outcomes of these reviews.

Papua New Guinea

<table>
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<tr>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff as of 31 December 2016</td>
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</table>

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- **Increased engagement with international human rights mechanisms, including through the establishment of national coordination bodies to support national reporting and implementation of recommendations, the use of a common core document approach, participation in the second cycle of the UPR and acceptance of visit requests by special procedures mandate holders (EA 6)**

In November, OHCHR organized a training on human rights treaty reporting for 25 participants representing various Government departments. During the training, the participants agreed to draft a strategy for the establishment of a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up by 2017. They also developed a priority plan regarding the drafting of pending reports, including the common core document. Tasks were assigned at the technical level to begin the drafting process.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- **Human rights training is institutionalized in the police academy in Papua New Guinea (EA 1)**
In partnership with the Bomana Police Training College, the Human Rights Adviser (HRA) developed two human rights training modules for the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary. In June, 15 police officers completed a training session on human rights and law enforcement while 31 police trainers at the national and regional levels strengthened their capacity to deliver training on human rights by completing a training of trainers course on human rights and law enforcement. The modules developed by the HRA were used by the Bomana Police Training College to train 80 police officers in Manus and Western Province between September and October.

Emblematic sorcery-related killings in Papua New Guinea are thoroughly investigated and addressed through due legal processes (EA 3)
While the HRA continued to support the progress of the Sorcery National Action Plan by engaging with national actors, its implementation remained a challenge due to the limited funds it is allocated from the national budget.

Sri Lanka

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Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- Increased ratification of international human rights instruments and review of reservations, with a focus on instruments and regions with low ratification rates, including Optional Protocols (EA 2)
  In 2016, Sri Lanka has ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances, under article 22, and the competence of the Committee Against Torture, under article 32, to receive and consider individual communications.

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, civil society organizations, human rights defenders and UN agencies actively engage with special procedures and follow up on recommendations by international human rights mechanisms (EA 7)
  During the visits of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence (January, June and November); the joint visit by the Special Rapporteurs on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and on the independence of judges and lawyers (April – May); and the visit by the Special Rapporteur on minority issues (October), the Human Rights Adviser (HRA) supported the engagement of local human rights organizations with the mandate holders and raised their awareness on the relevance of their mandates. OHCHR further translated and disseminated the observations of the respective visits. The HRA also led the preparation of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) submission to the UPR of Sri Lanka in 2017.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- Implementation of the Secretary-General’s Guidance Notes and Guidelines on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the UN Indigenous Peoples’ Partnership (EA 11)
  In light of the new opportunities of engagement with the Government after the 2015 elections, the UNCT launched a review of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The HRA provided substantive input to this exercise, to be completed in 2017, with particular attention given to the rights of groups in vulnerable situations.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- A transitional justice mechanism is in place, including the right to truth; criminal justice and accountability aspects and the right to remedy and reparations (EA 3)
  Transitional justice was the main focus of OHCHR’s engagement with the Government in 2016. In particular, the HRA provided technical support to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Secretariat for Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms in the design and implementation of the national consultations process carried out by a Government-appointed task force of eminent civil society members. The consultations were held to elicit views from a broad range of stakeholders on how institutions and processes for transitional justice should promote accountability and reconciliation. OHCHR further established regular dialogue on transitional justice with Government
counterparts, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, diplomatic missions, UN agencies, civil society actors and victims’ groups. It also translated and disseminated the report of the OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka through a series of events all over the country. **Sustained engagement by the international community, specifically the Human Rights Council, on issues of impunity, accountability and reconciliation for past and present human rights violations (EA 10)**

The HRA briefed the four special procedures mandate holders visiting Sri Lanka in 2016 and provided logistical support for their missions as well as for the visit of the High Commissioner in February. The HRA also led the drafting of OHCHR’s update and report to the Human Rights Council on the implementation of resolution 30/1 on “Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka.”

**Timor-Leste**

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**Results**

**Strengthening international human rights mechanisms**

- Reports submitted to the UPR, CAT and other treaty bodies are in conformity with reporting guidelines (EA 6)

The Government submitted its initial report under the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in August. OHCHR provided significant technical and financial support for drafting the report in 2014. Timor-Leste’s report to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) also generally followed the reporting guidelines. The Human Rights Adviser (HRA) prepared the Government’s delegation for the UPR through a briefing and a one-day mock session shortly before the review.

In line with recommendations issued by the Committee on Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in relation to Timor-Leste in 2015, Parliament adopted legislation to counter human trafficking while the Government began voter registration of Timorese nationals in two foreign countries (Australia and Portugal), for the first time.

- Increased number of substantive submissions to CEDAW, special procedures and the Human Rights Council by NHRLs, civil society, individuals and UN entities (EA 7)

Thirty-seven civil society organizations, the national human rights institution (NHRI) (Provedoria dos Direitos Humanos e Justiça) and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) actively took part in the UPR process through the submission of four reports based on the reporting guidelines. During the year, the HRA assisted stakeholders to identify key issues for their reports, supported the drafting of the civil society coalition report and led the UNCT reporting.

**Enhancing equality and countering discrimination**

- Increased use of protection mechanisms by women and groups vulnerable to discrimination, in particular persons with disabilities, members of religious minorities, migrants and LGBTI persons (EA 5)
In the context of the UPR in relation to Timor-Leste, persons with disabilities submitted an advocacy paper, in May, for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) to the Prime Minister, Parliament and the President. The HRA provided technical support during the drafting process that involved the NHRI and numerous organizations of persons with disabilities. The HRA also participated at a discussion, led by the NHRI, with officials of various government ministries, NGOs, development partners and UN agencies to follow up on the status of ratification of the CRPD. By the end of the year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had issued a position paper in favour of ratification.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- **Human rights, including women’s rights and gender equality, have been substantially integrated into law enforcement and defence trainings (EA 1)**
  To strengthen an existing human rights training programme for the police, the Provedoria dos Direitos Humanos e Justiça and the Police Training Centre signed a Memorandum of Understanding, in May. The objective was to strengthen the engagement of national police trainers, who had been trained in 2015 on how to use a human rights manual that had been drafted with the technical support of OHCHR and UNDP, with the team of the Provedoria and OHCHR when conducting training in Timor-Leste’s municipalities. During the year, four training sessions were conducted for 86 police officers (including 17 women), which included at least one police trainer as part of the training team. Progress was also made on a comprehensive human rights training programme for the military. A reference group composed of officials from the defence force, the Ministry of Defence, the Provedoria, civil society and the HRA was established to guide the process, in particular for the drafting of a human rights manual. An OHCHR-funded international consultant prepared a first draft that was based on extensive consultations with the command of the army, the Minister of Defence, defence officials and civil society. In November, the draft was presented to key stakeholders for comments.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- **A human rights-based approach is substantially integrated into the UNDAF (EA 11)**
  The HRA supported UN agencies in integrating human rights concepts and methods into their programming. For instance, the HRA provided the World Health Organization with technical advice on a programme related to climate change, detailed feedback on indicators in relation to UNDP’s Justice Support Programme and advice to the World Food Programme on how to integrate human rights into its internal accountability systems. It participated in a country assessment on sexual and reproductive health rights, led by the NHRI and supported by the United Nations Population Fund, and led the thematic group on gender-based violence. In addition, UN agencies increased their knowledge about the work of the UN human rights mechanisms through their participation in the UPR process and as a result of the HRA’s sharing of information about the recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms, including in relation to human rights defenders, persons with disabilities and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community.

Training for police officers on human rights and the prevention of torture conducted by the national human rights institution, the Police Training Centre and OHCHR in Timor-Leste, July 2016. © OHCHR/Timor-Leste
the private sector. The HRA suggested for several years that the Provedoria should revive the Council, which only met a few times more than five years ago.

- **Human rights, including women’s rights and gender equality, have been substantially integrated into educational curricula (EA 1)**

  At the request of the Ministry of Education, the HRA provided conceptual and methodological suggestions regarding draft lesson plans on solidarity, human rights and democracy for grades 5 and 6 in primary school. Most of the suggestions were included. It is expected that these new lesson plans will be in place in 2017.

- **Increased use of protection mechanisms by human rights defenders (EA 5)**

  Human rights defenders in Timor-Leste established a new network focused on protecting civil society space and human rights advocacy, which became operational in July. With the financial and technical support of OHCHR, the network began collecting data on violations against human rights defenders and issued its first press release in December. The press release was widely covered on national television, radio, newspapers and social media.

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

- **A human rights-based approach is substantially integrated into preparedness, response and recovery efforts of the UNCT (EA 11)**

  While the Clusters were not activated during the El Niño situation, the Protection Cluster, which was co-led by OHCHR and UNICEF, adopted its Terms of Reference and a Contingency Plan in March, both of which were drafted by the co-leads. The objective was to be sufficiently prepared in case of activation. These documents resulted from a process of regular consultations with members of the Cluster which started in 2015.

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**Training the youth in Timor-Leste**

It was the second day of human rights training at the Becora Youth Centre, facilitated by the Human Rights Adviser. The training was part of the Joint Response for Youth, an initiative of six UN agencies and led by the State Secretariat for Youth and Sports, to offer multi-sectoral information, skills and services to young people through activities. It was 29 June and the day began with a session on disability. A young girl shared her life story with the participants. The young people, who came from different schools in Becora or were out of school, listened as she talked about her challenges and her dream of travelling around the world, sending a strong message that disability did not define her or limit her ambitions. The second session was on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex (LGBTI) persons and featured a guest speaker, Rumiaty, a transgender woman from the Coalition for Diversity and Action (CODIVA). Rumiaty appeared to have some of the physical characteristics of a man and was wearing a daring red dress and dangling golden earrings. When she walked into the room, Ana (not her real name), one of the female participants thought, “could this be?” The session began with Rumiaty retelling her life story. She spoke about how she had felt growing up, what her parents and relatives had said and what it was like to wait until she was out of school to dress in a way that more accurately reflected how she identified herself. She provided information about the definitions of LGBTI, the work of her organization, CODIVA, and some of the challenges of being a transgender person in Timor-Leste. She then opened the floor to questions.

