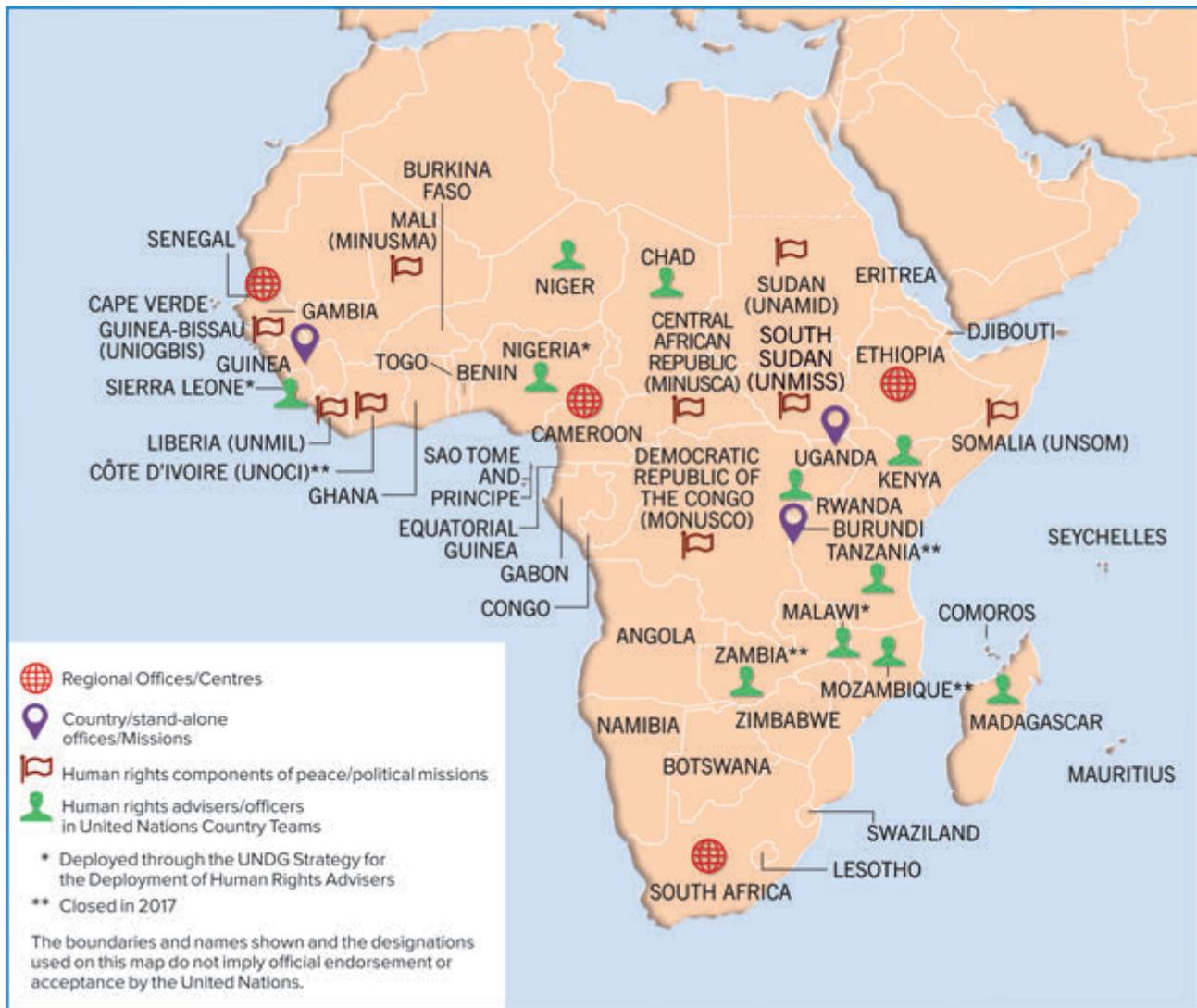


UN Human Rights in the field: Africa



Type of presence	Location
Country offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Burundi ● Guinea ● Uganda
Regional offices and centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Central Africa (Yaoundé, Cameroon) ● East Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) ● Southern Africa (Pretoria, South Africa) ● West Africa (Dakar, Senegal)
Human rights components in UN peace and political missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Central African Republic (MINUSCA) ● Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI)** ● Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) ● Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) ● Liberia (UNMIL) ● Mali (MINUSMA) ● Somalia (UNSOM) ● South Sudan (UNMISS) ● Sudan (UNAMID)
Human rights advisers in United Nations Country Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chad ● Kenya ● Madagascar ● Malawi* ● Mozambique** ● Niger ● Nigeria* ● Rwanda ● Sierra Leone*

* Deployed through the UNDG Strategy for the Deployment of Human Rights Advisers.
 ** Closed in 2017.

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); eight human rights advisers (HRAs) in United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) in Chad, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique (until July), Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, as well as a national human rights adviser in Niger; and nine human rights presences in United Nations peace and political missions in the Central African Republic (CAR), Côte d'Ivoire (until June), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan (Darfur). OHCHR also 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 United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Burundi, the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan and the team of international experts on the Kasai regions (DRC).

During 2017, the African continent faced numerous challenges, such as political violence during electoral processes and serious violations of human rights, including of women in the context of armed conflicts in CAR, DRC, Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan. In some parts of the continent, terrorism and organized crime, which have a transnational and regional impact, are growing concerns, especially in the Sahel region. Mass migration was fuelled by violent extremism in the Sahel region, armed conflicts (CAR, DRC, Somalia and South Sudan), as well as economic and social challenges. This resulted in the tragic death of thousands of Africans in the Sahara and the Mediterranean Sea, who were attempting to reach Europe. At the same time, the year saw significant changes, such as in Angola, the Gambia and Zimbabwe, where long-serving Heads of State were replaced by new leaders. In Kenya and Liberia, the courts exhibited remarkable judicial independence around elections. Moreover, in several countries, including Cameroon, Ethiopia and Togo, citizens demanded their rights in the face of increasing governmental control over civic space.

OHCHR field presences supported governments, civil society organizations and other actors to strengthen their capacity to engage with the international human rights mechanisms and address human rights concerns at the national and regional levels. Specific areas of focus included violence against civilians, impunity, respect for the rule of law, discrimination and threats against fundamental freedoms and civil society, particularly in the context of elections. OHCHR also facilitated the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through the provision of technical advice on the human rights-based approach.

OHCHR mobilized surge capacity to Angola to monitor the human rights violations committed in the Kasai region of the DRC. It further participated in two United Nations deployments to support the Director-General of the UN Office in Nairobi in the context of the presidential elections in Kenya, and deployed human rights officers to Togo to assist the Resident Coordinator in the context of the political crisis.

The Office strengthened cooperation with the African Union (AU), including by enhancing support to its human rights bodies (the 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 an emphasis 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

Year established	2015
Staff as of 31 December 2017	17
Expenditure in 2017	US\$3,253,985

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Ratification of OPs to ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW, CAT and ICPEL (EA 2)*

None of the ratifications of international human rights instruments that were planned for the reporting period took place. Advocacy by OHCHR was not feasible due to the Government's decision not to collaborate.

- ▶ *Participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting on/replying to individual communications and enquiries are established; and follow-up to recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms is integrated into national plans (EA 6)*

In 2016, OHCHR contributed to the establishment of the Permanent Committee on Reporting to the Treaty Bodies, however, much more must be done to address its shortcomings, including its limited budget and lack of capacity to follow-up on the implementation of recommendations. Shortly after the establishment of the Committee, the authorities of Burundi decided to suspend cooperation with the



OHCHR staff members on a monitoring mission in Burundi.
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Office. Consequently, this impeded the capacity of the Office to provide essential technical support to address these shortcomings.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *The status and recruitment process of magistrates comply with international standards and the High Judicial Council is able to perform its constitutional duties and contribute to the consolidation of judicial independence (EA 1)*

In 2017, limited progress was achieved as no competitive processes were established to appoint new magistrates. Instead, the Government selected the magistrates based on their political affiliations. The High Judicial Council lacked independence and the justice sector has been unable to investigate human right violations. Due to the 2016 suspension of cooperation by the Government, OHCHR was unable to undertake planned interventions to build the capacity of the judiciary.

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

With the technical assistance of OHCHR, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission began gathering testimonies of victims. Yet, it has failed to establish the required mechanism for the actual protection of victims and witnesses and has done little to promote reconciliation or end impunity. All activities related to the Commission were put on hold due to the Government's suspension of cooperation with OHCHR.

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)*

Legislation on the protection of human rights defenders has not been adopted. Due to its restricted collaboration with the Government, OHCHR was unable to advocate for its adoption.

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

In November 2017, the Independent National Human Rights Commission was downgraded to 'B' status due to its inadequate independence and limited collaboration with civil society organizations. Prior to the 2016 political crisis, OHCHR undertook joint preventive and monitoring activities with the Commission, however, the situation changed radically following the crisis and the Government's decision to halt all forms of cooperation with the Office.



OHCHR staff member on a monitoring mission in Burundi.
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Burundi: Expenditure in 2017		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	2,032,542
Activities and operating costs	-	840,912
Subtotal	-	2,873,453
Programme support costs	-	380,532
GRAND TOTAL	-	3,253,985

Guinea (Conakry)

Year established	2010
Staff as of 31 December 2017	19
Expenditure in 2017	US\$2,425,602

Strengthening international human rights

- ▶ *Establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting on/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms; and submission of reports to the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR (EA 6)*

An Inter-ministerial Committee of Human Rights for reporting and follow-up was established in 2014, but financial difficulties have prevented it from becoming fully operational. OHCHR continued to support the Committee by strengthening the capacities of its members and advocating for an appropriate budget.

Regarding the submission of reports to the international human rights mechanisms, Guinea submitted overdue reports to more than five human rights treaty bodies between 2014 and 2017, including its periodic report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, submitted in October, which was overdue for more than 20 years.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

Following technical support from OHCHR, a draft law on the protection of people living with disabilities was finalized in 2016 and is expected to be submitted to the Cabinet in 2018. OHCHR provided technical and financial support for the drafting and validation of the draft legislation, and conducted advocacy efforts to ensure the adoption of the law.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Justice sector is reformed, national courts increasingly invoke human rights principles and standards in their proceedings and final decisions and alleged perpetrators of serious crimes are investigated and prosecuted (EA 1)*

The Military Justice Code, first promulgated in 2012, was revised in 2017 to take into account certain fundamental principles of criminal law, such as the principle of dual jurisdiction. In 2015, a new law of judicial organization came into force, removing the Assizes Courts and enabling first instance tribunals to hand down decisions on criminal affairs. This allowed for quick prosecution procedures, shorter pretrial detention periods and a reduction of the penitentiary population. The new Criminal Procedure Code, promulgated in 2016, strengthened the compliance of national legislation with international standards, particularly in relation to provisions on police custody and pretrial detention. OHCHR participated in the discussions around the draft Criminal Procedure Code and the review of the Military Justice Code in order to ensure their compliance with human rights international standards.

- ▶ *Formal learning institutions for gendarmerie and police include a programme for human rights training (EA 1)*

With the technical support of the Office, a human rights training programme was developed, in 2016 and 2017, for the Guinean Defence and Security Forces. The Office ensured the dissemination and ownership of the programme through training sessions and regional workshops for officers of the police and gendarmerie.

- ▶ *National consultations on transitional justice result in the establishment of accountability mechanisms*



Group photo of participants to a human rights training for armed forces facilitated by OHCHR in Guinea. © OHCHR/Guinea

in compliance with international human rights standards (EA 3)

Formal transitional justice mechanisms have not been established. OHCHR has supported the organization of countrywide consultations for national reconciliation and has continuously advocated for the adoption of a law establishing the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *National legislation on the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and information is fully harmonized with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

With the technical support of OHCHR, the Order Maintenance Act was drafted and adopted by the National Assembly, in 2015, in full compliance with articles 19 and 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Among other provisions, the Law stipulates that security forces must use non-violent means before resorting to firearms. Security forces are also obliged to respect the principles of legality, necessity and proportionality. Additionally, the new Criminal Law of 26 October 2016 criminalized torture, as defined in the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and abolished the death penalty. OHCHR participated on the drafting process and advocated for the compliance of the Law with human rights principles.

- ▶ *Law establishing an independent national human rights institution is promulgated and the institution is established and functioning in accordance with international standards (EA 1)*

The law providing for the establishment of an independent national human rights institution (INHRI) was promulgated in December 2014 and its 33 commissioners were appointed shortly thereafter. The Office worked to ensure the visibility of the newly established institution and to reinforce its capacity

to promote and protect human rights. Nevertheless, the INHRI did not become fully operational due to its non-compliance with the Paris Principles and an absence of appropriate financial resources and logistical support.

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 mid-term review and in the UN Contingency Plan and UN Protection Clusters, particularly concerning the forest region (EA 11)*

The Office organized a number of training workshops on a human rights-based approach, addressed to UN programme officers, in the context of the preparations for the drafting of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2018-2022. These efforts led to a better understanding and ownership by UN programme officers of a human rights-based approach as one of the key programmatic principles in planning for the new UNDAF.

Guinea: Expenditure in 2017		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	1,645,032
Activities and operating costs	-	505,988
Subtotal	-	2,151,019
Programme support costs	-	274,582
GRAND TOTAL	-	2,425,602

Uganda

Year established	2005
Staff as of 31 December 2017	29
Expenditure in 2017	US\$3,398,045

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)*

The National Human Rights Action Plan of Uganda is being validated by members of the National Steering Committee of the Human Rights Action Plan and will be submitted to the Cabinet for approval. The Government began working on the elaboration of the Action Plan in 2014, which is aimed at setting up a permanent, functioning structure to address reporting obligations and follow up on the implementation of recommendations. Since its conceptualization, OHCHR has continuously supported the Government, the Uganda Human Rights Commission and civil society organizations to develop the Action Plan, including by facilitating regional consultations to validate its thematic areas. The Office also helped the Government to develop an online database to follow up on the status of implementation of the recommendations issued by the international, regional and national human rights mechanisms. The tool was launched in 2016 and it is currently being updated to incorporate a monitoring and evaluation framework.

- *The Interministerial Committee and Ministerial Human Rights desks submit timely State reports in compliance with reporting guidelines and effectively participate in the review process (EA 6)*

An Interministerial Committee on Human Rights was established in fulfilment of a Universal Periodic Review (UPR) voluntary pledge made by the Government. The Committee is a standing body that is composed of focal points from key ministries and departments as well as civil society representatives. The Committee is responsible for Uganda's human rights reporting obligations and tracks and coordinates the implementation of the recommendations of human rights mechanisms. In the past four years, the Committee submitted State reports, in compliance with reporting guidelines, to the UPR, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW), the Committee on Econom-



Human Rights Day commemorated by OHCHR staff members in Uganda. © OHCHR/Uganda

ic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. OHCHR's technical support, including for the development of an online tool to follow up on the implementation of recommendations, contributed to reinforcing Uganda's national capacity on reporting and its sustained engagement with international, regional and national human rights mechanisms.