Ana was the first to raise her hand. “Were you born this way?” she asked. “Is that how you always were?” Patiently, Rumiaty and Amelia from the Human Rights Adviser’s Unit answered these and Ana’s other questions. And then, Ana stood up, came to the front, took the microphone and asked to tell her story. And there, in front of 25 of her peers, she confided that although she had been born a girl, she had never felt attracted to men. She similarly shared how she had felt growing up, what her parents had said and the pressure they were putting on her to get married to a man. She explained that she had gone to see a doctor with the hope of understanding why she felt different. “Are you sick?” he had asked. “No, Doctor, but my heart is sick,” she had answered. For all of these years, she had not understood what was happening her.

On this day, however, in this small training room in Becora, she exclaimed: “But now I know myself – and I want to stand up.” She was greeted by applause from her peers. When a fellow participant finally mentioned that he didn’t always know how to refer to transgender people, Amelia suggested, “Just call them by their names.”

Ana is now linked with the very few peers that are openly lesbian in Timor-Leste, including those who are working with CODIVA.
OHCHR in the field: Europe and Central Asia

Type of presence | Location
--- | ---
Special mission | Ukraine
Regional offices | Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan), Europe (Brussels, Belgium)
Human rights component in UN Peace Mission | Kosovo*
Human rights advisers/officers in United Nations Country Teams | Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, South Caucasus (based in Tbilisi, covering Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia), The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

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

OHCHR continued its engagement with the diverse region of Europe and Central Asia, which is composed of members of the European Union (EU) and its candidates and potential candidates, members of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe (CoE) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), as well as a number of disputed territories under the effective control of de facto authorities. OHCHR strengthened its country engagement from Geneva and through field presences, including the regional offices in Brussels (for Europe) and in Bishkek (for Central Asia), human rights advisers in the South Caucasus, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and the Human Rights Office in the United Nations Mission in Kosovo; national project staff in the Russian Federation (following the departure of the Senior Human Rights Adviser in May 2016); a national human rights officer-led team in the Republic of Moldova; and the Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU).

The Office continued to engage with United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) through regular dialogue, joint advocacy and joint activities in the context of Common Country Assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes, including in countries without an OHCHR presence (i.e., Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey and Uzbekistan). The Office further strengthened its cooperation with regional organizations, such as the CoE, EU and OSCE, and deepened its partnership with other UN agencies.

OHCHR supported the High Commissioner for Human Rights with his annual report to the Human Rights Council on the human rights situation in Cyprus. It also supported the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus. The findings...
of the HRMMU were released through four quarterly reports and a thematic report on the accountability for killings in Ukraine. They were presented to the Human Rights Council in March, June and December, followed by an interactive dialogue.

OHCHR continued to identify early warning signs of potential human rights violations and crises and to make and act on recommendations to address such situations, in particular in the context of the United Nations Human Rights up Front Initiative, as well as through public advocacy and direct engagement and communications with Member States. In response to the migration crisis in Europe, OHCHR deployed monitoring and advocacy missions to Bulgaria, France, Greece, Italy and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Moreover, the Office took action in relation to protracted conflicts in Europe, including by contributing to the 2016 Secretary-General’s report to the General Assembly on internally displaced persons.

In 2016, OHCHR supported visits undertaken by: the High Commissioner to Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, the Holy See, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland; the Deputy High Commissioner to Albania; and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. The Office also provided substantive inputs prior to the missions undertaken by the Secretary-General to Austria, the Baltic States, Central Asia, Greece, Finland, Italy, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Sweden and Switzerland.

### Special Mission

**Ukraine**

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure in 2016</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Results

**Strengthening international human rights mechanisms**

- **A National Human Rights Action Plan, deriving from the Human Rights Strategy for Ukraine developed in 2014, integrates recommendations from UN human rights mechanisms (EA 6)**

The National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) of Ukraine is expected to be reviewed and possibly amended in early 2017. Throughout 2016, the Human Rights Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (HRMMU) advocated for the update of the Action Plan by integrating recent recommendations issued by the United Nations human rights mechanisms as well as for the improvement of the indicators developed to assess its implementation. To support these efforts, the HRMMU collaborated with the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Association and the Ombudsperson’s Institution to co-organize a workshop on “Monitoring Instruments of National Human Rights Strategic Documents.” The event sought to contribute to the development of relevant indicators to measure the implementation of the NHRAP.

- **UNCT agencies provide input to the development of the National Human Rights Action Plan of Ukraine (EA 11)**

The HRMMU continued supporting a coordinated United Nations approach to issues related to the NHRAP and its implementation. It conducted a mapping of UN activities undertaken in support of the Government’s efforts to implement the Action Plan, which showed that UN agencies were often contributing to the implementation of the same activities without proper consultation and interaction. This finding led to a decision by the concerned agencies to hold targeted meetings to ensure that assistance is better coordinated and to prevent overlap. The HRMMU also updated the compendium of thematically clustered recommendations issued by UN human rights mechanisms in relation to Ukraine, which was first developed in 2014. This document, which was disseminated to UN agencies, NGOs and the Government, serves as an advocacy tool to raise awareness about the recommendations and as an instrument to monitor their implementation.
Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- **Torture prevention and accountability mechanisms are in place and functioning (EA 3)**
  The Mission documented over 300 cases related to the torture or ill-treatment of people in detention and ensured follow-up on these cases through meetings, trial monitoring or advocacy letters. While the direct impact of HRMMU’s interventions is difficult to measure, it is believed that they have contributed to the release from detention of at least 13 people who had been subjected to violations of their physical or mental integrity. The HRMMU also actively engaged with national stakeholders, including civil society, the Ombudsperson’s Institution and the Government, in activities aimed at preventing and countering torture and ill-treatment. As an example, the HRMMU, the Ombudsperson’s Office and an international NGO co-organized, in September, a workshop on “Documenting and investigating torture in Ukraine: Introduction of the Istanbul Protocol.” The event was held to support the Government’s efforts to fight impunity and strengthen accountability for human rights violations and gathered together representatives of medical departments of penitentiary institutions, forensic bureaus, the police, the Office of the Prosecutor General, the Security Service of Ukraine, the Ministries of Defence, Justice and Health, the judiciary, NGOs and international organizations. Participants discussed challenges and capacity gaps in documenting and investigating torture in Ukraine. The HRMMU also enhanced the capacity of local NGOs to document grave human rights violations by presenting the methodology and database used by the Mission at a workshop on “Documenting human rights violations and war crimes in the context of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine.”

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

- **Mechanisms and initiatives are adopted to increase human rights protection in contexts of conflict, violence and insecurity (EA 3)**
  The HRMMU attended more than 100 meetings with Government representatives in the capital and the regions of Ukraine and took part in four parliamentary hearings dedicated to various aspects of the human rights situation in the conflict area. The HRMMU outlined human rights issues in territories controlled by the armed groups and problems affecting internally displaced persons. It also stressed...
that even in a context where the State does not exercise effective control over parts of its territory, it remains obliged to use all legal and diplomatic means to ensure the protection of the rights of the population residing in those areas. The HRMMU further emphasized, through legal briefs, reports and oral interventions, the impact of the 2015 Government’s decisions to derogate from international obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights in relation to Government-controlled territories. As a result, two parliamentary committees announced, in October, the creation of a working group which will discuss the derogation issue. In addition, in an analytical note addressed to two parliamentary committees and three ministries, the HRMMU cautioned against the adoption of a draft law “on the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine” which would create protection concerns, including a legal vacuum for people living in territories not controlled by the Government. As of the end of 2016, the draft law had not been adopted.

- Increased responsiveness of the international community to potential, emerging or existing human rights crisis situations, with human rights protection as an integral element of this response (EA 10)

The HRMMU continued to raise the awareness of the international community and local actors about the human rights situation in Ukraine through four public reports and one thematic report on accountability for killings, which contain facts, analyses and recommendations about conflict-related violations. HRMMU’s monitoring and findings in June and July led to a statement by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, on 2 August, calling on all parties to the conflict to prioritize the protection of civilians and take urgent steps to de-escalate the tense situation. The HRMMU also made daily contributions to the United Nations Operations and Crisis Centre, enabling the wide dissemination of information relating to human rights developments in Ukraine. The HRMMU worked to ensure that human rights concerns, including those arising from the situation in the east, were reflected in the plans, programmes and activities of other UN agencies. Specifically, in the context of the development of the 2018-2022 United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Ukraine, it contributed to the country analysis by drafting a section on “Ukraine and human rights” and reviewing other parts of the report to ensure that the description of the national development context reflected a human rights-based approach. It also contributed to the development of Ukraine’s 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan and ensured the inclusion of a provision explicitly outlining the need for human rights monitoring as part of the humanitarian response.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Ukraine: Expenditure in 2016</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regular budget expenditure in US$</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Personnel and related costs</td>
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<td>Activities and operating costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programme support costs</td>
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<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
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</table>

### Regional Offices

#### Regional Office for Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Year established</strong></th>
<th>2008</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Staff as of 31 December 2016</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditure in 2016</strong></td>
<td>US$1,020,664</td>
</tr>
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#### Results

- **Strengthening international human rights mechanisms**
  - Recommendations from all international human rights mechanisms related to, inter alia, the administration of justice and the right to adequate housing implemented in Kazakhstan (EA 6)
    - The Government of Kazakhstan drafted a plan of action to follow up on human rights recommendations, including those stemming from the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the Human Rights Committee. The Regional Office has communicated its views on the draft and will continue advocating for a more comprehensive plan, in line with human rights standards.
  - Establishment and/or fully functioning participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (EA 6)
    - In Kyrgyzstan, OHCHR continued to support the Coordination Council for Human Rights, which acts as a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up, in drafting a National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP). In this respect, technical support was provided to the Working Group on the NHRAP.
through regular meetings and an organized retreat. Since the relocation of the Working Group under the Government’s Office, however, its engagement with OHCHR has decreased and the Office will attempt to rebuild its relationship in 2017. In Tajikistan, OHCHR continued to advocate for the strengthening of the Commission on the Implementation of International Obligations in the Field of Human Rights, an inter-agency mechanism set up under the auspices of the Government of Tajikistan, to function as a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up. With OHCHR’s support, the Government has made considerable efforts to improve the operations of the mechanism, including by: reviewing its regulations to expand the role of civil society; enhancing the mechanism’s functions on monitoring and follow-up with the appointment of human rights focal points at the ministerial and municipal levels; launching and regularly updating the Commission’s website; and hosting public consultations with civil society organizations.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- **Criminal justice legislative and policy frameworks, including in relation to past human rights violations, significantly improve their compliance with international human rights standards in Kyrgyzstan (EA 1)**
  The Regional Office supported the Kyrgyz Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Legislation, State Structure, Judicial and Legal Issues and Regulations during the legislative review of the Criminal Procedure Code. The Office provided human rights language and technical advice and its recommendations were reflected in the final draft of the Criminal Procedure Code.

- **Human rights training institutionalized for judges and prosecutors in Kyrgyzstan (EA 1)**
  OHCHR continued to provide comprehensive capacity-building to the Judicial Training Centre and the Training Centre for Prosecutors. In total, the Regional Office trained 66 newly appointed judges on international human rights standards and the Istanbul Protocol, as well as 55 prosecutors on the role of the Prosecutor’s Office in ensuring the effective investigation of torture, sexual and gender-based violence in Kyrgyzstan. The Office further contributed to the institutionalization of the training of prosecutors by developing a human rights manual.

- **National Preventive Mechanisms against torture as provided for under OP-CAT are fully functioning in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (EA 3)**
  In Kazakhstan, the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) improved its ability to operate in line with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT) as a result of capacity-building activities facilitated by the Regional Office. The NPM has nevertheless had limited access to health facilities. Following OHCHR’s advocacy to align national legislation with OP-CAT, Parliament took steps to initiate amendments to legislation that would enable the NPM to cover all places of deprivation of liberty. In Kyrgyzstan, partly as a consequence of advocacy undertaken by the Regional Office and other actors, regressive amendments to the NPM law were successfully halted. The Office also continued to strengthen the capacity of the National Centre for Prevention of Torture through targeted activities, which included support for the organization of meetings, the presentation of annual and monitoring reports and the revision of its structure, processes and strategic plans.

**Widening the democratic space**

- **Legislative and policy frameworks increasingly preserve and guarantee democratic space in Kyrgyzstan (EA 1)**
  Legislation that could have represented an important regression in terms of human rights achievements has been successfully challenged, due in part to advocacy efforts of OHCHR and civil society. Among others, an anti-LGBTI legislative initiative has been stalled and an initiative restricting financing of foreign donors was rejected at its last reading by the Parliament.

- **Strengthened and meaningful participation of rights-holders, in particular minorities, in selected processes, predominantly those related to housing, land and property rights in Kyrgyzstan (EA 5)**
  Following a national conference on increasing the participation of ethnic minorities in State structures that was facilitated by OHCHR in 2015, the Office...
and the State Personnel Agency implemented five measures to contribute to opening spaces for ethnic minorities. One of the measures focused on drafting supplementary regulations to the new draft Civil Service Law, which includes provisions on human rights, equality and non-discrimination in terms of access to civil service. With support from OHCHR, the National Commission for the State Language, developed training materials in the Kyrgyz language for civil servants in order to enhance the participation of minorities in political life. Civil servants who do not yet speak the Kyrgyz language are required by law to be fluent by 2020. The National Commission has already delivered free classes for 511 civil servants, including 212 individuals who were from ethnic minority communities.

### Multicultural education in Kyrgyzstan

The Regional Office for Central Asia (ROCA) initiated the introduction of a course on multicultural education in three pilot universities with the aim of increasing youth awareness about human rights and particularly minority rights. The multicultural education course covers the topics of minority rights, tolerance, respect for diversity and effective communication skills and is based on interactive methods of teaching. Within the framework of this initiative, ROCA conducted trainings for the professors of Batken, Jalalabad and Osh State Universities, who then conducted follow-up classes on multicultural education for the students of the respective universities to determine the effectiveness of the course.

ROCA also supported an expert to conduct consultations and on-the-job mentoring with instructors from Jalalabad and Batken State Universities during the university semester to improve the skills of professors in delivering the course. During the consultations, around 150 students, half of which took the course for one semester, filled in a questionnaire that was prepared by ROCA to measure the impact of the course on the students through their understanding of minority rights, diversity and tolerance in comparison with students who had not taken the course. The results showed that students who had attended the course showed more tolerance than those who had not attended it. Furthermore, the students who attended the course noted that they had started to make friends with minorities; stopped perceiving minorities negatively; shared the knowledge they had gained during the course with peers and parents and indicated that the course had helped them to overcome ethnic stereotypes.

Based on the results of the pilot semester, ROCA developed a more comprehensive teaching manual to provide theoretical knowledge that would enable university teachers and students to address issues related to cultural diversity, tolerance and the rights of minorities. In addition to the manual, CDs were produced with supplementary reading materials, including the international human rights instruments. The manual is available in the Russian and Kyrgyz languages.

As a result of this initiative, Batken and Jalalabad State Universities introduced the multicultural education course as an elective option in the 2016 academic year and Osh State University began piloting the course in the 2016-2017 academic year.

In addition, three resource centres on multicultural and multilingual education were established at the respective universities. The centres will address activities such as awareness-raising through the dissemination of information about human rights; promoting intercultural dialogue between professors, school teachers and students and their parents; providing consultative support to professors about interactive methods of conducting classes on multicultural education and trainings for interested parties; monitoring and evaluating the results of the course on multicultural education; initiating research on topics related to diversity, ethnic relations, human rights and other issues; and providing logistical and administrative support for students that are organizing different cultural events, including festivals, contests, open days and debates.

OHCHR provided the centres with publications on human rights, including minority rights, as well as other documents. The manuals on multicultural education in the Kyrgyz and Russian languages will be also available in these centres.

### Regional Office for Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan): Expenditure in 2016

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<thead>
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<th>Regular budget expenditure in US$</th>
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<td><strong>366,167</strong></td>
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</table>
Regional Office for Europe (Brussels, Belgium)

Year established: 2009
Staff as of 31 December 2016: 6
Expenditure in 2016: US$1,272,795

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- Increased use of United Nations human rights mechanisms and bodies by diverse rights-holders (especially Roma and migrants), NHRRs and civil society organizations acting on their behalf in at least three States in the region (EA 7)

OHCHR strengthened its engagement with regional national human rights institutions and civil society organizations on human rights challenges related to, for instance, the rule of law and counter-terrorism. The Office collaborated with key civil society organizations in its advocacy efforts undertaken at the European Parliament regarding troubling elements in the draft European Union (EU) Counter-Terrorism Directive.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- NHRRs and equality bodies take concrete measures to address discrimination issues; increase direct participation of rights-holders from groups at risk (especially Roma and migrants) and involve civil society organizations representing these groups in their activities in at least two States in the region (EA 5)

Through its advocacy, the Regional Office persuaded the European Commission to block the Czech Government’s intention to use EU Structural and Investment Funds to build and renovate segregated care institutions for persons with disabilities, in violation of article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). In April, the European Commission communicated to the Czech Government that this action was not eligible for EU funding and, in July, the Czech Government revised the call for applications. Furthermore, OHCHR provided inputs to the “Opinion of the European Fundamental Rights Agency concerning the requirements under article 33(2) of the CRPD.” The Opinion was included in the report prepared by the European Parliament Committee on Employment and Social Affairs entitled “Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with special regard to the Concluding Observations of the UN CRPD Committee” which aims to support the EU’s follow-up to the CRPD Committee’s Concluding Observations on the initial report of the European Union.

- Increased integration of human rights of migrants in international and regional processes relevant to migration (EA 10)

The Regional Office undertook substantial efforts to provide evidence-based guidance on international standards relevant to migrants within a regional political context that is increasingly security-driven and more focused on deterrence and detention than protection. The Office was increasingly called upon by duty-bearers and rights-holders to provide input and guidance on the human rights of migrants. It also participated in four OHCHR migration monitoring missions to assess the situation on the ground, which enabled the Regional Office to strengthen its advocacy messaging for human rights-based governance measures at the regional and member state level. In addition, the Regional Office spearheaded efforts to establish a coordination mechanism between relevant actors on immigration in Brussels to avoid overlap and in order to capitalize on existing resources. A first coordination meeting was held in May to brainstorm on areas of coordination. Efforts to set up a coordination mechanism will continue in 2017.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- Increased participation of rights-holders and CSOs which represent them, in the design and monitoring of public policies in the region, particularly: EU development policies; public policies and budget processes affecting socially excluded ethnic groups (Roma and Travellers) in at least three States of
the region; public policies dealing with the right to independent living of persons with disabilities and family or family-type care of children in at least five States of the region (EA 5).

In its engagement with EU institutions, the Regional Office consistently advocated for the integration of a human rights-based approach (HRBA) in the strategies and plans of the institutions, including the EU’s new Development Strategy, by being involved at relevant briefings in Brussels or promoting the participation of OHCHR colleagues at HRBA trainings organized by the EU in the field.

### Regional Office for Europe (Brussels, Belgium): Expenditure in 2016

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### Human Rights Section in UN Peace Mission

**Kosovo***

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Stand-alone office closed in 2015 and was replaced by a Human Rights Section within the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Staff as of 31 December 2016</strong></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Results

**Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law**

- A transitional justice strategy that conforms to international human rights standards is adopted and being implemented (EA 3)

  The Interministerial Working Group on Dealing with the Past and Reconciliation did not finalize the planned consultations with stakeholders and did not develop a transitional justice strategy. Over the past two years, OHCHR supported the transitional justice process by facilitating training sessions for the Working Group, providing inputs to two documents prepared by the United Nations Mission in Kosovo which contain analyses and recommendations for the integration of relevant actors of northern Kosovo*, and contributing to two NGO-drafted policy documents, which include recommendations for the protection of communities’ rights. These documents will serve to inform the transitional justice strategy.

**Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere**


  OHCHR contributed to the implementation of the new United Nations Kosovo Team (UNKT) Common Development Plan 2016-2020, which fully integrates a human rights-based approach and addresses various strategic priority areas, including governance and the rule of law. OHCHR also contributed to the implementation of UNKT activities related to the promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals and had an active role in the Gender Thematic Group.

**Widening the democratic space**

- Increased level of meaningful participation of women in selected public processes, notably those relating to sexual and gender-based violence (EA 5)

  There was a considerable increase in the participation of women in public processes related to sexual and gender-based violence, partially as a result of OHCHR’s advocacy and interventions implemented as a member of the UN Joint Programme on Gender-Based Violence. The Office also undertook awareness-raising on gender-based violence by producing and broadcasting more than 80 thematic radio and TV programmes in cooperation with local radio and television stations, contributing to an increase in the reporting of gender-based violence cases to police by 40 per cent in 2016. Furthermore, through its partnership with local NGOs, OHCHR supported the establishment of integrated psychosocial services for survivors of gender-based violence, including psychological counselling, psychotherapy and trauma therapy for women and children. Support was provided to more than 200 beneficiaries in 2016. Survivors have had access to free legal aid and economic reintegration programmes since OHCHR took over the local centre for prevention and the protection of women from violence. OHCHR also advocated for the shelter for gender-based violence survivors in North Mitrovica. As a result, the Municipality provided premises for the shelter and OHCHR provided funds for furniture, equipment and training.
Addressing gender-based violence in Kosovo*

Analysis done by a number of UN agencies, including OHCHR, showed that there was a serious gap between the number of cases of gender-based violence reported to the police in northern Kosovo* (43 in 2014) and the findings of studies that were conducted by civil society organizations according to which one in every four women from the area had experienced some form of gender-based violence. In addition, the post-conflict environment and the extremely complex political situation, which includes weak rule of law institutions, exacerbate the problem and lead women to be reluctant to report violence in the absence of adequate institutional protection and referral mechanisms.

To address this issue, OHCHR decided to partner with local media and institutions, NGOs and international organizations to raise awareness about gender-based violence and challenge negative social norms and attitudes associated with gender inequality. One of the activities focused on the production and broadcast of more than 80 thematic radio and TV programmes and documentaries aimed at sensitizing the general public. This was complemented by panel discussions and round-tables on women’s rights and gender equality, as well as events involving women, children and youth that were organized on various occasions, including International Women’s Day, International Day of Rural Women, International Children’s Day and International Day of Persons with Disabilities. OHCHR contributed also to establishing a Violence Reporters’ Network, in partnership with local NGOs, school parliaments and centres for social welfare, with the aim of further alleviating the gap between the prevalence of gender-based violence in northern Kosovo* and official statistics of cases that have been reported to police. The Network has already begun reporting cases to the centre for social welfare and the police.

Through partnerships with local NGOs, OHCHR further ensured the availability of key support services for survivors, including psychosocial counselling and psychotherapeutic services, legal aid and access to economic empowerment programmes, benefiting more than 200 women in 2016. Furthermore, after a successful advocacy initiative that was led by OHCHR, the municipality of North Mitrovica allocated premises to be used as a shelter for survivors of gender-based violence. OHCHR provided the necessary equipment and furniture and organized capacity-building training for staff members.

According to statistics released by the Kosovo* police, reporting of gender-based violence and domestic violence cases in northern Kosovo* increased by more than 40 per cent in 2016. It is believed that this increase can be largely attributed to the awareness-raising and communication activities that were implemented by OHCHR in addition to the creation of the Violence Reporters’ Network and the establishment and functioning of key protection and reintegration services for survivors.

Human Rights Advisers/Officers in United Nations Country Teams

Republic of Moldova

Year established 2008
Staff as of 31 December 2016 2

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- Women and others from marginalized or vulnerable groups, including Roma, persons with disabilities, older women or persons from the Transnistrian region, make effective use of the individual communications procedures of CEDAW, the two Covenants and ICERD (EA 7)

With the support of OHCHR, five individual complaints were submitted to the treaty bodies, including two under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and three

**UNCT increasingly engages with international human rights mechanisms (EA 11)**
With the technical support of OHCHR, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) prepared submissions under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and in anticipation of the second cycle UPR of the Republic of Moldova. OHCHR also advocated for the inclusion of a human rights-based approach in the new 2018-2022 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). As a result, the current draft of the new UNDAF is significantly more rights-based than previous drafts.

**Enhancing equality and countering discrimination**

- **Regulations and official scenarios (such as Pride events or segregated school districts) brought substantially into compliance with non-/anti-discrimination international law and standards (EA 4)**
  With advice from OHCHR, the amended Criminal Code and Contravention Code of the Republic of Moldova, including provisions on hate crimes, were submitted to Parliament for adoption. New public policies on the rights of persons with disabilities, most notably on disability determination, deinstitutionalization, legal capacity and community-based social services, were also developed. OHCHR supported these initiatives by undertaking a mapping of needed reforms and developing studies on a disability determination system and the provision of community-based social services for persons with disabilities. Moreover, national stakeholders developed a new National Human Rights Action Plan, which includes recommendations from the human rights mechanisms, with technical advice from OHCHR, in particular through a study on the effectiveness of existing national human rights policies and mechanisms. Further, support was provided by OHCHR for the development of the first Action Plan on the Development of the Republic of Moldova’s Roma Community Mediators.

**Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law**

- **Increased number of remedy decisions and decisions in discrimination cases in compliance with international law (EA 1)**
  By the end of 2016, the Equality Council, with assistance from OHCHR, had reached decisions on approximately 300 cases, finding grounds of discrimination in nearly half of these cases. OHCHR carried out an analysis of a selected set of decisions issued by the Equality Council and provided recommendations for the amendment of relevant legislative framework and the institutional strengthening of the Council. In addition, the Moldovan Constitutional Court struck down national legislation that prevented persons with disabilities deprived of their legal capacity to challenge that status, due in part to OHCHR’s submission of an amicus curiae.

### Russian Federation

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### Results

#### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- **Increased implementation of recommendations issued by treaty bodies, special procedures and the Human Rights Council relating to human rights institutions, judicial reform, human rights training for law enforcement officials, the rights of children and the rights of women (EA 6)**
  Thirteen senior Russian civil servants from various line ministries attended a human rights orientation programme at OHCHR in Geneva. The programme plays a critical role in assisting relevant ministries and State institutions to coordinate their reporting to the human rights mechanisms.

#### Widening the democratic space

- **A multidisciplinary Human Rights Programme has been integrated into formal higher education and institutionalized in several regions (EA 1)**
  In 2016, nine full-fledged Human Rights Master Programmes were established in five regions of the Russian Federation and 152 students were registered. The curricula of the Master Programmes were enhanced through the development of courses on business and human rights and the implementation of international human rights norms and standards in the practice of Russian courts. OHCHR provided expert advice for the development of the training materials. To further strengthen inter-university collaboration, four regional Resource Centres were established with technical assistance from OHCHR. OHCHR also supported the IV Summer School on Human Rights, held at the Voronezh State University, where over 130 graduate students from 25 Russian universities had the opportunity to interact with 35 human rights experts and practitioners and international guest lecturers from 10 countries.
Serbia

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Results

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- **Legislation, policies and practices increasingly comply with anti-discrimination and equality standards (EA 4)**

Serbia adopted a new Roma Inclusion Strategy for the period 2016-2025, covering housing, health, employment, education and social protection. The HRA provided expert advice on a human rights-based approach and worked regularly with civil society actors engaged on the design of the Strategy. A new Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence was adopted in November, while a Law on Housing was adopted in December. OHCHR provided the Government with extensive comments on multiple drafts of the law, aiming to enhance its compliance with human rights standards. Legal provisions on human rights in the context of resettlement were included in the draft, with a particular focus on social inclusion measures such as inclusion in mainstream schooling and support for access to the labour market. Inputs were also provided to amend Criminal Code provisions related to “copulation with a helpless person”, as recommended by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. OHCHR also worked closely with the University of Nis to support the re-establishment of an anti-discrimination legal clinic at the University. As a result of this work, 35 law students began to provide legal assistance on discrimination matters under the tutelage of six law professors.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- **The UNDAF and half of UN programmes and projects fully conform to the human rights-based approach and incorporate recommendations from human rights mechanisms (EA 11)**

In May, a provisional United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2016-2020 document was signed by the interim Government. The provisional UNDAF includes a number of key human rights targets and prioritizes vulnerable groups, including Roma and persons with disabilities. Following the formation of the Government in August, discussions were held to finalize the full UNDAF.

Dancers perform at the event “Supporting cultures of diversity for human rights in Serbia” organized by OHCHR. © OHCHR/Serbia

Migrants at the border between Hungary and Serbia. © OHCHR/Serbia
Bojan: Coming back from social death

Bojan is in his thirties. For the last several years, he has lived in a closed institution, in Tešica, in the very south of Serbia. Bojan was diagnosed with schizophrenia and based on that diagnosis, he was deprived of his legal capacity. Due to changes that were made to the Law on Non-Contentious Proceedings, in 2015, it was determined that every prior decision which had been taken to deprive a person of her/his legal capacity had to be reviewed. This also applied to Bojan. The legal consequences of being deprived of one’s legal capacity in Serbia leads to a state which can be described as “a social death.” In this situation, an individual is stripped of almost all of their fundamental human rights, such as their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Individuals without legal capacity cannot vote or run for public office, conclude a work contract, marry or divorce, accept or refuse medication, own or manage property or conclude any other basic legal or social act. The deprivation of an individual’s legal capacity takes away their voice, choice and autonomy and reduces that person to being an object of law, rather than a subject of law and a rights-holder.

During these proceedings, the Basic Court and the court experts shared the view that, in accordance with Bojan’s diagnosis, there was no need to change the decision, to hear or meet with him in order to undertake a new evaluation of his case or to restore his legal capacity. As a result, the deprivation of his legal capacity was declared to be valid for three more years.