- ▶ *Civil society networks, NHRI and UN entities increasingly engage with the UPR process, the special procedures and human rights treaty body reporting (EA 7)*

During the reporting cycle, the Government engaged with a number of international human rights mechanisms, including CRPD, CMW and CESCR and the second review under the UPR. In all of these processes, OHCHR supported State institutions, the national human rights institution and civil society organizations in their engagement with these mechanisms. For instance, in the context of Uganda's second cycle of the UPR, in 2016, OHCHR supported civil society organizations in their consultation processes for the elaboration of alternative reports, which resulted in the submission of 54 documents. OHCHR also trained these organizations on the procedures to engage with the UPR mechanism and supported the travel of two delegates to attend the UPR sessions in Geneva.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

During the reporting period, significant progress was made in the reform of legislative frameworks, policies and practices to comply with non-discrimination and equality standards. In 2015, a comprehensive analysis of the Penal Code Act was undertaken to identify discriminatory provisions. OHCHR facilitated the analysis and organized a workshop to review the findings of the report. Participants included representatives from the Justice Law and Order Sector, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, the Uganda Law Reform Commission, civil society organizations and members of the parliamentary Human Rights Committee. Following the analysis, the Uganda Law Reform Commission drafted the Penal Code Amendment, which was forwarded to the Attorney General, in 2016, for its review. In 2017, OHCHR assisted the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to review the disability policy framework and develop a national action plan on disability in line with recommendations issued by the CRPD. OHCHR also provided technical support to the Equal Opportunities Commission in conducting

a comprehensive assessment on the compatibility of selected national laws with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The report, which was validated on 17 November, provides an important reference point which will aid reform processes in Uganda. Members of Parliament demonstrated an increased commitment to promoting equality and non-discrimination. For instance, the Parliamentary Health Committee halted the approval of the health sector's budget, in 2017, over its failure to comply with gender and equality requirements under the Public Finance Management Act 2015. Furthermore, in 2017, the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights included equity requirements in the parliamentary rules of procedure, which entail that every budget and programme presented before the Parliament must be tested for equity. Specifically, this commitment by the Parliament is a consequence of OHCHR's work with the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights, which developed a human rights checklist in 2011. The checklist provided the Parliament with a mechanism to assess the compliance of bills, budgets and government programmes with human rights standards. In 2017, OHCHR provided technical support to revise and validate the checklist. Despite OHCHR's legal analysis and advice to Parliament, the approved HIV Prevention and Control Act 2014 contains a provision requesting mandatory testing and the disclosure of patients' HIV status, without their consent, in direct violation of a patient's right to privacy, confidentiality and non-discrimination.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Traditional justice authorities increasingly respect human rights standards when resolving conflicts in their communities (EA 1)*

Over the reporting period, good progress has been recorded in relation to traditional justice institutions applying human rights standards when resolving conflicts in communities. This was evidenced by the improvement in the referral of criminal cases from traditional leaders to formal justice institutions. OHCHR contributed to this result through capacity-building trainings for over 210 traditional leaders in the Karamoja subregion and West Nile region and at roundtable discussions between key actors in formal and informal justice institutions in 2014. Furthermore, traditional leaders undertook a commitment to combat torture in their communities through the development of a human rights-compliant road map for the prevention and prohibition of torture and other cruel, or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment within traditional institutions. The development of the road map followed OHCHR-facilitated capacity-building trainings for traditional leaders in the Acholi and West Nile regions between 2014 and 2016.

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

In the past four years, there has been significant improvement in the compliance of the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF), the Uganda Police Force (UPF) and the Uganda Prison Services (UPS) with international standards on the use of force, arrest, detention and the treatment of persons in custody. Since 2014, OHCHR has embarked on capacity-building interventions that are focused on human rights standards and non-coercive interrogation techniques. In Karamoja, the number of human rights complaints reported against the UPF and UPDF declined from 125 in 2013 to 95 in 2014. The 2016 Uganda Human Rights Commission report also confirmed a decline in complaints of torture reported against the UPDF from 74 in 2014 to 40 in 2016. In relation to integrating human rights standards into operations of law enforcement agencies, OHCHR supported the UPF in its review of Police Standing Orders in 2014 in order to incorporate international human rights standards into the treatment of suspects, restrictions on the use of firearms, as well as responsibilities related to public order management. OHCHR registered another policy change in the UPF regarding torture and other human rights violations. In 2017, the Deputy Inspector General of Police warned officers against misconduct, including torture of suspects, and stated that orders for compensation to victims of violations for acts committed by police officers would be borne by the UPF as an institution which would in turn require implicated police officers to pay for the costs incurred.

- ▶ *Increased integration of international human rights standards, including economic, social and cultural rights in the Judicial Studies Institute curriculum (EA 1)*
OHCHR developed a series of capacity-building interventions in partnership with the Judicial Studies Institute to enhance the enforcement of economic, social and cultural rights in Uganda. In 2014, it developed a curriculum on these rights for judges and, in 2015, launched trainings for justices of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal and judges, magistrates and registrars of the High Court. Some positive examples were witnessed as a result of the increased capacity of the judiciary. In 2017, for instance, a landmark judgment was handed down by the Supreme Court, which held that the State was obliged to protect the right to health and was accountable for the failure to protect this right in cases where mothers had lost their lives when giving birth. Following a request by judges for guidelines on adjudicating cases concerning these rights, OHCHR developed a re-

source book on economic, social and cultural rights, in 2017. The guidelines were validated with civil society organizations, in August, and will be published in 2018. In addition, the Office of the Directorate of Public Prosecutions established a Department of Victim Empowerment and Witness Protection as a result of technical and financial support provided by OHCHR, including for the development of witness protection guidelines.

- ▶ *Justice, Law and Order Sector and other relevant stakeholders increasingly apply human rights standards to the development and implementation of transitional justice policies, legislation and programmes (EA 3)*

Although the Transitional Justice Policy is still awaiting Cabinet approval, OHCHR has noted an increase in the application of human rights standards to the development of transitional justice programmes during the reporting period. Following the Accountability and Reconciliation Agreement that was struck after the conflict in Northern Uganda, the Government established the Transitional Justice Working Group, which drafted the National Transitional Justice Policy in 2013. To support these efforts, OHCHR developed a manual to document conflict-related gross human rights violations. During the reporting cycle, the Uganda Human Rights Commission and the Justice Law and Order Sector embarked on a two-year documentation project, based on the OHCHR manual. This will provide essential information for the Justice Law and Order Sector to decide on adequate reparations for victims and guarantee non-repetition through understanding the root causes of conflicts. The International Crimes Division (ICD) of the High Court of Uganda became functional in 2013. With support from OHCHR, ICD revised its rules of procedure, in 2016, to make them more victim-friendly, including through provisions that were drafted to ensure sensitivity when working with victims of sexual violence. OHCHR also worked with the Office of the Directorate of Public Prosecutions to develop its framework for the protection of victims and witnesses and it is currently supporting that Office to develop additional victim protection guidelines. Furthermore, OHCHR participated in several meetings on transitional justice, including with the Justice Law and Order Sector, Members of Parliament and civil society organizations, to share knowledge about human rights principles and good practices to effectively respond to victims' needs and provide avenues to promote reconciliation in post-conflict communities and combat impunity.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Increased compliance of national, sector and local government development plans with international human rights standards and principles (EA 1)*

The National Development Plan II (NDP II) 2016-2020, which guides Uganda's development processes, incorporates more human rights content than the first NDP and ensures that all government plans are aligned with applicable human rights standards. OHCHR played a central role in facilitating capacity-building interventions on a human rights-based approach for government technical personnel. The Office also strengthened the capacity of NGOs to effectively participate in development processes. As a result of five trainings on a human rights-based approach that were carried out for 176 NGO staff members, in 2015, the capacity of those NGOs was enhanced to monitor the implementation of the NDP II and report on the extent to which its human rights commitments are realized. Furthermore, with technical advice from OHCHR, Moroto's District Council adopted, in 2015, a human rights-based approach to programming as a best practice for its district and municipalities.

- ▶ *UNCT and UN agencies programmes and funds increasingly incorporate a human rights-based approach into their interventions (EA 11)*

Since 2014, a total of 257 United Nations programme officers in Uganda have increased their knowledge and skills on a human rights-based approach and the integration of a gender perspective into plans and programmes. To ensure this result, OHCHR, UN Women and the Resident Coordinator's Office cooperated to offer seminars and disseminate relevant information. Additionally, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2016-2020 integrates human rights standards to a significant extent due to OHCHR's support to the United Nations Country Team and the leadership of the Human Rights and Gender Advisory Group.

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)

The Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), which was established in 1997 with a mandate to protect and promote human rights, has consistently increased its capacity to monitor, advocate for and report on critical human rights issues. OHCHR provided trainings and technical and financial cooperation to strengthen the capacities of UHRC staff and its commissioners. The Office also undertook a number of joint monitoring missions as well as coordination meetings with UHRC staff during the reporting period. Despite all the progress, a number of ongoing challenges prevent the UHRC from fulfilling its mandate in accordance with the Paris Principles, including the lack of adequate human and financial resources.

- ▶ *Legal frameworks, legislation, regulations and policies increasingly respect and protect public freedoms, democratic principles and government actors increasingly respect them (EA 1)*

Some progress was achieved in the approval of legislation or policies in compliance with international human rights standards. For instance, the revised Uganda Police Force Standing Orders, which were presented in 2015 but have not yet been approved, extensively incorporate human rights standards that are applicable to policing. OHCHR provided both technical and financial support to the Uganda Police Force in the revision of the Standing Orders and participated in the February 2015 presentation of the proposal to the Police Advisory Committee. The regulations that accompany the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act fully comply with applicable norms and standards governing the regulation of torture. The regulations were validated in 2016 and officially approved in 2017. OHCHR provided technical assistance in the drafting and implementation of the Act and the development of the regulations. Between 2014 and 2015, the law enforcement agen-

Uganda's Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act 2012 bears fruit

In September 2017, Uganda witnessed its first landmark ruling under the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act in the case of *Abdu-Rashid Mbaziira and others vs. the Attorney General*. In that case, damages were awarded to suspects that had been charged with the murder of the Assistant Inspector General of Police. The suspects alleged that after being forcefully arrested, they had been tortured in police custody, which included being blindfolded, kept in chains, beaten, flogged with their heads held upside down and electrocuted. The High Court of Justice ruled that the 22 suspects had proven beyond a reasonable doubt that they had been tortured

and affirmed that torture was a violation of their right to freedom from torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment under article 24 of Uganda's Constitution. Making reference to the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, the High Court noted that no one deserves to be tortured for the purposes of obtaining information or a confession, specifically stating that "the Anti-Torture Law was enacted because of the recent history of torture in the country and courts of law cannot allow it to be violated." UN Human Rights supported the development of the regulations of the Act, which were published in the Uganda Gazette, in October.

cies improved their awareness of human rights concepts and standards and learned how to establish and consolidate their own human rights desks and directorates. This enabled them to provide institutional responses to cases of human rights violations that had been perpetrated by the same institutions. The capacities of the personnel deployed by the human rights desks and directorates within the Uganda Police Force, Uganda People's Defence Forces and the Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence were strengthened as result of joint OHCHR and UHRC human rights trainings. While local civil society organizations reported that the responses of these institutions to human rights complaints had improved, a key impediment to the enjoyment of public freedoms continued to stem from the Public Order Management Act of 2013. Specifically, the Act allows the UPF to ban or disperse unauthorized demonstrations. In this context, the Office provided the UPF with technical advice to support the drafting of internal guidelines to operationalize the Act. Following its implementation, police officers began to regularly engage in dialogue with the organizers of demonstrations and assemblies. Nevertheless, the Office continued to receive complaints from civil society actors in relation to the increasing restrictions imposed on public meetings and assemblies.

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

The capacity of Ugandan civil society organizations to advocate for, monitor, report on and litigate relevant human rights issues has progressively improved during the review cycle. This is due to a capacity-building process that OHCHR has led since 2013, aimed at strengthening the capacities of these organizations, as well as journalist networks, on human rights monitoring, reporting and advocacy. A human rights database was developed for a select group of human rights defenders to help them put in place a monitoring, reporting and advocacy system. Since 2016, OHCHR has provided technical cooperation to support the monitoring and research activities conducted by civil society organizations and financial support for the printing, publishing and dissemination of their reports. For instance, in 2017, the Office supported the research, publication and dissemination of three reports by three different organizations: the Human Rights Centre Uganda, which prepared a report on women human rights defenders in Uganda; the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, which reprinted its report on pretrial detention; and the organization Unwanted Witness, which launched a report on digital threats to and the online surveillance of human rights defenders. The Office also provided financial support to the African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims to conduct mon-

itoring missions and provide psychosocial counselling, treatment, and rehabilitation services to victims of human rights violations in Karamoja.

Uganda: Expenditure in 2017		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs		1,637,052
Activities and operating costs		1,369,952
Subtotal		3,007,003
Programme support costs		391,042
GRAND TOTAL		3,398,045

Regional Offices and Centres

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

Year established	2001
Staff as of 31 December 2017	11
Expenditure in 2017	US\$1,584,257

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Increased ratification of international human rights instruments, with a focus on the ICRMW, CRPD, ICERD, ICCPR, ICESCR and their respective optional protocols (OPs) and the OPs to the CRC and CAT in Cameroon, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tomé and Príncipe (EA 2)*
- The status of ratification of international human rights instruments by States of the Central African subregion shows mixed results. While the majority of States have ratified most of the nine core human rights instruments and their corresponding protocols, some countries, such as the Central African Republic and Chad, have a low number of ratifications. OHCHR engaged in ongoing dialogue with authorities in the subregion to promote the ratification of these instruments. For example, following sustained advocacy by OHCHR in Sao Tomé and Príncipe, the Government ratified six instruments in 2017, name-

ly, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on the abolition of the death penalty. Equatorial Guinea declared its commitment to promoting human rights. In order to help the country improve its engagement with the international human rights mechanisms, OHCHR developed a compilation of the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms and the status of ratification of international human rights instruments.

- ▶ *Establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting and replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in Cameroon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tomé and Príncipe (EA 6)*

Some progress has been achieved in several countries of the subregion with regard to their reporting to the international human rights mechanisms and the implementation of their recommendations. With the support of OHCHR, the governments of Cameroon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tomé and Príncipe compiled and clustered the recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the special procedures. Cameroon, Congo and Equatorial Guinea developed national plans of action to implement these recommendations. To enhance these efforts, OHCHR took steps to strengthen the capacities of governments, institutions and civil society organizations to adhere to the reporting guidelines and follow up on the implementation of recommendations.