Bojan remembered that he had met experts from an OHCHR partner organization called the Mental Disability Rights Initiative (MDRI-S), which works on the rights of persons with mental disabilities in Serbia. The experts had undertaken a visit to the institution where he was living in the context of their role as a National Preventive Mechanism against torture. In recent years, OHCHR worked jointly with MDRI-S in a strategic partnership of concerted efforts that aimed at advancing Serbia’s compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Some of these activities included the education of judges, practitioners and decision-makers on compliance with the CRPD principles and provisions, initiating actions that focused on supporting community-based services that facilitated the participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making as well as other important activities in the field of disability rights and CRPD implementation. Bojan contacted MDRI-S and they immediately agreed to take his case. Their lawyer submitted a complaint to the Higher Court in the City of Pozarevac on the basis that the Court had breached procedural and material standards in deciding on someone’s legal capacity, which in Serbia, results in the stripping of an individual’s fundamental human rights and freedoms.

The complaint was successful. Not only did the complaint lead to the overturning of the lower court’s decision, a new proceeding was held in the Basic Court and provisions from the CRPD were expressly cited for the first time in Serbian jurisprudence. The Higher Court’s decision called for a new evaluation, the selection of new experts and full compliance with the provisions of the CRPD, especially article 12.

The judge that overruled the original decision to deprive Bojan of his legal capacity, voice and basic human rights had undergone intense trainings on the universality of legal capacity that had been provided by OHCHR and MDRI-S over the past several years. The activity of educating judges and other practitioners about legal capacity cases in line with article 12 of CRPD has been attended by over 70 judges and 20 lawyers throughout Serbia. As a result of these and other efforts, Guidelines for Judges in Legal Capacity Cases have been recently published, and individuals like Bojan have new hope for the future. Bojan is hoping to have his legal capacity finally restored, leave the institution and open a small candle shop.

In addition to supporting efforts on implementing article 12 of CRPD in the work of the Serbian judiciary, OHCHR has been extensively involved in the development of the draft National Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2016-2020 and its Action Plan. The Office has provided support to State bodies, UN agencies and CSOs working in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities and the implementation of and compliance with CRPD. It has also supported other initiatives aimed at bringing the CRPD standards to life in the local community.

These efforts will continue in 2017 with the drafting of specific road maps for the implementation of the CRPD Committee’s recommendations in relation to Serbia (2016), including through support for the implementation of the new National Strategy, the training of judges on direct implementation of international human rights norms, the establishment and strengthening of partnerships with relevant CSOs focusing on the implementation and mainstreaming of the CRPD provisions, as well as dedicating specific attention to cross-cutting issues of multiple discrimination against persons with disabilities belonging to national and sexual minority groups. The implementation of article 12 on the right to legal capacity will remain one of OHCHR’s priorities, especially with regard to legal reform and the adoption of new laws and policies.
South Caucasus (based in Tbilisi, covering Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia)

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Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- Fully functioning participatory standing national coordinating bodies are in place for reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all integrated human rights mechanisms in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (EA 6)

Following various advocacy and capacity-building activities that were facilitated by the Human Rights Adviser (HRA), Georgia’s Parliament introduced amendments in its internal charter to strengthen its role in the oversight of the implementation by Georgia of United Nations and Council of Europe human rights conventions and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations. According to the amendments, the Parliament will periodically consider the status of implementation of Georgia’s international human rights obligations and the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP). The HRA has further translated into Georgian the report by the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment following his 2015 visit to the country, the draft report of the Working Group on the UPR and the guidance document on the implementation of and follow up to the UN Human Rights Committee’s Concluding Observations. The documents will be used by governmental institutions that are engaged in the implementation of the NHRAP. In Azerbaijan, OHCHR provided support to the UN Working Group on arbitrary detention during its official visit. The Office also supported the official visit of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, who met with authorities, judges, human rights defenders and diplomats while in the country.

International human rights standards and recommendations of international human rights mechanisms are partially integrated into UN common country programmes in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (EA 11)

In the process of the preparation of the United Nations Assistance Partnership Framework (UNAPF) for Azerbaijan, OHCHR encouraged the United Nations Country Team to include the recommendations issued by international human rights mechanisms in relation to Azerbaijan and proposed formulations for their inclusion. The UNAPF, signed in July, included some of these recommendations. In Georgia, the recommendations of the mechanisms have been substantially integrated into the UN Partnership for Sustainable Development. Furthermore, a joint UN programme is being implemented by four agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, OHCHR, ILO) to support the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- Institutions in the justice sector show significant improvement in their compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)

Following a workshop organized by OHCHR in Georgia, in May, for Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and Civil Integration, consensus was achieved on draft amendments to several pieces of legislation in order to bring them in line with the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and other international instruments. Furthermore, in June, OHCHR assisted the Working Group of the Parliamentary Committee to present a report outlining recommendations to prevent torture and inhuman treatment and provided comments to ensure that the recommendations were in line with international standards. The recommended amendments were adopted by the Parliament at the end of the year.

Widening the democratic space

- Training programmes on human rights institutionalized in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (EA 1)

Training on international human rights standards is now institutionalized in the High School of Justice of Georgia, the Georgian Bar Association, and at
Building the capacity of the Georgian Bar Association

When a number of Georgian defence lawyers established an independent Georgian Bar Association (GBA) in 2005, the future of the organization looked far from promising. Georgia had no traditions or experiences related to an independent Bar, the Government was ambivalent, foreign donors were concentrating on providing assistance to judges and prosecutors and nearly everyone was overlooking the important role of defence lawyers in ensuring the right to a fair trial.

OHCHR was one of the first international actors to become engaged in building the capacity of the GBA by offering training sessions on international human rights standards and developing a system of continuing education for the defence lawyers.

The GBA faced many challenges in the first five years of its existence. The Government’s penal policy became more stringent and judges frequently neglected the equality of arms principle and ruled in favour of the prosecution. Acquittals became increasingly rare. The outspoken advocacy undertaken by the leadership of the GBA led to rumours that the Government was planning to create an alternative Bar. Defence lawyers were often sued by dissatisfied clients and were subsequently sentenced to prison terms. During its 2011 visit to Georgia, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention reported that “an estimated 111 lawyers were in the prison system and had been convicted of a number of offences, mostly economic-related.” OHCHR continued to work on building the capacity of the GBA and believed that its involvement provided modest protection for the independence of lawyers.

After the 2012 elections, the change of government led to a reversal of fortune for the GBA. Pressure on the Association subsided and it was able to further develop its capacity in a systematic manner. Taking into consideration the high demand for trainings and the positive feedback received from participants, the GBA certified OHCHR’s trainings as one of the continuing education courses required for all practicing lawyers. In 2016, the GBA received a grant from the President’s reserve fund for the refurbishment of its training which will make it easier to conduct training activities. Over the year, OHCHR conducted 16 training workshops that were attended by 414 defence lawyers. The trainings took place in the capital city and in various regions in Georgia. This cooperation will continue in 2017 and will include a greater emphasis on the regions.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

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Results

**Strengthening international human rights mechanisms**

- Government coordination body for integrated reporting and/or implementation of outstanding recommendations is functioning in line with effective, transparent and participatory operating modalities (EA 6)

The Expert Working Group of the national mechanism for reporting and follow-up developed a matrix, which clustered all of the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, and began drafting an integrated implementation plan. To facilitate the State reporting efforts, the Working Group designed a tool to collect the inputs of stakeholders which was used for the preparation of the State’s periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, due in March 2017. Since 2015, the Human Rights Adviser (HRA) has contributed to increasing the coordinating capacity of the Working Group through workshops.

the National Human Rights Institute of the Free University. The HRA has begun working with the Police Academy of Georgia, with the aim of institutionalizing human rights training, and has supported the development by the board of the High School of Justice and the Georgian Bar Association of curricula on freedom of expression, prevention of torture and combating all forms of discrimination, including on the basis of gender. Curricula are also being developed for these two institutions in the areas of the right to a private life and the right to freedom of peaceful assembly. The Free University has conducted regular winter and summer schools on human rights as well as a week-long training on the UN human rights system, with the support of the HRA. Following the example of the Free University, other universities co-organized a Human Rights Week in December, which featured lectures by and discussions with prominent human rights lawyers and civil society leaders.
Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- Legislation, policies and practices increasingly comply with anti-discrimination and equality standards (EA 4)

Following years of advocacy and capacity-building efforts undertaken by OHCHR and a number of international, regional and national civil society actors, the Government adopted a new strategy on addressing discrimination (2016-2020), in January, that prioritized the alignment of the 2010 Anti-Discrimination Law and other relevant national legislation with international standards. The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy led the drafting of a revised law and established a drafting group with the participation of the Government, civil society, academia and the UN. The text was completed in early November but could not be finalized before the end of the year due to the election period. The HRA contributed technical advice and inputs on relevant international standards.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- The new UNDAF and respective UN programmes incorporate and support the implementation of recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms (EA 11)

The final text of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2016-2020, signed by the Government in October, addresses the main human rights concerns raised by the international human rights mechanisms. The strategies in all five UNDAF results areas focus on the improved provision of disaggregated data, the participation of rights-holders in the design and implementation of decisions affecting their lives, reducing inequalities, improving accountability and other interventions as recommended by the mechanisms. To ensure that human rights are mainstreamed across the UNDAF, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) appointed the HRA as a member of the five results groups that are supporting the implementation of the UNDAF. The UNCT also decided to maintain its Human Rights and Gender Thematic Group.

The HRA further contributed to this result by preparing analytical summaries of the observations and recommendations issued by the mechanisms that are relevant under each of the five UNDAF results areas. The analytical summary of the recommendations relating to gender equality enabled the UNDAF Results Group on Gender Equality conceptualize four possible UN joint projects that are focused on the follow-up to the recommendations.
OHCHR in the field: Middle East and North Africa

While some countries of the Middle East and North Africa region continued to experience extreme violence and violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, others have taken positive steps towards the realization of their international human rights obligations. In 2016, many trends and concerns exhibited a regional dimension, for example, in relation to the impact of cross-border movements of fighters and weapons, the impact on regional dynamics and tensions across the region, the movement of people fleeing conflict to neighbouring countries and further afield and the activities of non-State armed groups.