- ▶ *NHRIs and civil society organizations effectively monitor human rights and engage with human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR in Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon (EA 7)*

Following capacity-building efforts undertaken by OHCHR, civil society organizations in Cameroon became increasingly aware of the work of the international human rights mechanisms. Since 2015, several civil society organizations in Cameroon have prepared and submitted alternative reports. Some of the representatives of these organizations are also members of the interministerial committee for reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which is led by the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family and received technical assistance from the Office. Similarly, in Equatorial Guinea, civil society organizations have greater awareness about the

international human rights mechanisms as a result of training by the Office. These organizations now interact more regularly with external stakeholders, including the international human rights mechanisms.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Counter-terrorism legal frameworks, policies, strategies and institutions increasingly aligned with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

In Cameroon, dialogue was facilitated between civil society organizations and law enforcement officers to share their experiences and discuss human rights and protection challenges while carrying out their respective duties. As a result of this dialogue, increased protection from law enforcement officers was provided to human rights defenders. OHCHR strengthened the capacities of 30 officers of the gendarmerie, the police and the Rapid Intervention Brigade, based in the Far North region, on their roles and responsibilities in protecting human rights while countering terrorism. The participants of these trainings requested that the Office set up a discussion forum with civil society actors, UN protection officers and other humanitarian organizations, which led to the creation of the platform.

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)*

Through OHCHR's engagement and advocacy in the area of human rights and business, States and companies in the subregion have strengthened their commitment to protecting human rights. For example, in Cameroon, three companies received capacity-building training, technical support and sensitization by OHCHR and as a result, are taking the lead in terms of human rights-responsive business development. More specifically, a project initiated with the private agro-industrial company Hevea Cameroon (Hevecam), in 2014, led to the establishment of an internal complaints mechanism for workers and dialogue structures between the company and local communities in the south of the country that are affected by its activities. In 2015, Hevecam adopted an internal policy to promote the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. In Congo, OHCHR continued to advocate for the adoption of texts that will regulate the application of the Law on Indigenous Peoples, which was approved in 2010. The texts are awaiting the signature of the President.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Significant improvements in legislation and policies relating to fundamental public freedoms in Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon (EA 1)*

Significant progress has been achieved in promoting respect among law enforcement officers for fundamental freedoms, especially in electoral periods. In Gabon, a Code of Conduct for law enforcement officials was approved in 2016, which specifies the individual responsibilities of officers in cases of human rights violations and their duty to protect persons during demonstrations and electoral processes. OHCHR, along with UNOCA, UNESCO, UNREC and UNDP, facilitated a series of national workshops to train at least 150 law enforcement officers on protecting human rights while ensuring security.

- ▶ *Effective protection mechanisms and measures for civil society actors, including human rights defenders and media actors at risk, established and strengthened in Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon (EA 3)*

In 2015, a constitutional reform process in Congo led to the abolition of the death penalty. In addition, the review of decrees for the implementation of laws protecting indigenous peoples, which OHCHR has advocated for since 2013, was completed in December 2016. As of August 2017, these laws have not yet been promulgated. In Cameroon, the Parliament adopted the new Penal Code, in June 2016, which strengthens human rights standards. The Penal Code provides for the protection of women in a number of areas, including access to property and the prohibition of harmful practices such as female genital mutilation.

- ▶ *Increased participation of civil society in public affairs in Cameroon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon (EA 5)*

Presidential elections in Congo, Gabon and Sao Tomé and Príncipe, in 2015 and 2016, saw the increased participation of women in the presidential elections. OHCHR provided technical support to members of electoral bodies and the election management bodies and undertook advocacy in order to promote the increased participation of persons living with disabilities, indigenous peoples and women in political and public affairs. In Cameroon, as a result of sensitization initiatives undertaken by OHCHR, board members of the election management body resolved to revise the Electoral Code to include a provision for the establishment of parity between women and men on the lists of political candidates. Consequently, political parties in Cameroon have committed to developing a concrete plan of action to encourage the increased participation of women, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples in the legislative and presidential elections in 2018.

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)*

OHCHR actively participated in meetings of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Peace and Security Questions in Central Africa to raise the awareness of Member States about the human rights situation in the subregion and call for increased efforts to protect human rights. OHCHR also advocated for enhanced cooperation with the international human rights mechanisms and for more concerted efforts in implementing their recommendations. Cooperation between OHCHR and UNOCA was further strengthened, including with the recruitment of a human rights adviser to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa, which has led to a more focused approach to human rights issues in the subregion.

- ▶ *The national and international community's response to the humanitarian problems caused by the conflicts have integrated a human rights-based approach (EA 10)*

To ensure the integration of human rights into humanitarian planning and responses in Cameroon, OHCHR contributed to strengthening the human rights capacities of the protection officers based in several UN agencies operating in the Far North region, including for the identification and referral of cases of human rights violations and abuses to competent authorities. In addition, the Office trained a group of civil society organizations working in the region on human rights monitoring and reporting. As a result, over 30 civil society organizations have been sharing information with OHCHR on the situation of human rights in that region.

Sub-regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa: (Yaoundé, Cameroon): Expenditure in 2017

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	1,011,872	91,366
Activities and operating costs	327,305	125,520
Subtotal	1,339,176	216,886
Programme support costs	-	28,195
GRAND TOTAL	1,339,176	245,081

Regional Office for East Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2017	18
Expenditure in 2017	US\$1,546,460

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Djibouti and Ethiopia ratify the ICRMW and Eritrea ratifies CAT and one optional protocol (EA 2)*

Ethiopia and Djibouti have not ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families despite advocacy efforts by OHCHR and other partners. In 2014, Eritrea ratified the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment following its second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

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

In Djibouti, an interministerial committee has been operating on an ad hoc basis as a reporting and follow-up mechanism. The Government, however, recently approached OHCHR to request support for the establishment of a standing mechanism. In Ethiopia, the Office of the Attorney General has been mandated, since 2016, to coordinate the Government's efforts to report to the international and regional human rights mechanisms and follow up on the implementation of their recommendations. Upon request, OHCHR provides technical support to the Office of the Attorney General in order to build its capacities to undertake these activities. OHCHR also contributed to the strengthening of the capacity of the National Monitoring and Reporting Framework in Tanzania, which developed a road map to submit outstanding reports to the human rights treaty bodies and is in the process of drafting one of them.

- ▶ *Civil society organizations contribute to all sessions of the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR. In addition, an increased number of communications will be sent to the special procedures by Djibouti and Ethiopia (EA 7)*

Following a workshop in Djibouti that OHCHR organized in collaboration with the Human Rights Commission and UNDP, civil society organizations

committed to increasing their engagement with the human rights treaty bodies. In Ethiopia, OHCHR supported the active engagement of civil society organizations with the international human rights mechanisms by supporting the participation of two civil society representatives, by broadcasting a live webcast of the second cycle of the UPR and through a forum that brought together human rights defenders from the region to facilitate peer to peer learning on how to access and engage with the mechanisms. Furthermore, in 2015, OHCHR's participation in a conference on the implementation of UPR recommendations, organized by Addis Ababa University, led to the development of a project to help civil society and academic institutions in Ethiopia effectively engage with the UPR and monitor the implementation of its recommendations. Currently, four academic institutions are carrying out research and civil society organizations have begun monitoring work on the ground. The results of these activities will be published in 2018.

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

During the reporting period, the Addis Ababa Road Map, which was developed in 2012 to promote increased interaction and engagement between the human rights mechanisms of the UN and African Union (AU), was reviewed to agree upon a set of actionable points in order to cultivate areas of cooperation. The Road Map calls for joint country visits by the special procedures of both organizations, enhanced follow-up to the recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms of both organizations and improved engagement in the UPR process. In this regard, OHCHR continued providing assistance to the AU human rights organs, guided by the outcomes of the annual dialogues that OHCHR organizes to facilitate regular sharing of information and experiences with the AU. Moreover, the support provided to the three key AU human rights organs led to a number of concrete results, including the development of the draft African Ten-Year Human Rights Action and Implementation Plan and the organization of consultations with civil society organizations on the Plan.

- ▶ *Enhanced systematic engagement by UNCTs with international human rights mechanisms (EA 11)*

In Djibouti, Ethiopia and Tanzania, human rights recommendations were integrated into the respective joint United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks of the United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs), following briefings and advocacy by OHCHR. In addition, in Djibouti, OHCHR provided technical assistance for the preparation of a joint UNCT report for the third cycle of the country's UPR.



The High Commissioner meets with Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn during his visit to Ethiopia, May 2017. © OHCHR

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *Public administrations increasingly take into consideration the rights of persons living with disabilities in delivering their services in Djibouti (EA 4)*

While the original focus of this expected result was Djibouti, OHCHR decided to focus on increasing the compliance of national laws and policies with anti-discrimination and equality standards in Ethiopia as it presented an environment that was more conducive to the achievement of significant progress. OHCHR took steps to strengthen Ethiopia's committee that is mandated to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities into the activities of the Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Unions. This resulted in the preparation and launch of a disability inclusion guide for trade unions. OHCHR also collaborated with the AU to publish a study on the situation of women's rights in Africa and provided technical support to the campaign by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights for the decriminalization of abortion in Africa.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Courts and police investigation units start implementing recommendations issued by the regional and international human rights mechanisms in Djibouti and Ethiopia (EA 1)*

In Djibouti, the National Human Rights Commission drafted a human rights manual for the police. Through technical cooperation, OHCHR ensured that the manual provides a means of effective policing through its compliance with international human rights standards. Similar support was provided to the Ministry of Justice of Ethiopia to prepare a manual on the use of force and accountability mechanisms. The Office further supported the development of a Litigants Charter, which was com-

missioned by the UNODC and aimed at providing comprehensive information for litigants on what to expect from the judiciary, the police, prosecutors and legal aid providers. OHCHR also contributed to the increased capacity of the judiciary and law enforcement agencies of the region through a number of training activities. For instance, in 2016, the capacity of human rights investigators of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission was enhanced through a series of trainings on human rights monitoring and investigation, which enabled them to undertake three major investigations about allegations of human rights violations in the context of the 2016 demonstrations in Ethiopia. In Djibouti, 20 law enforcement officials increased their knowledge of international human rights standards related to due process, the use of force and the treatment of detainees. In Tanzania, the knowledge and skills of 30 human rights investigators from the Commission on Human Rights and Good Governance on human rights monitoring, investigation and advocacy was enhanced in 2017. The training led the participants to amend and develop the Commission's monitoring and investigation guidelines, improve data collection and produce more targeted reports.

- ▶ *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)*

OHCHR participated in a series of events that aimed at the development and adoption of the AU Transitional Justice Policy Framework. The Office provided technical input and shared good practices and relevant documents, with a view to ensuring that the Policy incorporates relevant international human rights standards. Despite all of the consultations that have taken place since 2013, the AU Transitional Justice Policy Framework has not yet been adopted.

- ▶ *The AU and an increasing number of NGOs campaign against the death penalty (EA 10)*

At a 2014 Continental Conference on the Abolition of the Death Penalty in Africa, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) urged AU member states to observe a moratorium on the death penalty and consider its abolition. OHCHR took part in this consultation and provided technical input to the development of the draft Additional Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Abolition of the Death Penalty. Nevertheless, as a result of activism from a core group of AU member states, the AU Specialized Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs decided to suspend the adoption and endorsement of the draft Additional Protocol in 2016. Indeed, the lack of political consensus on the issue of the death penalty continues to impede its adoption by AU member states.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Ethiopian Human Rights Commission processes claims related to adverse effects of development programmes (EA 3)*

The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission conducted monitoring missions to five regions of the country to evaluate the human rights implications of a resettlement programme in connection with the Government's concession of lands for commercial agriculture. The Commission investigated various aspects of the programme, such as the degree of consultation, consent and appropriate compensation in light of applicable international human rights principles, proposed correctional measures and published its findings. OHCHR shared the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and other relevant documents with the Commission and advocated for increased implementation of the Guiding Principles.

- ▶ *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)*

The AU developed a draft policy framework on business and human rights with the technical advice of the Office. The draft policy framework seeks to provide a regional road map on business and human rights in the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. It further commits to addressing the negative impact of some businesses on the human rights of women, children, the elderly, youth, persons with disabilities and other groups.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Increased participation of rights-holders, including women and discriminated groups, in public life at the national and local levels (EA 5)*

In Ethiopia, OHCHR supported the Government in the organization of a 2015 workshop on the implementation of UPR recommendations, which provided a forum for civil society actors to engage with State authorities. In the same context, the Office of the Attorney General included provisions on the involvement of civil society organizations in the implementation and monitoring of the National Human Rights Action Plan II. OHCHR advocated for the increased participation of civil society in the abovementioned processes and for the full incorporation of recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms in the action plan. Additionally, the Office delivered a three-day training to civil society organizations in the subregion on how to engage with AU human rights mechanisms on sexual and reproductive health rights. This resulted in the establishment of a women's human rights defenders network comprised of civil society organizations from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

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 founded on respect for human rights (EA 10)*

OHCHR continued to engage with the AU at the highest level to advocate for the integration of human rights and gender within the context of conflict, violence and insecurity. This has contributed to an increased consideration of human rights in AU peace support operations and AU outcome documents. Some results achieved include the enhanced capacity of AU human rights observers in Burundi, the increased knowledge of AU civilian and military planners to apply the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy and the integration of a gender perspective into the AU peace support mission in Somalia. The Office contributed to ensuring that AU policies, guidance notes and decisions are compliant with international human rights standards by making regular submissions to the open sessions of the AU Peace and Security Council and various regional-level policy discourses. OHCHR further assisted AU member states in their efforts to strengthen the gender dimensions of counter-terrorism policies and prevent violent extremism. In 2017, the Office cooperated with UNODC to increase the capacity of Nigerian law enforcement officials on the gender dimensions of criminal justice. Technical support was also provided to national authorities on the integration of human rights and gender considerations into governmental responses to terrorism and violent extremism. The Office also organized two dialogues with the leadership and experts of the AU human rights organs and civil society organizations aimed at achieving effective cooperation and collaboration.

The dialogues resulted in identifying comparative advantages of the respective institutions and reaching agreements on key strategic areas of cooperation on country-specific and thematic areas of concern at continental level. In particular, an agreement was reached for OHCHR to provide technical assistance on integrating human rights considerations in the AU's Continental Early Warning System as a tool to prevent violent conflicts, and to support the development of a code of conduct for AU human rights observers.

Regional Office for East Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia): Expenditure in 2017

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	145,256	941,906
Activities and operating costs	14,389	285,363
Subtotal	159,646	1,227,269
Programme support costs	-	159,545
GRAND TOTAL	159,646	1,386,814

Regional Office for Southern Africa (Pretoria, South Africa)

Year established	1998
Staff as of 31 December 2017	5
Expenditure in 2017	US\$673,030

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 ICRMW (EA 2)*
As a result of OHCHR's advocacy, Malawi and Seychelles became States Parties to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance in 2017.
- ▶ *Establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting on/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in Angola and Mozambique (EA 6)*
The existing national coordinating bodies on reporting and follow-up in Botswana, Mauritius, Mo-

zambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe have been strengthened through OHCHR capacity-building activities and technical advice regarding the development of terms of reference. The Office also provided guidance to the Governments of Lesotho and Swaziland for the future establishment of such mechanisms.

- ▶ *Standing invitation to special procedures issued by Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius and Namibia (EA 6)*
During the reporting period, standing invitations to the special procedures have been extended by Lesotho, Malawi and Mozambique.
- ▶ *Positive reply to requests from special procedures mandate-holders to visit Swaziland and Zimbabwe (EA 6)*
A total of 15 special procedures requests resulted in visits to countries in the subregion during the reporting period, including the missions of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons to Namibia and the Special Rapporteur on the right to food to Zambia, both of which took place in 2017.
- ▶ *The number and diversity of civil society actors and UNCTs submitting information to the UPR in Angola, Comoros, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Swaziland and Zimbabwe is increased or maintained (EA 7)*

More than 20 civil society organizations from countries of the subregion submitted over 120 alternative reports to the human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Most of them received guidance and support from the Office. In terms of national human rights institutions (NHRIs), although a good number of those in the subregion have been accredited with 'A' status, they have had limited engagement with the human rights treaty bodies. Nevertheless, they have actively engaged with their respective States to promote the ratification of outstanding treaties, the withdrawal of reservations, the fulfilment of their State Party reporting obligations and the implementation of received recommendations.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *Effective and efficient implementation of existing programmes to ensure the representation of marginalized and discriminated groups in key institutions in South Africa (EA 4)*
Work continued on the development of the National Disability Rights Policy for South Africa with the support of OHCHR and other UN agencies. The latest consultation was held in December 2017. The Office also supported the launch of public consultations in relation to the National Action Plan to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance 2016-2021.



Members of the Zimbabwe Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law who attended an OHCHR training on treaty body reporting. © OHCHR/Southern Africa

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Transitional justice mechanisms established and increasingly operating in accordance with international human rights norms, standards and good practices (EA 3)*

In 2016, the Zimbabwean National Peace Reconciliation Commission Bill was withdrawn from the Parliament for further consultation after civil society expressed serious concerns. In early 2017, an amended version was presented, which garnered support from the general public. Although concerns remained about the degree of its alignment with international standards on transitional justice mechanisms, the Bill was adopted and entered into force. OHCHR provided its views on the Bill and its draft regulations and highlighted potential incongruities with international standards.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Mechanisms and/or policies on business and human rights, including with regard to an effective remedy, established in Mozambique (EA 3)*

A number of activities were implemented in Mozambique to support the development of a national action plan on business and human rights. During the reporting period, the Office met with all relevant stakeholders to discuss the development of such an action plan. The Office had supported a national conference on business and human rights during which the Government had announced its commitment to develop a plan. The Government subsequently called on civil society and the international community to support the implementation of a national baseline assessment to guide the action plan. OHCHR provided technical assistance to all stakeholders, reviewed the terms of reference for the study and the draft study report. In addition to the baseline assessment, a national coordination mech-

anism, composed of governmental entities, civil society organizations and business enterprises, was established with a view to finalizing the action plan.

- ▶ *Increased participation of affected groups in the development and economic policy (EA 5)*

An innovative human rights education project by the South African Human Rights Commission, the Department of Higher Education, the Department of Basic Education, and various South African universities, resulted in a policy framework that promotes the integration of a human rights-based approach into curriculum development and teacher education. OHCHR designed curriculum modules for grades 4 to 12 that will be integrated into all public schools. The South African Human Rights Commission's ambition to replicate this model in other African countries has resulted in an agreement with the Ministries of Education in Botswana, Swaziland and Zambia.

- ▶ *A human rights-based approach is integrated into the next United Nations Development Assistance Framework/United Nations Partnership Framework and selected UN programmes in Botswana, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe (EA 11)*

During the reporting period, OHCHR provided support on the inclusion of a human rights-based approach into the programming of United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) of the subregion. This contributed to the integration of human rights concepts into the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks of Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In South Africa, OHCHR ensured the integration of a human rights-based approach in the activities of all working groups of the UNCT.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *NHRIs established and/or functioning in compliance with the Paris Principles in Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Mozambique and Zimbabwe (EA 1)*

In Botswana, the Government decided, in 2014, to reform the Office of the Ombudsperson to include a human rights mandate and eventually convert it to a NHRI. During the reporting period, OHCHR expressed its readiness to support a consultation process leading up to the establishment of a NHRI and a draft road map was prepared. In 2017, the Government reported that the enabling legislation had not yet been tabled or approved. The NHRI of Mozambique lacks sufficient funding and faces structural challenges that impact on its independence, which prevents it from operating in compliance with the Paris Principles. On a more positive note, the NHRI was strengthened, in 2017, with the appointment of new commissioners with prominent standing in the human rights community. Since the 2013 enactment of the new Constitution in Zimbabwe, there have been improvements in the operationalization of the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC), including as a result of dedicated support from OHCHR. The Office and other partners provided a number of trainings for NHRI commissioners and staff on engagement with the international human rights mechanisms, complaints handling, monitoring places of detention, business and human rights and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. There is also ongoing advocacy for greater resourcing and independence for the Commission. In 2016, the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission was accredited with 'A' status by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Commissions. OHCHR also supported efforts for the establishment or strengthening of NHRIs in Lesotho and Seychelles. In Lesotho, the enabling legislation was adopted in 2016, however, the institution has not yet been established. Furthermore, OHCHR worked with the Government of Seychelles to strengthen the Human Rights Commission and though some progress was made, the Cabinet has not yet approved a review of the enabling legislation to assess its compliance with the Paris Principles.

Regional Office for Southern Africa (Pretoria, South Africa): Expenditure in 2017

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	140,091	354,935
Activities and operating costs	-	116,693
Subtotal	140,091	471,627
Programme support costs	-	61,312
GRAND TOTAL	140,091	532,939

Regional Office for West Africa (Dakar, Senegal)

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2017	12
Expenditure in 2017	US\$1,504,440

Results

Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Benin ratifies ICRMW, OP-ICESCR, and OP-CEDAW; Gambia ratifies ICRMW, CAT, OP-ICESCR, OP-IC-CPR and OP-CEDAW; Cape Verde ratifies CPRD and its Optional Protocol, OP-ICESCR and OP-CAT; Senegal ratifies OP-ICESCR, OP-ICCPR and OP-CRPD; and Burkina Faso ratifies OP-ICESCR and OP-ICCPR (EA 2)*

In Benin, the process of the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW) has begun and the Parliament is reviewing the draft bills for the ratification of the two international instruments. The Gambia signed the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the ICRMW and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

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

In Cape Verde, an Inter-ministerial Committee was established, in June, and mandated to draft all reports to the international human rights mechanisms and follow up on their recommendations. In the Gambia, an Inter-ministerial Task Force was struck on an ad hoc basis to prepare reports to the human rights treaty bodies. OHCHR trained the members of the Task Force and advocated with the Government for the establishment of a permanent mechanism for reporting and follow-up. In Burkina Faso and Senegal, action plans were developed to bring together the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. Regarding the submission of reports to the human rights treaty bodies, in Burkina Faso, the periodic reports under CAT and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination were finalized and adopted through a national validation workshop. They were then transmitted to

the Council of Ministers for adoption and submission to the relevant human rights treaty bodies. Furthermore, with OHCHR guidance, recommendations from human rights mechanisms were compiled and implementation matrices were developed to follow up on their implementation. Cape Verde completed and submitted its report to the Human Rights Committee while Benin submitted its overdue reports under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Finally, OHCHR organized a training of trainers workshop for representatives of 15 countries from French and Portuguese-speaking African countries with the objective of training civil servants on the drafting of State reports to the human rights mechanisms.

- ▶ *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 and Burkina Faso, thanks to awareness-raising efforts undertaken by the Office, civil society organizations submitted alternative reports in anticipation of Benin's second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2017 and for Burkina Faso's third cycle review in 2018.

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)*

Significant legislative progress has been witnessed in a number of countries of the subregion, due in part to OHCHR's advocacy and technical support. In Benin, the Government adopted a Child's Code and a Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Senegal adopted a law on persons with disabilities which integrated definitions provided by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In addition, OHCHR collaborated with other UN agencies to support the Government of Senegal in the development and implementation of a national action plan to fight discrimination against women and combat gender-based violence. Furthermore, a mapping of actors and initiatives for preventing child abuse and an analysis of the relevant legislative and institutional framework were conducted, with OHCHR's support, which will feed the finalization of the code of the child. Also in Senegal, in May, OHCHR organized a symposium with religious leaders on the rights of women and children in Islam using CRC and CEDAW recommendations as a basis for discussion. The event was instrumental in raising awareness on misperceptions about Islam



The OHCHR Regional Office for West Africa organized with the Senegalese Ministry of Foreign Affairs a symposium for religious leaders and civil society representatives on the rights of women and children from the perspective of Islam, May 2017.
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and human rights and in stressing the importance of increasing the knowledge on the human rights mechanisms in a society where religious and traditional values play a major role.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Transitional justice mechanisms established and increasingly operating in accordance with international human rights norms, standards and good practices (EA 3)*

In December, the Gambian National Assembly adopted the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission Act establishing a non-judicial mechanism for the investigation of violations and abuses of human rights in the Gambia between July 1994 and January 2017. OHCHR has commented on the draft legislation but not all recommendations have been integrated into the final version of the Act.

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)*

Human rights concepts and recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms were substantially integrated into the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) of Burkina Faso for 2018-2020, Cape Verde for 2018-2021, the Gambia for 2017-2021 and the transitional UNDAF 2017-2018 of Senegal. In Togo, the draft of the new Common Country Assessment for 2019-2023 integrates a human rights-based approach and links to the Sustainable Development Goals, while in Niger, human rights and gender considerations are fully integrated into the current UNDAF. The Office provided

inputs to all of these documents, actively participated in their development and strengthened the capacities of United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) in the region on human rights mainstreaming.

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 2015, the Benin Human Rights Commission was created by law, in full compliance with the Paris Principles, but its members have not yet been appointed. In Burkina Faso, OHCHR provided technical support for the adoption of legislation, in 2016, to reform the national human rights institution (NHRI). A Presidential decree on the organization and functioning of the new Commission was promulgated in April and the selection process of the members of the Commission was launched in May. The selection process is ongoing and nine out of 11 members were already selected in 2017. The first national Ombudsman of Cape Verde was nominated in 2013 and a draft bill to reform the National Commission on Human Rights and Citizenship, which is fully compliant with the Paris Principles, is being reviewed by the Ministry of Justice. It is anticipated that the draft will be sent to the Parliament for adoption in 2018. Partly as a result of OHCHR's advocacy, a bill to establish the National Human Rights Commission in the Gambia was tabled in the National Assembly in December 2017. In Togo, although legislation reforming the NHRI was adopted in 2017, the process for nominating its members has not yet started.

- ▶ *Increased use of civil society, particularly youth and women, of international human rights instruments and mechanisms (EA 5)*

In Benin, civil society organizations submitted alternative reports to the human rights treaty bodies in 2015 and 2016 and also prepared alternative reports for the country's second cycle of the UPR in 2017. Likewise, in Burkina Faso, a coalition of NGOs submitted an alternative report for the next cycle of the UPR in 2018. OHCHR provided technical guidance and documentation to the abovementioned organizations regarding the degree of implementation of the recommendations issued by the UPR and the treaty bodies in order to improve the quality of their submissions. In addition, following OHCHR's technical guidance to support the advocacy work of national NGOs, a new law on the protection of human rights defenders was promulgated, in July, by the President of Burkina Faso. Moreover, OHCHR contributed to raising the awareness of human rights defenders and journalists on the provisions of the new law. In Senegal, the Office continued to support the human rights club of the Lycée CEM des Martyrs of Thiaroye, which was created in 2014 to hold regular meetings to discuss human rights issues and promote educational and artistic activities. With the support of OHCHR, the Club committed to sharing its experiences with other schools in Senegal. In Togo, the Office raised the awareness of civil society organizations and the Government on the need to adopt an integrated approach and use human rights indicators for the implementation of recommendations and the drafting of a national action plan. The Office guided civil society actors on effective measures and good practices to ensure the implementation of national laws on public demonstrations and the maintenance of public order. As a result, they strengthened their advocacy for the revision of the laws and the adoption of a law to protect human rights defenders.

UN Human Rights launches a mapping report in the Central African Republic

On 30 May, UN Human Rights and UNDP launched a mapping report on the most serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the Central African Republic from January 2003 to December 2015. The report, mandated by the Security Council, documents the details of 612 incidents, including accounts of entire villages being burnt to the ground in reprisal attacks, multiple accounts of gang rapes of women and girls, extrajudicial killings, deaths following severe torture or ill-treatment in detention centres, serious violence against people on the basis of their religion, ethnicity or perceived support for armed groups, the recruit-

ment of thousands of children by armed groups and attacks on both humanitarian actors and peacekeepers, among other serious violations. Following the launch, UN Human Rights joined UNDP and the UN Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict to hold a technical seminar that gathered together more than 70 participants from national institutions, UN agencies and civil society organizations. The participants discussed strategies to support the authorities in their efforts to fight impunity and implement a comprehensive and inclusive transitional justice process, which are essential to national reconciliation, social cohesion and lasting peace in the country.

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

In the Gambia, a platform of civil society actors working on gender issues was established and supported by OHCHR. It has concluded an action plan to integrate the gender dimension into the transitional justice strategy being developed. In Senegal, the Office supported the implementation of the Parity Law through technical support to the National Gender Observatory and Women Electoral platform. It also provided training and assisted with the production of a handbook for women parliamentarians on the integration of human rights and gender into policies and programmes. In the 2017 legislative elections, the number of women parliamentarians in the National Assembly increased to 70 from 64 in 2012, with a rate of 43 per cent. At the regional level, members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) adopted, on 10 February 2017, four key documents to advance gender mainstreaming and the inclusion of women in political, peace and security processes, including the 2017-2022 Strategic Framework and Action Plan for Gender and Elections and the 2017-2022 Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security within the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework.