In close coordination with relevant national, regional and international stakeholders, OHCHR sought to address emerging needs emanating from social, economic, civil and political developments and the ongoing and emerging armed conflicts across the region. With regard to the conflicts in Iraq, Syria and Yemen, OHCHR took steps to strengthen its field presences and existing mechanisms to ensure its monitoring and reporting mandate was properly discharged. Moreover, OHCHR supported the follow-up to Human Rights Council resolutions, including requests that the High Commissioner deploy a mission to address the situation in Yemen and extend support to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 and to the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

Throughout 2016, the High Commissioner for Human Rights strongly advocated for accountability and the protection of civilians in the region. He also called for an end to the escalation of violence through numerous press releases and briefings to the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council. In addition, during the Deputy High Commissioner’s visit to Iraq, a clear message was conveyed regarding...
In 2016, despite the ongoing lack of access to the country, OHCHR continued to monitor and report on violations and abuses of international human rights law (IHRL) and international humanitarian law (IHL) by all parties to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic. It provided advice on human rights and IHL to partners, expanded its capacity-building activities and increased its advocacy efforts through its consolidated OHCHR Syria Team, which is deployed in four different locations, namely, Beirut, Gaziantep, Amman and Geneva.

Three human rights advisers (HRAs) were deployed to Beirut (pending access to Damascus), Amman and Gaziantep, respectively, to continue supporting the United Nations humanitarian leadership for the Syrian crisis, including the Humanitarian Coordinator (in Damascus), the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator (in Amman) and the Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator (in Gaziantep). The HRAs worked to enhance the integration and mainstreaming of human rights into the overall humanitarian response and the work of the United Nations Country Teams in Syria and in the region. To this end, the HRAs provided inputs to the 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan produced and coordinated by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and contributed to advocacy efforts conducted by the humanitarian leadership on Syria.


The documentation, analysis and reporting on the human rights situation in Syria that is produced by the OHCHR Syria Team was a key source of information for OHCHR’s advocacy, including in numerous speeches and press statements that were delivered by the High Commissioner, the Deputy High Commissioner and other senior United Nations officials. Since October 2015, OHCHR has produced an internal United Nations monthly Human Rights Digest, which is intended as an early warning tool that highlights current and potential human rights concerns in Syria.

A variety of legal notes were produced on different topics to guide the UN’s analysis and response in Syria. The legal notes included “Indiscriminate attacks and indiscriminate weapons in international humanitarian law” (March 2016), “Attacks on medical units in international humanitarian law and human rights law” (September 2016), “Transfer of the civilian population in international law” (January 2017) and “International humanitarian law and human rights law relevant to siege warfare” (January 2017).

In September, OHCHR supported the visit to Geneva of representatives from the Health Cluster in Gaziantep, including the Syrian American Medical Society, as well as Physicians for Human Rights, to attend a series of advocacy activities around the issue of attacks against medical facilities and health workers in Syria. The delegation participated in a side event entitled “The prevention of child mortality and human rights: An unfinished agenda.” The delegation also interacted with the media and briefed Member States at a high-level meeting on humanitarian challenges in Syria.

Also in 2016, the OHCHR Syria Team expanded its capacity-building activities on IHRL and IHL to strengthen the evidence-based advocacy and operational responses of its humanitarian partners.

OHCHR provided support to civil society actors, including women’s groups and human rights defenders, in order to increase their understanding of thematic issues, such as accountability, gender-based violence and the rights of minorities and to enhance their capacity to monitor and report on violations and abuses of IHRL and IHL. In 2016, OHCHR stepped up its role as a facilitator in supporting consultations with civil society on options for transitional justice/dealing with the past in the Syrian context. OHCHR also contributed to discussions on addressing the issue of enforced disappearances and the missing in Syria.

In September, the Human Rights Council decided to convene a high-level panel on the human rights situation in Syria at its thirty-fourth session, in March 2017, which will be organized by OHCHR. In December, the General Assembly adopted resolution (A/71/L.48) establishing an “International, impartial and independent mechanism to assist in the investigation and prosecution of those responsible for the most serious crimes under international law committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011” and requested that the Secretary-General develop the terms of reference of this mechanism, with the support of OHCHR.

The OHCHR Syria Team continued to carry out its work by complementing the work of the International Commission of Inquiry that was supported by an OHCHR-established Secretariat.
OHCHR’s commitment to support the protection of human rights in the country.

OHCHR supported specific technical assistance initiatives in Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Yemen and organized several capacity-building activities for government officials, regional and international organizations and civil society actors. To this end, OHCHR assisted the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force in delivering training programmes to law enforcement officials on human rights, the rule of law and the prevention of terrorism in Iraq, Jordan and Tunisia. OHCHR also delivered two pilot training programmes to law enforcement officials on human rights, the rule of law and the prevention of terrorism in Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

OHCHR maintained eight field presences in the region: two regional offices/centres (for the Middle East and North Africa in Lebanon and at the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region in Doha); four country offices (Mauritania, the State of Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen); and two human rights components within UN peace missions (Iraq and Libya).

Country Offices

Mauritania

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Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- Establishment of interministerial participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

In cooperation with the interministerial committee for reporting and follow-up, OHCHR organized a workshop with representatives of the Government, civil society and the national human rights institution (NHRI) to discuss the draft national action plan on the implementation of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations.

- Increased number of submissions by CSOs and NHRIs to CEDAW, CRC and CMW (EA 7)

Following training provided by OHCHR on the submission of information under the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, four national NGOs submitted two reports and the NHRI submitted another.

- UPR recommendations (2nd cycle) are part of UNCT joint planning and UNDAF 2012-2016 implementation (EA 11)

Based on an OHCHR compilation of all recommendations that have been issued by the human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR, the Office provided comments on the integration of these recommendations during the drafting process of Mauritania’s development strategy, the evaluation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2016 and in the context of the preparation of the new UNDAF 2018-2022. OHCHR provided training and capacity-building support to the ministerial working group responsible for the drafting of the development strategy and the consultants working on the different UNDAF-related documents.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- Adoption of a road map on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on slavery, a National Action Plan on Racial Discrimination and a National Action Plan for Migration (EA 4)

The National Action Plan on Racial Discrimination is pending finalization by the Commissioner for Human Rights and Humanitarian Action. The interministerial committee on the implementation of the road map on slavery did not meet during the second half of the year and the implementation of some activities has not taken place, primarily due to a lack of funding. Following the creation of three Special Courts
Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

A National Preventive Mechanism against torture is established and functioning in compliance with OP-CAT (EA 3)

The newly appointed members of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) increasingly understand their mandate and roles. OHCHR supported the Government with regard to the technical, financial and organizational aspects of the establishment of a NPM under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and organized two trainings for the newly appointed members in cooperation with the Association for the Prevention of Torture.

Widening the democratic space

Adoption of a Law on Civilian Associations, in consultation with civil society organizations and in compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)

While the draft Law on Civilian Associations is currently awaiting discussion within the relevant parliamentary commissions, the draft was not revised according to OHCHR’s advice. As a result of its efforts, the Office increased the awareness of civil society organizations, the Ministry of Relations with Parliament and Civil Society and the Ministry of Interior regarding the noncompliance of the draft law with international human rights treaties and the recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms in relation to Mauritania.

State of Palestine

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Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

The Government’s National Policy Agenda drafted in 2016 includes overarching commitments on the integration of human rights treaties as part of its State-building activities and identifies specific human rights-based interventions under the umbrella of sustainable development, in line with Palestine’s treaty obligations and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Government is currently working on translating the overall priorities in the National Policy Agenda into national sector strategies where such interventions on human rights implementation can be incorporated. Through technical assistance and training, OHCHR continued to support the State of Palestine in order to strengthen its capacity to implement the seven human rights treaties and report on their progress. The State report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is the most advanced of the reports and will be submitted in 2017. In addition, UN Women and OHCHR supported the Independent Commission on Human Rights (ICHR) on the organization of a national consultation regarding the preparation of the report under CEDAW. Approximately 140 representatives from civil society organizations in Gaza and the West Bank attended the consultation. OHCHR also conducted five workshops and trainings for Palestinian human rights organizations and the ICHR to strengthen their capacity to monitor and document the Government’s implementation of its legal commitments under the treaties.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

Increased compliance with international human rights standards by the establishment of a formal moratorium of the death penalty in the West Bank and a de facto moratorium in Gaza (EA 1)

The Office focused its efforts on monitoring specific cases related to the death penalty and undertaking advocacy with relevant authorities and partners. Unfortunately, executions resumed in Gaza, which had

Reference to Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.
not been carried out since 2014. The Office conducted a series of meetings in an attempt to prevent the executions and it has continued to engage with authorities to highlight the procedural concerns of different cases. It is believed that the advocacy, including public statements, of the Office and its partners helped to partially limit the number of executions that were carried out in 2016.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- Enhanced implementation of a human rights-based approach by United Nations programmes, especially within the framework of the UNDAF (EA 11)

The Common Country Assessment (CCA) for Palestine was officially launched on 24 November. Human rights are at the core of the analysis that identifies the key structural drivers and challenges being faced by some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in Palestine. This integration of human rights in the analysis is well reflected in the current discussions of strategic priorities, outcomes and outputs of the working groups on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2018-2022. OHCHR has been promoting the use of the human rights-based approach in the CCA/UNDAF by taking a leading role in the working groups and providing written analytical inputs. OHCHR also substantially contributed to the formulation of the Joint UN Strategy for Hebron, which was launched in November and outlines the human rights challenges in Hebron. The report also identifies the rights-holders and duty-bearers, their roles and their capacities.

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

- Increased responsiveness of the international community to issues of impunity faced by both Israeli and Palestinian duty-bearers (EA 10)

Through the five annual reports issued by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary-General, as mandated by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, OHCHR has continued to provide the international community with factual information about incidents and alleged violations of human rights based on its monitoring work in addition to legal analysis of the human rights situation. For the first time, each of the reports was published in a reader-friendly format with photos and graphics to illustrate the analysis.

- Enhanced implementation of a human rights-based approach by United Nations programmes, especially humanitarian strategies, planning and responses (EA 11)

The Humanitarian Response Plan identifies protection as one of its main strategic objectives and other Clusters, apart from the Protection Cluster, are encouraged to frame their identified needs and objectives in human rights terms. These results have been primarily achieved through OHCHR’s leadership of the Protection Cluster and its effective engagement in the Humanitarian Country Team.

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<thead>
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Tunisia

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure in 2016</td>
<td>US$1,303,362</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- Submission of pending periodic reports to CESC and to CAT (EA 6)

In 2016, the Government of Tunisia submitted pending periodic reports under the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Convention against Torture and other...
Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT). OHCHR provided technical assistance to the Government throughout the drafting process.

- Establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting-replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

Tunisia’s National Reporting Mechanism is now fully operational and its members are aware of their duties and responsibilities. In 2016, the Mechanism submitted an updated version of the common core document, which had not been updated since 1994.

- Increased number of CSOs submitting information to CESCR and CAT (EA 7)

Benefiting from OHCHR’s trainings and advice on reporting to treaty bodies, civil society organizations submitted shadow reports under the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, CAT and ICESCR. Furthermore, some 40 civil society representatives received training from the Office, in August, on the guidelines for Universal Periodic Review (UPR) submissions. As a result, a joint civil society report was prepared for the upcoming third UPR cycle of Tunisia.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- Legislation and policies in compliance with international human rights standards are adopted in the areas of equality of women and other persons at-risk; migrants; and access to education and employment for persons with disabilities (EA 4)

The Government of Tunisia continued to align its legislative framework governing women’s rights with both the Constitution and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Tunisian Parliament adopted the new Elections Law which enshrined the principle of horizontal and vertical gender parity. The Government also established a special Council for Gender Equality which will aim to empower women and ensure equal access to opportunities. Despite the progress achieved, discriminatory provisions persist in Tunisian legislation, most significantly in the Penal Code and the Civil Status Law. To address these shortcomings, the Office conducted a comprehensive desk review of the discriminatory provisions to be used in advocacy activities with the Government. The Tunisian Parliament passed a bill, in May, to amend the framework Law on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The amendments provide for better accessibility in the workplace and include a requirement to double the employment quota of persons with disabilities from 1 to 2 per cent in the public and private sectors.

With the support of OHCHR and ILO, a national road map and action plan for the development of migration policies was agreed upon between the Ministry of Social Welfare, the Secretariat of State on Migration, the Labour Union and the Employers’ Union. The activities outlined in the road map include, inter alia, capacity-building programmes to protect the rights of migrants, programmes for strengthening the social dialogue on migration policy and efforts to be taken towards the reform of the law governing labour migration in Tunisia.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- Legislation governing the penal system is revised to reflect international standards (EA 1)

Good progress in the revision of the Criminal Procedures Code was achieved with the adoption by the Parliament, on 2 February, of a partial amendment to the law reducing pretrial detention to 48 hours and ensuring the right to a lawyer during the pretrial phase. The Office continued to engage with the Commission on the reform of the Code by organizing seminars on penal reform and distributing documentation for stakeholders. The amendment was informed by the Office’s comprehensive guidance note, published in 2015, which focused on international standards governing fair trial guarantees as reflected in international instruments and treaties ratified by Tunisia.

- A coherent transitional justice process is underway; a fully functional Truth and Dignity Commission is in place, has duly addressed the rights and participation of discriminated groups and has generated structural reform proposals (EA 3)

The Truth and Dignity Commission established its sub-commissions which, supported by the Office and UNDP, developed their respective action plans. Furthermore, with the support of the Office and UNDP, the Truth and Dignity Commission has opened four regional offices located in the cities of Sfax, Sidi Bouzid, Kasserine and Gafsa, in compliance with the Law on Transitional Justice. The process of submission of complaints pertaining to alleged past human rights violations was closed on 15 June with 62,000 cases recorded by the Commission. Despite these achievements in transitional justice, the process may experi-
ence a setback if the draft Law on Economic Reconciliation is adopted. The draft law raises fears among civil society that those responsible for past violations of economic and social rights may be granted amnesty. In June, the Parliament began to review the draft Organic Law on Special Provisions for Reconciliation in the Economic and Financial Areas which provides for the possibility of an amnesty in relation to acts of corruption and misappropriation of public funds. The draft would also end the competencies of the Truth and Dignity Commission in relation to arbitration and reconciliation, including those relating to the transfer of cases of corruption and embezzlement of State funds to the Special Chambers. Civil society organizations launched a campaign aimed at preventing the approval of the draft law.

A National Preventive Mechanism against torture is established and functioning in compliance with OP-CAT (EA 3)
Following some delays in establishing independent and constitutional bodies, the Parliament elected 16 members of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) in March. The law establishing the NPM was adopted in 2013. The Office provided capacity-building opportunities and technical assistance to the members of the NPM to ensure it becomes fully operational as soon as possible.

Increased number of strategic litigation cases on economic, social and cultural rights brought before the courts (EA 5)
The advocacy work conducted by the Office for the integration of violations of economic, social and cultural rights in the mandate of the Truth and Dignity Commission resulted in the Commission conducting investigations into the violations of the right to health, education, academic freedom, the right to work, housing and the violation of cultural freedoms. According to the Commission’s statistics, 35 per cent of the 62,000 complaints received are related to the violation of the right to housing, while 56 per cent relate to the violation of the right to work.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere
Increased number of budgets and development policies are designed using a rights-based approach (EA 1)
The Tunisian Government is better equipped to tackle the discrimination and obstacles faced by women in rural areas with regard to their right to work and social security. OHCHR conducted a qualitative and quantitative study in five governorates within the central and northern regions of the country, which provided practical recommendations to the Government on how to improve the situations being faced by these women. The findings of the study were presented during a seminar that gathered together 80 representatives from governmental bodies and civil society organizations and led to the drafting of a Plan of Action.

Widening the democratic space
Tunisian NHRI established and functioning in accordance with Paris Principles (EA 1)
In order to address the gaps in the draft law on a national human rights institution (NHRI), the Office cooperated with the Ministry for Relations with Constitutional Bodies, Civil Society and Human Rights, UNDP and the Danish Institute for Human Rights and, in February, launched a series of nationwide consultations which brought together nearly 600 civil society participants from various governorates. The consultations were concluded at a national conference in Tunis, held at the end of March, during which participants agreed on a set of recommendations that were then submitted to the drafting committee.

The Constitution and other policies that may constrain freedom of expression are brought into compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)
The Law on the Right of Access to Information was adopted on 24 March by the Parliament. The law incorporates civil society recommendations, including the establishment of an Independent Commission on Access to Information. An earlier draft of the law, which was initially submitted to the Parliament for discussion, raised significant concerns among civil society organizations as it contained a wide list of exceptions to the right of access to information. These organizations, supported by the Office, launched a range of advocacy efforts and proposed amendments which resulted in the inclusion of significant positive changes.

In August, the Ministry of Relations with Constitutional Bodies, Civil Society and Human Rights finalized the first draft of the Law on Media Broadcasting. The draft raises concerns regarding the participatory aspect of the process; the independence and representation of the broadcasting media regulatory body; and the independence of the public broadcasting media’s services.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tunisia: Expenditure in 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regular budget expenditure</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personnel and related costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities and operating costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programme support costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRAND TOTAL</td>
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Yemen

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Staff as of 31 December 2016</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure in 2016</td>
<td>US$2,913,879</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- Constitution and legislative framework is aligned with international human rights standards (EA 1)
  
  Due to the ongoing conflict in Yemen, which hindered the proper functioning of governmental entities, the review of the Constitution was neither feasible nor prioritized during the year.

- Establishment and/or improved functioning, in compliance with human rights standards, of victim-centred transitional justice mechanisms, including the Commission of Inquiry, Truth and Reconciliation, Land and Dismissals Commissions (EA 3)
  
  OHCHR continued providing technical assistance to the Yemeni National Independent Commission of Inquiry, which was established in 2015. For instance, the Office trained the Commission’s monitors on national and international law applicable to Yemen, human rights monitoring and gender integration. The Office also presented observations and comments on the first report of the Commission and raised concerns about the methodology and the scope of the report.

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

- Systems and procedures put in place by OHCHR contribute to protection from human rights violations (EA 3)
  
  OHCHR established a monitoring, documentation and investigation mechanism through the deployment of human rights monitors to conflict-affected areas, covering Amanat Al-Asimah, Aden, Al-Hudaydah, Hajjah, Hadramout, Al-Jawf, as well as the governorates of Taizz, Al-Dhale’e, Shabwah and Mareb. Information gathered through this mechanism fed into 12 monthly updates on the human rights situation in Yemen that were shared with the United Nations Country Team, contributed to a report to the Human Rights Council and OHCHR’s relevant press releases and was used in advocacy messages issued by the Office of the Special Assistant to the Secretary-General.

| Yemen: Expenditure in 2016 |
|----------------|------------------|
|               | Regular budget expenditure in US$ | Extrabudgetary expenditure in US$ |
| Personnel and related costs | - | 1,556,667 |
| Activities and operating costs | - | 1,038,602 |
| Subtotal | - | 2,595,269 |
| Programme support costs | - | 318,610 |
| **GRAND TOTAL** | - | **2,913,879** |
Regional Offices and Centres

Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (Beirut, Lebanon)

<table>
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<th>Year established</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Expenditure in 2016</td>
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Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- Increased compliance and engagement of Member States with international human rights mechanisms, including through the establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries, and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

  OHCHR organized three regional events on engagement with the human rights mechanisms, which gathered approximately 100 participants from governments, national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up and the judiciary. In addition, a training-of-trainers event on treaty body reporting was facilitated for 36 Arab government officials. Another workshop, facilitated by OHCHR and the League of Arab States, enabled public officials from 19 Arab countries to enhance their knowledge about State engagement with the international human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review, the human rights treaty bodies and the special procedures, as well as the role of national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up.