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

- *Timely response to human rights issues in the context of early warning efforts, mainly in relation to the Sahel crisis, by the Human Rights Council and ECOWAS (EA 10)*

In 2017, OHCHR contributed to the drafting of a position paper relating to gender and violent extremism, which was initiated by the UNCT Gender Thematic Group. The paper revealed the increasing use by Boko Haram of women and children in terrorist acts and highlighted the increased targeting of women and children as victims of violent extremism, either directly or indirectly. In Senegal, with regard to the Hissen Habré trial, the Office provided technical support to the judges and prosecutors of the Extraordinary African Chambers throughout the trial. This included the sharing of relevant documentation and positive experiences in the administration of justice and international criminal justice. The Office further supported the implementation of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) by carrying out activities related to the three pillars of the strategy: governance, security and resilience. Jointly with UNDP and UN-ODC, OHCHR has designed a project on access to justice for vulnerable populations in the Sahel, which seeks to strengthen the justice system and enhance the capacity of judicial actors to administer justice in accordance with international human

rights standards. Furthermore, OHCHR has undertaken a study to analyse the link between radicalization, violent extremism and human rights violations in West Africa and the Sahel and to discuss how the promotion and protection of human rights by States could prevent the expansion of those phenomena. Finally, OHCHR is contributing to implement a human rights compliance framework to be followed by the G5 Sahel Cross-Border Joint Force when planning and realizing its operations, as per the Security Council Resolution 2391. The framework is a set of norms, measures and mechanisms that States members of the G5 Joint Force have to comply with while fighting against terrorism.

Regional Office for West Africa (Dakar, Senegal): Expenditure in 2017

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	920,821	95,440
Activities and operating costs	98,128	334,198
Subtotal	1,018,949	429,638
Programme support costs	-	55,853
GRAND TOTAL	1,018,949	485,491

Human Rights Components in UN Peace and Political Missions

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

Year established	2000
Staff as of 31 December 2017	85

Results

Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms

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

As a result of advocacy undertaken by the Human Rights Division (HRD) of the United Nations Multi-



Children at a school in Bangui take part in a class on gender violence led by the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic.
© UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

dimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), the Government ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict in 2017. In June, HRD organized a two-day seminar for 38 government authorities on the preparation of a national plan for the implementation of the recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies.

- ▶ *The Government has submitted at least half of its overdue reports to the human rights treaty bodies (EA 6)*

With technical support and expert advice from HRD, the interministerial committee in charge of drafting reports to the human rights treaty bodies prepared and submitted, on 11 September 2017, the initial report due under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Increased number of human rights cases processed by the justice system (EA 1)*

The fight against impunity was recognized as a key priority and strong foundation for building sustainable peace in the Central African Republic during the 2015 discussions on national reconciliation (the Bangui National Forum). Since then, HRD has provided technical assistance to the Government to identify, investigate and prosecute those responsible for crimes involving violations and abuses of international humanitarian law and international human rights law so that they can be brought to justice. HRD also provided technical assistance for the operationalization of the Special Criminal Court by supporting the deployment of magistrates to lead investigation and prosecution activities and the development of strat-

egies for prosecution and the protection of victims and witnesses. Furthermore, the mapping report issued by HRD in 2017, which is based on UN Security Council resolution S/RES/2301 and documented 620 cases of serious human rights and international humanitarian law violations committed between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2015, proposed priority areas for future investigations by the Special Criminal Court.

- ▶ *A comprehensive transitional justice strategy is adopted and implemented (EA 3)*

Important developments with regard to transitional justice have taken place during the reporting period with regard to judicial and non-judicial mechanisms. On 11 September, a Steering Committee was established under a presidential decree to lead the creation of the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission. An effort was made to promote the participation of various stakeholders on the 21-member Steering Committee, with representatives from the Presidency of the Republic; the National Assembly; the Government; political associations and parties as well as civil society. Representatives of MINUSCA, the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States and the European Union will also participate in the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is mandated to prepare a draft law on the creation, establishment and operationalization of the Truth Commission and to carry out national consultations to foster local ownership. Consultations have been held between HRD and the Government to address the structural gaps in the national archive and documentation system. These steps are essential for strengthening the transitional justice process and moving towards the building of a National Centre for Documentation and Memory. Furthermore, a Civil Society Working Group on Transitional Justice was created in 2017. With expert advice and technical support from HRD, the Working Group will help civil society to find a common advocacy position and role in the transitional justice process.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Human rights-based approaches incorporated into the UNDAF mid-term review and other UN development programmes (EA 11)*

In 2015, within the context of the Common Country Assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (CCA/UNDAF) 2013-2017 of the Central African Republic, HRD supported dialogue initiatives on the inclusion of a human rights-based approach into UN programmes for the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), the Government and civil society organizations. These initiatives provided participants with practical opportunities to appreciate



Human Rights Day commemoration in the streets of Bangui, Central African Republic. © UN Photo/Herve Sereffio

the importance of integrating a human rights-based approach into development work and as a way to strengthen the UNDAF. HRD regularly participated in UNCT meetings and contributed to mainstreaming human rights during the elaboration of the UNDAF 2018-2021. In addition, in 2017, through regular technical meetings and advocacy, HRD ensured the mainstreaming of human rights into the design of the post-conflict recovery strategy, which was initiated by the Government and supported by the UNCT. This five-year recovery and peacebuilding plan fully integrates the promotion and protection of human rights, including through its support for the establishment and strengthening of the National Commission for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Throughout the year, HRD conducted a number of induction trainings for new MINUSCA staff on basic concepts of international human rights and humanitarian law and the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP). The training benefited more than 1,000 civilian, police and military personnel.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *By 2017, the National Commission of Human Rights is established and functioning in accordance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)*

The Law on the Human Rights Commission was adopted on 20 April 2017. In 2010, an initial draft was prepared to establish an independent national human rights institution that is functioning in accordance with the Paris Principles. It was transmitted to the National Assembly for its adoption in 2012. The volatile security situation and the limited presence of State authority in the country negatively impacted on the progress of the draft and resulted in significant delays. During the reporting period, knowledge transfer and a sense of national ownership were fostered through several dialogue initiatives, which were held with the technical support of HRD. This enabled various stakeholders, including National Assembly members and representatives from public administration and civil society organizations, to review the draft legislation on the creation of the institution and strengthen their knowledge about the Paris Principles. In parallel, HRD

organized consultations and undertook advocacy with the Government for the adoption of the draft. Following the establishment of the Human Rights Commission, 12 commissioners (four women and eight men) were appointed by presidential decree, on 15 September 2017. The commissioners took office on 23 October. Although the appointment of the commissioners marks an important milestone, the operationalization and deployment of the Commission at the regional level requires timely and concerted support by MINUSCA and the international community on an ongoing basis.

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)*
- Following its 2015 establishment, the National Committee on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide, War Crimes, Crimes against Humanity and All Forms of Discrimination, developed a comprehensive strategy aimed at operationalizing its structures, including its fact finding-commission, and implementing its mandated tasks throughout the country. HRD supported the Committee through expert advice for the implementation of the strategy. Furthermore, in 2017, as a result of a consultative process supported by HRD and UNDP, the Government produced and disseminated a comprehensive national protection strategy for victims and witnesses with a view to encouraging the collaboration of victims and witnesses in the search for truth and the fight against impunity before ordinary courts and transitional justice bodies. The comprehensive strategy, in accordance with international human rights standards and relevant good practices, includes implementation plans and cost estimates for ordinary courts. It also includes a proposal for operational and procedural measures of protection, as well as assistance measures aimed at ensuring the physical security and well-being of victims and witnesses. In order to contribute to a protective environment that is conducive to sustainable peace, HRD regularly conducted field missions throughout the country to ensure greater protection for civilians and to foster accountability for human rights violations. Human rights officers monitored the conditions of detention in prisons and verified and reported on allegations of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, including violations against children and conflict-related sexual violence and abductions. The subsequent mission reports were used as early warning tools and as evidence-based tools to advocate with relevant stakeholders for compliance with international human rights standards and norms in the discharge of their respective duties.

- ▶ *Human rights policies and tools integrated into the work of MINUSCA's components and peacebuilding policies and programmes (EA 11)*

In 2017, HRD developed a secure database featuring the profiles of perpetrators of grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law that can be used to screen beneficiaries of military assistance, training or any other support provided by MINUSCA. With regard to the development and implementation of a HRDDP plan for the integration of all eligible demobilized members of armed groups into security and defence forces, HRD drafted a strategic paper, in August, on MINUSCA's advocacy and support for national vetting processes in the Central African Republic. The paper assesses the extent to which the Government has implemented the relevant provisions of UN Security Council resolutions and explores viable opportunities to ensure MINUSCA has a comprehensive and coherent approach to vetting. Furthermore, HRD developed a standard operating procedure on vetting procedures, guidelines and mechanisms within MINUSCA.

African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2017	66

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Increased ratification of international and regional human rights instruments (EA 2)*

The Human Rights Section (HRS) of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) continued to advocate for the ratification of key international human rights instruments, however, no ratifications took place during the reporting period.



A human rights officer facilitates a training for members of the state Committee for Combating Violence Against Women, in Nyala, South Darfur. © UNAMID/ Mutaz Munafal



Workshop on combating gender-based violence for women in North Darfur. © UNAMID/Amin Ismail

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

In February 2017, the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan visited the country and met with internally displaced persons in North and West Darfur, senior government officials, civil society groups and other national and international stakeholders. In his report, which was submitted to the Human Rights Council, in July, the Independent Expert acknowledged the steps taken by the Government to make improvements in the field of human rights and raised concerns about a number of issues, including arbitrary arrest and prolonged detention.

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)*

During the reporting period, HRS monitored high profile trials and determined that the courts are increasingly operating in compliance with international standards on the right to a fair trial and the treatment of witnesses and individuals who are criminally accused.

- ▶ *Transitional justice and other mechanisms of redress are fully functioning in accordance with international human rights norms and standards (EA 3)*

Sudan's National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) took steps to enhance its reach through workshops in North, South, East and West Darfur. The workshops were the first to be held in areas outside of North Darfur and provided civil society and State actors with an opportunity to meet with officials from NCHR and review the five-year action plan. Additionally, HRS contributed to the development of an action plan by the Justice, Truth and Reconciliation Commission with a view to improving the discharge of its mandate.

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)*

The Criminal Act was amended to separate the offence of rape from that of adultery and to add harassment as an offence. These changes have had a limited practical impact for women as they still face stigma in reporting and have little or no access to psychosocial therapy.

- ▶ *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)*

UNAMID and UNDP collaborated to address challenges faced by internally displaced persons through a number of initiatives, including joint programmes on the rule of law, access to justice and technical support for the transitional justice mechanism in Darfur. In addition, HRS continued to closely collaborate with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in relation to monitoring and reporting on conflict-related sexual violence. Joint programmes were also carried out to mainstream human rights as a preventive action against violence. Cooperation and coordination with the UNCT were strengthened through various platforms, such as the Protection Cluster Working Group, the Return and Reintegration Working Group and the Gender-Based Violence Working Group. This provided the UNCT with opportunities to harness and harmonize programmes, policies and strategies on the protection of civilians, development, humanitarian action, early recovery and security.

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

Year established	1996 (as a stand-alone office) and 2008 (integration with the Human Rights Division of DPKO)
Staff as of 31 December 2017	123

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Timely submission of reports to the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR (EA 6)*

During the past four years, the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO) provided financial and technical support to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to help with the drafting and submission of long overdue periodic reports to the human rights treaty bodies. As a result, the report to the Human Rights Committee was submitted in March 2017. UNJHRO also supported the Human Rights Inter-ministerial Committee to develop a national action plan for the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. The political turmoil and uncertainty that has plagued the country since 2016, largely resulting from the delayed announcement of a new government, has negatively affected the validation process. It is now expected that the validation process will take place in 2018.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *National justice systems, encompassing customary justice systems, established and functioning in accordance with international human rights norms and standards (EA 1)*

The Justice Reform Plan, led by the Ministry of Justice, was validated on May 2017 and includes several recommendations from UNJHRO, such as the reinforcement of international judicial cooperation, the adoption of a national prosecution strategy for international crimes, the abolition of the death penalty and the adoption of a law on the protection of victims and witnesses. A team of experts is currently drafting a corresponding action plan, to be validated in 2018.

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

From January to November, at least 132 soldiers from the armed forces, 45 police agents and 21 members of militias or armed groups were convicted for their involvement in human rights violations or abuses. During 2017, UNJHRO supported 25 mobile courts to prosecute alleged perpetrators of serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, notably sexual violence, that were committed in different provinces of the DRC.

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

During the reporting period, neither the Government nor civil society organizations established transitional justice initiatives or truth seeking mechanisms.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *The draft bill for the protection of human rights defenders is adopted (EA 1)*

During the reporting period, UNJHRO provided logistical and financial support for the organization of

several advocacy and outreach activities, which in turn contributed to the Senate's adoption of a bill on the protection of human rights defenders. The activities included two workshops that brought together senators, members of the National Commission for Human Rights and civil society actors to validate the draft law, targeted advocacy that led to the approval of the bill by the Senate, on May 2017, and its subsequent submission to the National Assembly as well as sustained advocacy with civil society organizations for its final adoption.

► *The NHRI is working in compliance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)*

In 2013, the national human rights institution (NHRI) was established by Organic Law 13/011, in compliance with the Paris Principles. During the reporting period, UNJHRO organized various capacity-building activities for members of the NHRI on issues such as investigation techniques and the monitoring of public demonstrations. Support was provided for the development of a communication plan for the NHRI.

► *A reduction of 5 per cent in the number of human rights violations related to elections as compared to the 2011 electoral process (EA 1)*

UNJHRO continued to carry out regular monitoring of and reporting on the human rights situation and regularly updated its database on violations of human rights in relation to restricting democratic space. The database is used to produce desegregated figures, identify trends and make recommendations to relevant stakeholders. In the same vein, UNJHRO issued three public reports regarding human rights violations that were committed in the electoral process, including one on the pre-electoral phase (released in 2015), another on the demonstrations of 19 September 2016 and a third on the demonstrations of 19 December 2016. The reports were sent to Congolese authorities, diplomatic corps and the media in order to deter further restrictions to democratic space and encourage early warning initiatives.

► *Five functional protection networks operating at the provincial and national levels are established (EA 3)*

Since the progressive establishment of individual protection networks, 19 of these networks have been trained on human rights monitoring and protection guidelines. They have also benefited from ongoing training through routine meetings and seminars facilitated by the UNJHRO. These activities enabled 844 participants, including 226 women, to share their experiences of strengthening national and local systems for the protection of civil society actors at risk. As a consequence, the capacity of local NGOs to handle individual cases has been strengthened. These NGOs are now able to more effectively assess reported threats against human



UNJHRO staff members monitoring a demonstration in Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of the Congo. © MONUSCO

rights defenders and provide basic protection advice to their peers when necessary.

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 Investigation Teams (EA 3)*

In 2017, Joint Investigation Teams were deployed on 23 occasions and 25 mobile court hearings were facilitated, involving a total of 903 beneficiaries as victims and witnesses. In addition, UNJHRO maintained regular contact with national authorities of military justice to share monthly updates about its human rights monitoring. UNJHRO was able to maintain a good relationship with the military justice system in relation to sexual violence cases through monitoring activities or by supporting the organization of mobile courts. In fact, in April and May, UNJHRO supported mobile court hearings of military tribunals, which resulted in the sentencing of 11 military and three police agents for sexual violence offences.

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

Within the framework of the Protection Working Group, UNJHRO carried out field missions with humanitarian actors in crisis and conflict-affected areas, during which humanitarian needs were identified and assessed. UNJHRO also conducted monitoring and fact-finding activities in areas with internally displaced persons and refugee camps and supported investigations by judicial authorities, as well as mobile courts, to prosecute and try perpetrators of sexual violence and other human rights violations in the context of humanitarian crises.

► *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)*

The number of completed profiles in the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) database increased by 21 per cent in 2017 compared to 2016. Furthermore, in 2017, the HRDDP Secretariat re-

ceived 1,691 requests for clearance, including from the armed forces of the DRC, the national police, UNPOL and other UN agencies, such as UNMAS, UNHCR and IOM. The HRDDP Secretariat also conducted field missions to Bukavu, Kalemie, Beni, Lubumbashi, Bunia, Uvira and Goma to brief army and police officers on the HRDDP principles. On 19 April, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General signed the new standard operating procedure for the implementation of the HRDDP, which was adopted in May. The HRDDP Secretariat is currently briefing all entities at the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the new procedures.

United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau

Year established	1999 (as the Human Rights Section of UNOGBIS; as an integrated mission since 2010)
Staff as of 31 December 2017	11

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *At least four core international human rights instruments, including optional protocols, are ratified (EA 2)*

During the reporting period, the Human Rights and Gender Section (HRS) of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) carried out advocacy activities with national authorities and supported a national stocktaking exercise on the status of the implementation of recommendations made to Guinea-Bissau by the international human rights mechanisms. Nevertheless, due to the political stalemate and the cessation of the National Assembly's activities as of January 2016, no progress was made in the ratification of international conventions or the submission of overdue reports to the international human rights mechanisms.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *Increase of 30 per cent in the representation of women in the Parliament, serving as governors or members of the judiciary, and measures taken to improve human rights and the full participation of persons with disabilities (EA 4)*

Pursuant to the Canchungo Declaration, which entered into force following the 2014 elections, legislative and operational measures were to be taken to increase the participation of women in political and decision-making positions and promote and protect their rights and economic empowerment. Due to the political stalemate, however, the National Assembly has not yet adopted a draft law on female quotas. A number of laws and practices that discriminate against women are still a major concern. The situation is compounded by a lack of gender-disaggregated data.

Supporting human rights defenders in Guinea-Bissau

“We join hands in the defence of human rights by strengthening the National Network of Human Rights Defenders in Guinea-Bissau (...and) challenge all Guineans who join hands for the defence of human rights to strengthen the National Network of Human Rights Defenders in its task of promoting and fighting for the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Guinea-Bissau.” Resolution of 9 December 2017 of the Guinea-Bissau Human Rights Defenders Network on the occasion of its official launch and formalization.

Since its inception, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) has been working with human rights defenders, NGOs and other key partners to enhance their capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights. After the 12 April 2012 coup d'état, human rights defenders worked under serious threats and risks as the freedom

of the press was severely restricted. With the return to democracy, in 2014, UNIOGBIS collaborated with civil society organizations to nominate human rights focal points in all regions of the country and began providing technical support for the establishment of a platform of human rights defenders.

In 2017, UNIOGBIS worked to support the formal establishment of a national network with the conviction that such a mechanism can play a catalytic role in the promotion and protection of human rights in Guinea-Bissau. During the last quarter of the year, UNIOGBIS reached out to approximately 400 human rights defenders and supported the formalization of the National Network of Human Rights Defenders, which was launched during the celebration of Human Rights Day. The establishment of the Network is helping to strengthen the civil society space and enhance human rights advocacy and early warning systems in the country.

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 trainings for security forces (army and police) and corrections personnel (EA 1)*

In June 2017, HRS provided training on human rights and the administration of justice for 40 civil and military judges, prosecutors, lawyers and members of the judicial police. The training was aligned with the National Programme for Justice Reform (2015-2019) and focused on the rights of women and of children, the role of courts in protecting economic, social and cultural rights, the right to peaceful assembly and the freedoms of thought, conscience, religion and expression. During the first semester of the year, human rights capacity-building trainings were held for a total of 30 police officers, 30 national guard officers and 45 military officers. In addition, the human rights guide for the armed forces, which HRS prepared in 2016, was broadly disseminated. The outcomes of the training activities are being assessed in order to develop new training modules within the framework of a future agreement between the Ministry of Defence and the National Institute of Defence whereby human rights education for the military forces shall be institutionalized.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Establishment of a fully operational and effective national human rights institution that issues annual reports on the country's human rights situation and exercises quasi-judicial powers (EA 1)*

A National Commission on Human Rights was established in 2010 but is not operating in line with the Paris Principles. HRS prepared a compilation of international standards governing national human rights institutions (NHRIs) which will be used by national stakeholders to clarify the scope and roles of these institutions and advocate for the establishment of a NHRI that is fully compliant with the Paris Principles.

- ▶ *A nationwide human rights network established and fully functioning (EA 5)*

With a view to enhancing national capacity for the promotion and protection of human rights, a National Human Rights Defenders Network was established in 2017. HRS supported the establishment of the Network and cooperated with civil society representatives to undertake a mapping exercise and training sessions for Network members and human rights defenders in the southern, eastern and northern regions of the country from 28 November to 14 December 2017.

United Nations Mission in Liberia

Year established	2003
Staff as of 31 December 2017	30

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 human rights treaty body and UPR recommendations (EA 6)*
With technical support from the Human Rights and Protection Section (HRPS) of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), and following a two-day retreat for representatives of line ministries, the judiciary and the national legislature, a national treaty body reporting mechanism was established, in November 2017. In order to improve the implementation of the recommendations included in the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) and the outcome report of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the NHRAP Steering Committee Secretariat undertook a number of capacity-building activities for State institutions in close collaboration with civil society organizations and the Independent National Commission on Human Rights. HRPS provided the NHRAP Steering Committee with technical support and mentoring.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *Human rights mainstreamed into judicial training curriculum, especially with regard to non-discrimination and equality standards (EA 1)*
In 2017, HRPS supported the Judicial Institute's Professional Magistrate Training Programme, which conducted training for 60 judges on a human rights-based approach and the international standards applicable to the administration of justice. This work was complemented by the establishment of a library that included human rights texts, office equipment and materials that were needed to make it operational.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Human rights training and monitoring for justice and security sector actors strengthened and institutionalized (EA 1)*
The Liberia Immigration Service, national police and the armed forces integrated human rights monitoring and training into their operational mechanisms. As a result of HRPS targeted technical and advisory assistance, human rights monitoring was incorporat-

ed into the accountability mechanisms of the three institutions. This engagement also included ongoing support to the Professional Standards Division of the Liberia national police to identify and address human rights concerns involving police officers.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Rights-holders participate in the design and monitoring of public policies, budgets and other initiatives in development and in the economic sphere (EA 5)*

HRPS contributed to the establishment of the Civil Society Human Rights Advocacy Platform in 2017, which will be engaged in promoting the application of a human rights-based approach in public policies. HRPS provided technical support related to the national budget and the Human Rights Forum, which is composed of civil society organizations. The Forum participated in the implementation of the NHRAP and advocated with the national legislature to decentralize information that will enable rural dwellers to contribute to the management and allocation of the national budget.

- ▶ *UN 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 11)*

As a result of HRPS' initiative, a United Nations Country Team Human Rights Working Group has been established, through which HRPS conducted activities on promoting the integration of a human rights-based approach into UN programmes.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Integration of human rights education into Teachers' Training Institutes for developing the capacity of teachers to teach human rights in schools nationwide (EA 1)*

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, HRPS engaged with the Teachers' Training Institutes in the counties of Lofa, River Gee and Margibi to promote the integration of human rights into their training programmes. In addition, in 2017, HRPS engaged with the Teachers College of the University of Liberia, which led to the inclusion of human rights into its education programme.

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

In March 2017, the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) was accredited with 'A' status. Following technical support and advice from HRPS, INCHR engaged different stakeholders with regard to the promotion of the NHRAP and the implementation of UPR recommendations. Addition-

al advocacy by HRPS led Liberian authorities to fund the deployment of 20 INCHR monitors to the field. HRPS technical assistance also involved joint monitoring visits to enhance INCHR's advocacy, monitoring and reporting capacities and to strengthen its complaints mechanism.

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)*

HRPS continued its extensive monitoring, reporting and advocacy to combat sexual and gender-based violence. In 2016, HRPS released a report, entitled Addressing impunity for rape in Liberia. The report addresses challenges faced by sexual violence survivors in achieving justice in Liberian courts and makes recommendations for actions that can be taken by the Government, civil society and international partners to improve protection mechanisms.

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

Year established	2013
Staff as of 31 December 2017	76

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *An interministerial participatory standing national coordinating body on reporting on/replying to individual communications and enquiries is in place and a plan of action on UPR recommendations is elaborated and implemented (EA 6)*

In September 2017, a committee was established by presidential decree for the drafting of the national report to the Universal Periodic Review. In October, the Ministry of Human Rights and State Reform held a workshop so that participants could review and validate the draft. Participants came from national ministries and agencies, the national human rights institution and civil society. Following the workshop, the Committee finalized and submitted the report.

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)*

As part of its strategy to fight impunity, the Human Rights and Protection Division (HRPD) of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization



Human rights officers interviewing detainees during a monitoring visit to Sévaré prison in Mali, June 2017. © MINUSMA/Sylvain Liechti

Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) continued its key partnership with the Ministry of Justice. Through the mechanism that was set up with the Ministry, in 2016, to periodically review allegations of human rights violations documented by human rights officers across the country, HRPD transmitted 257 cases in 2017. In December, the Ministry informed HRPD that investigations had been initiated for 151 cases but no further information was communicated regarding their outcomes. HRPD supported the protection trust fund for victims of conflict-related sexual violence which assists survivors of sexual violence in pursuing legal proceedings. However, in 2017, no progress was recorded as no victims were heard by magistrates. Concurrently, HRPD undertook activities to increase the knowledge of Malian magistrates about international human rights law. In February, the Division organized a workshop on the challenges of the International Criminal Court in Africa, which was attended by over 85 Malian and international magistrates and human rights lawyers. In partnership with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, HRPD strengthened the capacity of over 50 Malian law enforcement officials on human rights and counter-terrorism. Moreover, after the 2016 adoption of a new law on the National Human Rights Commission, in conformity with the Paris Principles, nine new commissioners were appointed in 2017. In September, HRPD launched a project to support the functioning of the Commission through the provision of equipment and the organization of three thematic training sessions focusing on the elaboration of a strategic plan. In addition, through regular visits to detention facilities, HRPD kept updating its tracking mechanism of conflict-related detainees, including those held over terrorism-related charges, in order to monitor their conditions of detention and review their legal status. In 2017, HRPD carried out 248 visits

and 127 detainees were interviewed. According to this monitoring, 373 persons were detained in connection with the conflict, including terrorism, in 2017.

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

In 2017, the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC) began the process of taking depositions. By December, it had collected approximately 7,000 depositions. The Office provided TJRC with technical and logistical support to enable it to fulfil its mandate to support the victims of the multiple crises that have occurred in Mali since 1963. In 2017, HRPD strengthened the operational capacities of the Commission's offices in Bamako, Gao, Mopti, Ségou and Timbuktu. Furthermore, it facilitated the deployment of an international consultant to set up a TJRC database to record, store and secure all depositions. HRPD also supported 21 victims' associations across the northern and central regions of Mali to improve their effective participation in transitional justice processes.

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)*

Despite the volatile situation and growing insecurity in the northern regions of Mali, HRPD continued to carry out monitoring, which contributed to building relationships and trust with local populations and communities. From January to December, at least 386 cases of human rights violations and abuses involving 1,876 victims were documented. The cases included extrajudicial execution, enforced disappearance, ill-treatment and unlawful detention. The outcomes and recommendations of these missions contributed to MINUSMA's decision-making process with regard to the protection of civilians. As a consequence of the insecurity, HRPD increased its reliance on remote monitoring techniques and took steps to reinforce the capacities of regional human rights associations and a wide range of civil society actors. This enabled HRPD to get first-hand information from communities in areas with limited access. To support their work, HRPD improved the knowledge of these organizations about international human rights and monitoring and documenting human rights violations. In 2017, over 47 training and sensitization sessions were organized, reaching a total of 2,498 participants.

- ▶ *Integration of human rights policies and tools into UN responses to humanitarian crises, especially the Protection Working Group and the Protection Cluster (EA 11)*

HRPD played a key role in the Protection Cluster and provided regular updates on human rights and protection concerns, particularly those affecting women, girls and victims of sexual violence. Indeed, information shared by HRPD in the Protection Cluster regarding inter-ethnic tensions in Mopti and Kidal regions helped humanitarian actors to identify and address protection needs. In addition, HRPD remained a key actor in the implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework with a range of activities in areas such as capacity-building for State and non-State actors on human rights, leadership in the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) and support for the transitional justice process.

- ▶ *The Human Rights Due Diligence Policy is effectively implemented by MINUSMA (EA 11)*
HRPD continued to sensitize members of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) on the application of the HRDDP through training activities at the 2017 retreat of the UNCT and at a two-day conference that was organized for members of the Malian Defence and Security Forces, representatives of relevant ministries, the diplomatic community and UN agencies. HRPD has also reviewed 30 projects, of which five were assessed as medium-risk and seven as high-risk in terms of the likelihood of recipients committing violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. In these cases, HRPD recommended measures to mitigate risk factors. In spite of its efforts, HRPD has faced several challenges in ensuring a consistent and coordinated application of the HRDDP by all UN actors.