- Increased number of submissions to treaty bodies, special procedures and Universal Periodic Review from civil society actors (EA 7)

  Civil society in the region, in particular from Jordan, Kuwait and Lebanon, is generally active in submitting shadow reports to various human rights mechanisms. For instance, civil society organizations from Lebanon that are working on women’s rights submitted their views on the revised draft of General Recommendation 19 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- Establishment and functioning of accountability mechanisms in accordance with international standards to monitor, investigate and redress acts of torture and ill-treatment (EA 3)

  In Lebanon, the Code of Conduct for General Security Forces has been drafted, adopted and published while, in Jordan, the Gendarmerie adopted its Code of Conduct. Both results were achieved with OHCHR support.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- A human rights-based approach increasingly integrated into Common Country Assessments/United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs)/Consolidated Appeal Processes and programmes relating to housing, water, sanitation and land (EA 11)

  A road map for the preparation of Kuwait’s Common Country Assessment, which will be finalized in 2017, fully integrates human rights principles and standards as a result of OHCHR’s participation in the meetings of the Kuwait United Nations Country Team.

Widening the democratic space

- Establishment or strengthening of NHRIs compliant with international standards (Paris Principles), including in Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (EA 1)

  The Government of Lebanon passed a new law establishing a national human rights institution (NHRI) in October. The Regional Office contributed to this result through many years of advocacy and engagement with its Lebanese counterparts. In Kuwait, a NHRI was established in 2015, however, it is not yet functioning due to delays in the appointment of commissioners.

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

- Increased integration of human rights standards and principles into the UN’s security policies and programmes, including the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on UN support to non-UN security forces (EA 11)

  In Lebanon, OHCHR supported the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) to adopt the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy and coordinated finalization of a preliminary risk assessment. The Office also engaged in consultations within the UNCT and with other international counterparts on the next steps for the implementation of the Policy.
**Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (Beirut, Lebanon): Expenditure in 2016**

<table>
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**UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha, Qatar): Expenditure in 2016**

<table>
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<th></th>
<th>Regular budget expenditure in US$</th>
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**United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha, Qatar):**

- **Year established**: 2009
- **Staff as of 31 December 2016**: 4
- **Expenditure in 2016**: US$1,290,106

**Results**

**Strengthening international human rights**
- Establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries, and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms (EA 6)
- Knowledge on and understanding of Arab diplomats in relation to the work of the international human rights mechanisms was enhanced through a number of training activities, in particular through training on the development of the UN human rights protection system and its normative framework.

**Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity**
- States adopt policies to ensure protection of the right to education in situations of conflict (EA 1)
  - A review of the project on the Protection of the Right to Education during Insecurity and Armed Conflict in the Middle East and North Africa Region took place and included the attendance of beneficiaries, independent experts, representatives of UNESCO, the Arab Institute for Human Rights and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute. A joint report on education in emergencies was developed regarding four countries in the region and outlined achievements and lessons learned in relation to the project’s implementation.

**Human Rights Components in UN Peace Missions**

**United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq**

- **Year established**: 2004
- **Staff as of 31 December 2016**: 42

**Results**

**Strengthening international human rights mechanisms**
- Increased engagement with international human rights mechanisms through the submission of overdue reports to treaty bodies and the acceptance of country visits by special procedures (EA 6)
  - Iraq has no pending reporting obligations as it has submitted all required reports under the different human rights treaties to which it is a State Party. Iraq underwent the Universal Periodic Review in 2015 but has not yet developed a human rights action plan to implement the recommendations that it accepted. The Human Rights Office (HRO) of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) has provided technical and other assistance to the Government of Iraq in the preparation of reports and has provided considerable support to civil society organizations and the Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights (IHCHR) in relation to the submission of shadow reports.

**Enhancing equality and countering discrimination**
- Improved legislative framework to combat discrimination against women, minorities and persons with
disabilities, including a new Family Protection Law and an amended Law on persons with disabilities (EA 4)

During 2015 and 2106, the HRO undertook extensive consultations with members of ethnic and religious minorities on gaps in their protection and respect for their rights and suggested a number of institutional, legal and policy reforms that the Government should consider to address those gaps. Drawing on these consultations, the HRO and Iraqi NGOs worked together to draft an anti-discrimination bill that was presented to the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee for review. In addition, a study by the HRO of the existing legislative and policy framework for protecting women and children from sexual and gender-based violence inspired a group of NGOs, supported by the HRO, to draft a bill addressing this issue. The HRO is advocating with the Government and Members of Parliament for its adoption.

**Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law**

- Amendment of Anti-Terrorism Law No. 13 of 2005 and Iraqi Criminal Procedure Code No. 21 of 1971 in compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)

In March, the HRO completed a review of all existing Iraqi legislation relating to terrorism and compiled a set of recommendations for legislative and policy reforms to ensure that the protection of and respect for human rights and the rule of law is fundamental to the Government's counter-terrorism policies. This document has served as the basis for advocacy with the Government and has been widely disseminated among security and law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, Members of Parliament and the Government.

- Restriction of the death penalty to the most serious crimes and establishment of a moratorium on the implementation of all death sentences (EA 1)

The Government has made it clear that it intends to continue calling for the application of the death penalty in Iraq for a range of crimes, despite serious concerns that have been raised about weaknesses in the Iraqi criminal justice system, failures to adhere to due process and fair trial standards, reliance on confessions alleged to have been coerced and other systemic problems that render many convictions unsafe. Since 2015, the Ministry of Justice has not provided information to the HRO in relation to death sentences carried out in Iraq and, consequently, the HRO has been unable to ascertain the exact number of persons executed since that time.

**Widening the democratic space**

- The Independent High Commission is fully functioning in accordance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)

In April, the term of the first Board of Commissioners of the IHCHR expired. The HRO provided technical support to the Committee of Experts tasked with selecting new commissioners, including by assisting the staff of the IHCHR Secretariat to establish procedures for receiving applications, developing a database, preparing the files of each applicant and developing and updating evaluations undertaken by the Committee of Experts. As of the end of 2016, the selection process was still underway.

- Effective protection mechanisms and measures for civil society actors, including at-risk human rights defenders and media actors, established and strengthened (EA 3)

The draft Law on Freedom of Expression, Assembly and Peaceful Protest was reviewed by the Iraqi Council of Representatives and referred to the
Parliamentary Human Rights Committee for its review. In August, the HRO presented the Head of the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee with suggested amendments and organized a briefing session for civil society organizations in order to build consensus on the needed amendments to ensure that the bill is in compliance with international standards. Following these interventions, the Speaker of the Council of Representatives returned the draft bill to three parliamentary committees for their review.

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

Adoption of policies to improve the capacity of security forces to provide effective security; intelligence gathering and forensic investigation; and the engagement of affected communities in decisions related to their security (EA 1)

In March, the HRO finalized a policy document that outlined the key areas that are conducive to armed conflict in Iraq and provided recommendations to the Government related to improving the protection of and respect for human rights in these areas. The policy document was also integrated into a strategy document for UNAMI that was approved by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in November.

Results

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

Constitution, penal code, code of criminal procedure and legislation on torture increase its compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)

The Constitutional Drafting Assembly (CDA) finalized the latest draft of the Constitution which is now pending approval. The Human Rights, Transitional Justice and Rule of Law Division (HRD) of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) worked with the CDA in order to harmonize the draft constitution in line with international human rights standards. Many of the observations made by HRD were incorporated in the draft. In addition, the High Commissioner for Human Rights wrote to the CDA to ask them to consider strengthening a number of human rights protections. While improvements in the draft included the prohibition of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, as well as the prohibition of discrimination based on ethnicity, language, sex, birth, political opinion or disability, provisions on the full equality between women and men and the abolition of the death penalty were not integrated.

Detention centres are fully under the control of State-trained judicial police officers and have improved security and effective safeguards against torture (EA 1)

The HRD continued to monitor conditions in detention centres and provided technical assistance and advisory support to the Judicial Police aimed at improving their compliance with international standards in prisons under its control. The lack of strong State structures and appropriate resources, however, limited the ability of authorities to make significant improvements.

Transitional mechanisms are in place and functioning in compliance with human rights standards, namely a transitional justice law, an active and impartial truth commission and a missing persons commission, a reparations programme and vetting processes. A number of fair trials of former regime members and brigade perpetrators have been carried out (EA 3)

The HRD facilitated the Misrata Tawergha dialogue and helped them to reach an agreement, which was signed in August, to implement the road map that was agreed upon in December 2015. The agreement included the payment of reparations to victims and the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs).
HRD advocated for the implementation of the agreement, in line with international human rights standards, and stressed that the return of IDPs should not be conditional upon the payment of reparations. Further implementation of the agreement is pending the approval of local councils and the Government.

**Widening the democratic space**

- *Diverse networks of civil society organizations actively advocate for human rights and participate in public life (EA 5)*

Although civil society organizations had limited space in which they were able to undertake their work, they were able to carry out some public advocacy activities such as the issuing of joint statements with their international partners. Through capacity-building activities and by endorsing their public communications, the HRD was able to support the advocacy efforts of civil society.

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

- *Consistent reference to the human rights situation and recommendations in statements by the international community and increased responsiveness to meet emerging human rights needs (EA 10)*

The UN Security Council extended the mandate of UNSMIL twice during 2016, including in relation to human rights monitoring and reporting. The Human Rights Council considered the OHCHR investigation report issued in March and asked the High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to report on Libya, including through an oral update (in September) and a written report (March 2017). Furthermore, the HRD consistently monitored, reported and advocated on cases of human rights violations and abuses including by publishing monthly reports on civilian casualties and a report on abuses against migrants. The HRD also contributed to the global reporting on grave violations against children in armed conflict, sexual violence in conflict and protection of civilians. It further prepared two forthcoming reports on the human rights situation in Libya in 2016 and on a trial against former Qadhafi regime members. Limited capacity, however, hindered the investigation of many cases.

- *Increased integration of human rights standards and principles into the UN’s security policies and programmes, including the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on UN support to non-UN security forces (EA 11)*

The HRD began the implementation of the United Nations Human Rights Due Diligence Policy, including by drafting a general and preliminary risk assessment and carrying out consultations within the UN system and with international counterparts on the next steps to be taken for the implementation of the Policy.