United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2017	31

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *The national report for the second cycle of the UPR is submitted on time (EA 6)*
In 2014, progress was made in strengthening the capacity of the Government, the national human rights institution (NHRI) and civil society to contribute to the implementation of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations and prepare the second report. Through the organization of a series of workshops, the Human Rights and Protection Group (HRPG) of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) provided support and guidance



The Chief of the Human Rights and Protection Group of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia addresses journalists at a press conference on the release of a UN Report on the Protection of Civilians in Somalia, December 2017. © UN Photo/Omar Abdisalan

to stakeholders on their reporting obligations under the UPR. HRPG supported the UPR process in 2015 and 2016, including through technical advice and by ensuring the full participation of key stakeholders. In particular, the Inter-Ministerial Team received assistance from HRPG to generate information on the status of the implementation of the 2011 UPR recommendations, which served as the basis for discussion on the second cycle report, and to organize a consultative workshop to ensure national ownership of the process. As a result of these and other activities, the UPR report was submitted and Somalia's human rights record was examined in 2016. Somalia received 228 recommendations and the Government accepted 168 and noted the 60 others.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Establishment of a moratorium on the application of the death penalty (EA 1)*
Advocacy efforts on the abolition of the death penalty have had a limited impact over the past three years. While Somalia committed to a de facto moratorium during the first cycle of the UPR, the Government backtracked on this position during the second cycle and indicated its intention to open dialogue given the political sensitivities surrounding the issue. Moreover, since 2014, HRPG has documented the number of executions carried out and engaged with authorities in the Federal Government and Federal Member States. Some progress was achieved in 2017 when 74 people who had been sentenced to death had their sentences commuted to terms of confinement. In addition, the number of executions decreased from 30 in 2015 to 20 in 2017.

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 several years of negotiation, the Somali Federal Media Bill entered into force in January 2016.

While it guarantees certain freedoms and the right to information for journalists, some of the phrasing used in the text is unclear (i.e., “disseminating false news” or “defamation of persons or institutions”), allowing for the subjective interpretation of some clauses, which could lead to limitations on the right to freedom of expression. In addition, the Ministry of Information has a wide margin of discretion in controlling the registration of journalists. The Media Law also 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 consists of three representatives from the State media, three from the independent media, one from the Somali Bar Association, one from Somali women’s organizations and one from a human rights organization. The appointment process was met with strong opposition from media organizations, which argued that the process lacked consultation and transparency. It is expected that the Government will reconstitute the Council through a new appointment process. HRPG provided technical advice to journalists and civil society organizations involved in the analysis of the Media Law. HRPG provided technical support to the Ministry of Women and Human Rights and the Federal Parliament, in 2014, to review the draft legislation on the Human Rights Commission. In 2015, a national consultative workshop was held for representatives of the Government and civil society to discuss the content of the draft to ensure its compliance with the Paris Principles. In June 2016, the draft was passed by the Parliament and, in August 2016, it was signed into law by the President. Following the enactment of the Law, the process to establish the Commission commenced in 2017. In collaboration with UNDP, HRPG supported the Ministry of Women and Human Rights to begin the selection process for the members of the Commission. The process began in July and was fairly representative and credible. In December, the final list of recommended candidates was submitted for approval to the Executive Branch.

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

- ▶ *A policy on protection of civilians in armed conflict is adopted (EA 1)*

While the Government undertook a commitment in the 2015 Human Rights Road Map and its Action Plan to develop a policy on the protection of civilians, it has been unable to adopt such a policy. HRPG continued to use the National Action Plan on Ending Sexual Violence and the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) as key tools to engage

with the Government on the protection of civilians. It also conducted training for representatives of civil society organizations to increase their awareness about the impact of conflict, violence and insecurity on civilian populations and to improve civil society’s monitoring and reporting skills.

- ▶ *Standard operating procedures for UNSOM implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy are adopted and implemented, risk assessments for UN support to AMISOM and national security forces are conducted and mitigating measures are identified (EA 11)*

Through building capacity, promoting coordination and enhancing policies in relation to the HRDDP, HRPG assisted UN entities providing support to non-UN security institutions in conducting risk assessments, establishing measures to prevent and respond to violations to ensure accountability by recipient entities, including the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) and Somali Security Forces. Since 2014, HRPG has been steering the implementation of the standard operating procedure (SOP) through the HRDDP Task Force and the UN-AMISOM Joint Working Group on HRDDP. Seven major risk assessments were conducted for AMISOM and non-AMISOM Forces and non-Somali National Army Forces. In 2017, a risk assessment was carried out with UNOPS on the integration of 3,000 Puntland Defence Forces into the Somali National Army and a General and Preliminary Risk Assessment on the Somali Police was developed jointly with the UN Police Unit and other UN entities providing support to the Somali Police at Federal and State levels. Prevention and response measures recommended in these risk assessments included training, strengthening internal oversight, command and control, screening and ensuring troops without child soldiers and proactive reporting of human rights and international humanitarian law violations.



Officers from the South West Special Police Force attend a workshop on human rights and international humanitarian law facilitated by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, September 2017. © UN Photo

The SOP, which was initially approved in 2014, was reviewed to reflect the developments and lessons learned from the implementation of HRDDP over the last three years, the increased UN support to the security sector and the new Security Council-mandated requirements. The SOP revision focused on the scope of the implementation, the various roles and responsibilities of UN entities, clarifications regarding the membership of the HRDDP Task Force, coordination arrangements, eligibility and notification procedures and the key steps to be taken in HRDDP implementation. The revised SOP is expected to be adopted in 2018.

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

Training on human rights continued to be delivered to AMISOM troops and the Somali National Army in 2017. Pre-deployment trainings for AMISOM incorporated modules on HRDDP awareness, human rights, international humanitarian law, conflict-related sexual violence and child protection. Additionally, in line with HRDDP requirements, a total of 545 soldiers from the National Army were trained on human rights, with the support of its human rights instructors.

United Nations Mission in South Sudan

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2017	104

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *National institutional mechanisms are in place and functional in order to increase engagement with the UPR process, the special procedures and human rights treaty body reporting (EA 6)*

In 2016, the Human Rights Division (HRD) of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) engaged with the South Sudan Human Rights Commission and civil society to promote awareness about the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and advocated for the submission of reports to the Human Rights Council. Six workshops, which were attended by 181 people, resulted in the submission of eight reports to the Human Rights Council by the South Sudan Human Rights Commission and civil society organizations. HRD delivered training to 35 participants of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group to enhance the Government's capacity to prepare and submit its reports to the UPR. In March 2017, following the UPR review of South Sudan, the Government accepted 203 recommendations while 30

others were noted. HRD engaged with the Government to support the implementation of these recommendations and organized a UPR follow-up meeting with key stakeholders, in June, during which a matrix of recommendations and a plan of action were developed for implementation.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *Increased use of national protection system by individuals and groups facing discrimination (EA 5)*

There has been limited progress made in ensuring that women as well as groups in vulnerable situations are consulted in constitutional and legislative review processes. On a positive note, the national dialogue and the sensitization activities organized by the Technical Committee for the establishment of the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing aimed to provide a space for broader consultations with women, youth, faith-based groups and disabled persons. The extreme marginalization of the affected communities, however, has had a negative impact on the creation of an environment that is conducive to their meaningful participation and engagement in various consultation processes.

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 continued to implement the death sentence during the reporting period, despite HRD's advocacy and the Government's voluntary commitment to impose a moratorium on the death penalty. In light of the serious problems with the administration of justice in South Sudan, including the limited capacity of the criminal justice system and a lack of adherence to fair trial guarantees, there are significant concerns regarding the legality of the processes leading to the imposition of the death penalty.

- ▶ *Human rights training included in judiciary, military, police and prison academies (EA 1)*

In 2017, HRD conducted a number of trainings addressed to more than 800 participants from the security forces in different regions of the country. In addition to general principles of human rights, the officers were trained on investigations, search and detention, freedom of opinion and expression, women's rights and principles of international humanitarian law on the protection of civilians during armed conflict. Even though the impact of the trainings is yet to be determined, there are examples of a change in attitude among some trained officers. For example in Eastern Equatoria, where two training sessions were held for 80 police investigators, the average duration taken to complete investigations at Torit police station has shortened



The Director of the Human Rights Division at the United Nations Mission in South Sudan talks to members of communities in Wau to assess the current situation following the increased violence in the region.
© UNMISS/Nektarios Markogiannis

compared with the period before the training. In another example, training for police officers in Yambio and Aweil has resulted in fewer cases of persons under arbitrary and prolonged detention compared to the period before the training.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Human rights principles form the bedrock of the UNDAF; UN guidelines on incorporating a human rights-based approach have been applied by at least three UN entities in their specific programmes and an inter-agency human rights theme group on land issues is in place and functioning (EA 11)*

The Interim Cooperation Framework 2016-2018 of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) offered HRD an entry point to ensure that its objectives and plans were aligned with those of the UNCT, particularly in light of the development of a follow-up document, which is anticipated to cover 2019-2021. Cooperation with development and humanitarian partners at the operational level continued through identifying areas of collaboration and joint programming in priority areas, including the protection of civilians, the promotion of women's participation and gender equality, support for national dialogue and the implementation of the Peace Agreement. Furthermore, HRD took a lead role in mainstreaming human rights into the activities of the UNCT through active participation in regular UNCT meetings and involvement in specific activities. HRD also coordinated the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy. In 2017, HRD initiated the revision of the standard operating procedures, which will be disseminated to relevant Government counterparts and other actors.

Widening the democratic space

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

The South Sudan Human Rights Commission (SSHRC) was unable to establish offices in at least four conflict-affected states due to the ongoing hostilities. The Commission lacks full independence and the capacity to effectively contribute to addressing the dire human rights situation in the country. The ability of HRD to implement the full range of planned activities was obstructed by the conflict and exacerbated by the July 2016 crisis. Nevertheless, HRD managed to conduct a number of activities to strengthen the SSHRC's capacity. Between 2014 and 2017, it regularly provided technical expertise, including briefings, to members of the Commission on the accreditation process and working in compliance with the Paris Principles. HRD also advocated with the SSHRC for the application of a more proactive approach in human rights monitoring, investigations and reporting, including the monitoring of trials and places of detention. As a result, in 2017, the SSHRC published its annual report covering the human rights situation in the country and presented it to the National Legislative Assembly.

- ▶ *Constitution, laws and polices 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 the prohibition of incitement to hatred (EA 1)*

The conflicts that erupted in December 2013 and July 2016 impeded the capacity of the National Legislative Assembly to revise selected laws in relation to freedom of expression. In 2017, HRD conducted broad consultations at the national and state level with civil society groups and journalists on freedom of opinion and expression in line with the preparation of a thematic public report on freedom of expression in South Sudan. It also continued to monitor freedom of expression in the country and proactively engaged with authorities to advocate for the creation of an environment that enables freedom of speech and freedom of the media, particularly in the context of the national dialogue consultations and transitional justice sensitization processes. In collaboration with other partners, HRD organized 31 workshops and sensitization activities for law enforcement authorities, security forces, government officials, civil society and journalists to support the implementation of the Media Act 2013 on the protection of freedom of expression and media.

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 situations of conflict, violence and insecurity (EA 1)*

Despite efforts made by the Government to ensure the realization of civil and political rights and the support of the UNCT and HRD, the legal framework and practices in South Sudan remained restrictive, affecting the ability of citizens to fully enjoy their civil and political rights. Although the reforms to pertinent domestic laws were initiated, they do not address key human rights, rule of law and accountability concerns in the country.

- ▶ *Measures taken to provide for redress for serious human rights violations (EA 1)*

HRD continued to take action to address violations where possible, including through conducting human rights sensitization and advocacy efforts. The identification of early warning signals and trends was critical to ensuring a timely response from UNMISS. It also enabled the effective protection of civilians and mobilizing key stakeholders to prevent further escalation. Based on its intensive monitoring and investigation activities, HRD published a report, in January 2017, on violations and abuses of international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law in the context of the fighting that erupted in Juba in 2016. In May 2017, HRD released another report on violations and abuses of international human rights law and international humanitarian law committed in and around Yei town between July 2016 and January 2017. HRD also contributed to the Commission of Human Rights for South Sudan's reports that were submitted to the Human Rights Council in March 2017.

- ▶ *Increase in the number of perpetrators of serious human rights and international humanitarian law violations prosecuted by civilian and military judicial authorities (EA 1)*

Despite the severity of the violations of human rights and humanitarian law that were committed by both parties to the conflict, no actions have been taken to address accountability. The Government of South Sudan established several committees, including a national Investigation Committee on Human Rights Abuses, but none of these bodies have produced tangible results. In May 2017, a special tribunal that had been formed by the General Court Martial began hearings in the trial of 12 army officers accused of committing crimes and human rights violations in Juba, in 2016, including rape, murder, damage to property and theft. HRD closely followed the hearings and reported on several aspects of the trial that raised significant concerns regarding their compli-

ance with international human rights standards, including the right of victims to an effective remedy, the right to a fair trial and respect for due process of the accused. Accountability is of critical importance in South Sudan and, as such, HRD continued to advocate for appropriate and effective accountability measures. In collaboration with UNDP, the African Union and other agencies, HRD established the Inter-Agency Transitional Justice Working Group as a coordination mechanism to harmonize responses to the transitional justice process in a cohesive manner. The Working Group supported the Technical Committee, established by the Ministry of Justice, which is entrusted to design and plan the national sensitization and consultation process that will inform the drafting of legislation on the establishment of a truth commission. The Working Group also supported and monitored two rounds of a sensitization programme on truth and reconciliation that were focused on providing general awareness about transitional justice at the national and subnational levels in order to ensure strengthened civil society participation in the debates around the design, establishment and implementation of transitional justice mechanisms.

Human Rights Advisers in UN Country Teams

Chad

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2017	3

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)*

The Interministerial Committee on reporting strengthened its capacity to develop initial and periodic reports through a series of OHCHR training sessions on the reporting guidelines. Following the training sessions, the report of the Universal Periodic Review was drafted, as were the periodic reports under several of the international human rights treaties, including the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

- ▶ *Civil society organizations increasingly submit alternative reports to international and regional human rights mechanisms (EA 7)*

During the reporting period, civil society organizations submitted three alternative reports to the reviews of Chad under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. OHCHR guided these organizations in the development and submission of their alternative reports.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Cases submitted to the National Human Rights Commission, including on land issues, are increasingly addressed (EA 1)*

In December, the National Assembly adopted legislation on the reform of the National Human Rights Commission, in compliance with the Paris Principles. OHCHR provided technical and financial support to the Government for the drafting of the law to ensure that the recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms were taken into account.

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)*

Following support provided by OHCHR to the United Nations Country Team, human rights and gender approaches have been included in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2017-2021. Specifically, OHCHR drafted a note on the integration of human rights, provided an analysis of the situation of human rights in Chad and trained the UN Gender and Human Rights Thematic Group on a human rights-based approach to programming. In addition, as a member of the Protection Cluster in the country, OHCHR actively contributed to the development and implementation of the protection strategy for Chad.

Kenya

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2017	5

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *An effective and efficient participatory standing national coordinating body on reporting on/replying to individual communications and enquiries and*



Meeting facilitated by OHCHR to review the UPR mid-term report of Kenya, October 2017. © OHCHR/Kevin Ouma

integrated follow-up to recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms is in place (EA 6)

While Kenya does not have a formal reporting mechanism, the Government worked with OHCHR to develop an implementation matrix to follow up on the recommendations issued in the context of the Universal Periodic Review. It also ensured the timely submission of almost all of its periodic reports to the human rights treaty bodies, with the exception of those under the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Furthermore, the Office supported a drafting retreat to facilitate the Government's preparation of its mid-term report to the Universal Periodic Review.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Counter-terrorism legal frameworks, policies, strategies and institutions increasingly aligned with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

Through technical advice and advocacy with relevant stakeholders, OHCHR contributed to their enhanced awareness on the obligation to respect human rights in the area of counter-terrorism. For instance, steps were taken to better integrate human rights considerations into a governmental plan on countering violent extremism, while the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) enhanced its knowledge about its responsibilities under the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy. With regard to reparations, progress was made in the development of guidelines and a policy providing for reparations to victims of gross human rights violations, with a particular focus on sexual violence. The Office supported the national victims' convention that reviewed the guidelines, which were then submitted to the Attorney General for adoption.



The Human Rights Adviser in Kenya meets with members of Haki Africa, a human rights NGO based in Mombasa, October 2017.
© OHCHR/Axel Fassio

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Legal and policy framework on the exploitation of natural resources is anchored in international human rights law and the guiding principles on business and human rights (EA 1)*

A Government-led Steering Committee is developing an Action Plan and Policy on Human Rights and Business, with the active participation of OHCHR. The Office provided advice on human rights and business-related legislation to encourage the application of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. It also attended the regional hearings that were organized to collect views and recommendations on the Action Plan and Policy from different stakeholders, including representatives of relevant ministries, civil society and the business community. Moreover, the Office offered inputs to guidelines on how to integrate a human rights-based approach into policy and law-making. The guidelines were developed under the leadership of the Office of the Attorney General, in close coordination with the National Human Rights Commission, and will be finalized and launched in 2018. In addition, as a result of OHCHR's support, the National Bureau of Statistics and the National Human Rights Commission signed a memorandum of understanding in 2017, which establishes the framework for their institutional collaboration on the development of human rights indicators and data disaggregation.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Adoption of human rights-compliant legal frameworks for public participation and to protect human rights defenders (EA 1)*

Under the leadership of the Department of Justice, a draft National Policy on Public Participation has been finalized and subject to validation. Regional

meetings were organized to consult with government officials and civil society organizations on the draft. OHCHR provided inputs to the draft, promoted the participation of women during the regional consultations and supported two of these meetings. The Policy will facilitate access to information, ensure that citizens have an opportunity to be heard when the Government seeks to adopt a law or policy and that groups in vulnerable situations can fully participate in political and public affairs. During the elections, OHCHR worked in close coordination with the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights to support the deployment of additional monitors to enhance the response to risks of human rights violations. OHCHR further conducted advocacy with Government officials and security agencies urging respect for freedoms of association, assembly, opinion and expression.

- ▶ *Increased integration of a human rights-based approach into the design, planning and implementation of the UNDAF 2014-2018, including the use of UPR/treaty body/special procedures recommendations in UNCT partners' programming (EA 11)*

In 2017, the United Nations Country Team in Kenya began evaluating the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2014-2018. The terms of reference for the evaluation were shared with all UN agencies and OHCHR provided inputs to ensure that human rights were included in the terms of reference. OHCHR has been actively engaged in the development of the UNDAF 2018-2022 and provided inputs aimed at mainstreaming human rights across the three pillars of the document. In addition, a common country analysis focusing on the human rights situation in the country was prepared by the Office and used as a reference in the preparation of the UNDAF.

Madagascar

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2017	4

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *CRPD, ICRMW and optional protocols of ICCPR, CAT and CRPD ratified (EA 2)*

Since 2014, OHCHR has conducted intensive advocacy and capacity-building activities with parliamentarians. This has contributed to the ratification of six regional and international human rights instruments, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Convention on the Rights of Per-

sons with Disabilities, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

► *International human rights law partially used in court proceedings and decisions (EA 1)*

Further to OHCHR's advocacy and awareness-raising efforts, two main decisions of the High Constitutional Court referred to international human rights laws, including the 2016 decision declaring the Media Code "constitutional under reservation," and the 2017 decision relating to the National Reconciliation Law, which highlighted the distinction between political and national reconciliation processes by citing international standards on transitional justice.

► *Security forces and prison wardens increase their compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

Partly as a result of continuous advocacy undertaken by OHCHR, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed by the United Nations Country Team, the Ministry of National Defence, the Secretary of State in charge of the National Gendarmerie and the Ministry of Public Security. The MOU provides for OHCHR's technical support for the implementation of the reform of the security sector. It also outlines plans for OHCHR to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the existing internal control mechanisms for defence and security forces and their codes of conduct. In addition, a proposal relating to a draft law on alternative criminal sanctions has been presented by OHCHR in anticipation of the Government's planned review of the Criminal Code in 2018.

► *Positive actions undertaken by the Government as a result of cases raised by OHCHR (EA 3)*

In February 2017, the National Reconciliation Law was promulgated and a National Reconciliation Council was established and tasked with conducting the national reconciliation process. OHCHR provided technical support and advice to the Government during the drafting of the Law. In addition, a database was set up in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice to enable follow-up to cases raised by the Office, especially those relating to natural resources and allegations of torture. Moreover, joint advocacy that was undertaken with local and international civil society actors led to a positive response from the Government in relation to a number of cases, including the release of a community leader who had been arbitrarily arrested after a discussion with managers of a mining company installed in his community.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

With the Office's technical support, a Tripartite Charter was developed with representatives of civil society, the Government and mining companies in order to promote the principles of participation, transparency and accountability in law and policymaking and ensure that the Government's general policy and sector-based policies incorporate a human rights-based approach. Despite the Government's commitment to adopt the Charter and integrate it into the new Mining Code by the end of 2017, this did not occur as the revision of the Mining Code has been suspended since July 2017. In addition, the Office conducted several capacity-building actions regarding the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights for the benefit of mining and extractive associations and companies operating in Madagascar. Consequently, OHCHR was invited to provide technical assistance for the development of human rights-compliant social corporate responsibility policies, which in turn resulted in improved human rights compliance by some mining companies.

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

Civil society actors participated in the drafting of the National Development Plan for 2015-2019, which is human rights-oriented. The protection and promotion of human rights are part of the strategic



A Commissioner of Madagascar's Independent National Human Rights Commission participates at the commemoration of Human Rights Day organized by OHCHR. OHCHR/Madagascar

foundation of the Plan, which also includes human rights indicators to measure progress made in the achievement of its goals.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *A NHRI is established and functioning and the Ombudsperson's Office is strengthened (EA 1)*

In 2014, the Independent National Human Rights Commission (INHRC) of Madagascar was established by law and by 2016, all of the 11 commissioners had been appointed. During the reporting cycle, OHCHR facilitated various capacity-building workshops for the commissioners, supported the implementation of information campaigns on the mandate of the INHRC in relation to authorities and civil society organizations and provided financial and technical support for three investigation missions that were conducted by the INHRC. The reports were presented in December. In addition, following advocacy that was undertaken by the commissioners with OHCHR's support, the Government adopted a decree, in December, which should lead to the allocation of a budget for the proper functioning of the INHRC.

- ▶ *Media Code of Conduct adopted and improved compliance of State agents with human rights standards related to public freedoms (EA 1)*

On July 2016, the Media Code of Conduct, which encompasses the human rights and gender promotion obligations of media actors, was adopted by the Parliament and submitted to the High Constitutional Court for review. In August 2016, the Code was declared to be "constitutional under reservation" by the High Constitutional Court, which explicitly cited international human rights principles and standards and reiterated the supremacy of international human rights treaties over domestic laws as prescribed by article 137 (4) of the Malagasy Constitution. Since 2014, OHCHR has cooperated with UNDP and UNESCO to provide both technical and financial support to the drafting process of this Code. Specifically, these efforts included the organization of regional consultation workshops to ensure a participatory and inclusive approach and capacity-building workshops to ensure the integration of international human rights norms and standards into the draft law. Advocacy was also undertaken for the prompt adoption of the Media Code of Conduct.

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

In 2016, OHCHR signed MOUs with the academies of the Malagasy Defence and Security Forces for the institutionalization of human rights education programmes. The programmes will include a human rights pool of trainers and human rights resource centres within these institutions, human rights mod-

ules and human rights capacity-building for operational agents. Since the signatures of the MOUs, human rights modules have been developed with OHCHR's technical support, a pool of 12 specialized human rights trainers has been set up and 20 human rights resource centres have been established in State and non-State institutions, including the Ministry of National Defence, the Military Academy, the Bar Association, the National Assembly, the INHRC, the High Constitutional Court, the National Training School of Magistrates and Registrars, the Senate, the University of Antananarivo, the University of Fianarantsoa, the Independent Anti-Corruption Bureau, the Supreme Court and the National Institute of Professional Training of Lawyers.

Malawi⁵

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2017	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

As a result of training that OHCHR provided to Malawi officials on the reporting process and follow-up, the Government increased its capacity to prepare reports for the human rights treaty bodies. The Office participated in the Government's Steering Committee meetings for the drafting of reports under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). It also provided inputs and suggestions on the different drafts. During the reporting period covering 2014 to 2017, the Government submitted reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Human Rights Committee. Furthermore, the capacity of national actors to ensure that recommendations of the mechanisms are implemented will be strengthened once the National Human Rights Action Plan has been adopted.

⁵ Deployed through the UNDG Strategy for the Deployment of Human Rights Advisers.

The Action Plan was developed with the support of OHCHR and integrates key recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

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

In 2015, Malawi issued a standing invitation to the special procedures. Following OHCHR's advocacy with the Government, the Independent Expert on albinism visited the country, in April 2016.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

Legislation in Malawi increasingly complied with anti-discrimination standards. On 28 November 2017, the HIV and AIDS (Management and Control) Bill was adopted by the Parliament. In May, OHCHR participated in a technical review meeting and briefing with Members of Parliament on the draft, and raised a number of concerns, including the fact that it violated the right to informed consent to treatment and testing and disproportionately targeted women and persons in vulnerable situations. The concerns raised by the Office were addressed in the adopted Bill. Over the years, Malawi has adopted other laws to address gender-based violence and discrimination, including the Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Act (2015), the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (2006), the Gender Equality Act (2014) and the Trafficking in Persons Act (2015). Nevertheless, their full implementation remains a challenge.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

OHCHR provided extensive inputs and training to ensure that the draft United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2019-2023 and its outcomes integrate a human rights-based approach. In July, the Office provided additional inputs to the draft National Development Plan. It also ensured the mainstreaming of human rights into joint UN programmes. For instance, following the visit of the Independent Expert on albinism to Malawi, and with the advice and support of OHCHR, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) developed programmes to advance the rights of persons with albinism, as well as on the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community. Also, technical advice from OHCHR substantially enhanced the capacity of the UNCT to advocate for the respect for human rights standards and principles, including in relation to harmful cultural practices, early and child mar-

riage, prison conditions, the rights of persons with albinism, the rights of LGBTI persons, civil society space, the right to food and the right to health.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Increased participation of rights-holders, including women and discriminated groups, in public life at the national and local levels (EA 5)*

OHCHR supported the establishment of a Human Rights Defenders Forum, comprising a broad range of civil society actors, aimed at strengthening the protection of defenders in Malawi. It also submitted comments to Government on the draft NGO Policy, highlighting concerns on Malawi's compliance with its international obligations related to the right to freedom of association.

Niger

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2017	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *At least one international human rights convention and two optional protocols are ratified (EA 6)*

In accordance with commitments undertaken during its first cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Niger ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (2015), the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (2014), and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on



OHCHR staff members on a monitoring mission to the Sayam Forage refugee camp in Niger. © OHCHR/West Africa

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2014). OHCHR contributed to this result through regular engagement with authorities and by supporting the advocacy activities of civil society actors.

- ▶ *Forty per cent of outstanding State Party reports are submitted to human rights treaty bodies (EA 6)*
During the period 2014 to 2017, Niger submitted its report in anticipation of its second cycle of the UPR, as well as its periodic reports for reviews by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on Migrant Workers and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. In addition, Niger submitted its initial report to the Human Rights Committee. OHCHR provided the Government with financial and technical support to help it fulfil its reporting obligations to the human rights treaty bodies. It also organized training workshops on the guidelines of drafting reports to treaty bodies for the members of the interdepartmental committee. The Office organized additional workshops to disseminate the outcomes of the second cycle of the UPR and in order to prepare and adopt an action plan to follow up on the recommendations that were issued.

- ▶ *The 2014-2018 UNDAF fully integrates human rights, including relevant recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms (EA 11)*

Human rights and gender considerations are fully integrated, as cross-cutting issues, into the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2014-2018, which aims at contributing to the implementation of the international human rights conventions that have been ratified by Niger. OHCHR advocated with UN agencies on the integration of a human rights-based approach and made substantive inputs during the drafting of the UNDAF.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *The National Human Rights Commission implements its four-year plan for the period 2014-2017 (EA 1)*

With the support of OHCHR, the National Human Rights Commission developed its quadrennial strategic plan for 2014-2017. It also launched a website to give more visibility to its activities, to enable victims of human rights violations to file their complaints online and to encourage them to regularly engage with the international human rights mechanisms. As a result of its strengthened capacities, the National Human Rights Commission was credited with 'A' status by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, in March 2017.

- ▶ *A national human rights education plan is elaborated and human rights are incorporated into the curricula of formal education (EA 1)*

A human rights education programme has been integrated into the framework of curricula reform within the formal education system in Niger. OHCHR

provided technical support for the development of the programme, including guidelines and other training materials.

Nigeria⁶

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2017	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

A National Working Group on reporting and implementation of recommendations was established. OHCHR supported capacity-building workshops for its members on human rights treaty body reporting and provided technical assistance on developing an action plan for the implementation of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations. Regarding the submission of pending reports to the human rights treaty bodies, while Nigeria only submitted one report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the capacity-building initiatives facilitated by the Office in the last four years are expected to yield results in the Working Group's future engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *National action plan against racism and discrimination adopted. A number of northern states incorporate the Child Rights Act and adopt a policy on the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities (EA 4)*

The National Action Plan against Racism, based on the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, was adopted and will be integrated into the National Action Plan on the protection and promotion of human rights, which is currently under revision. OHCHR supported the development of the Action Plan against Racism by providing technical support for the national consultations. Four states have adopted legislation on the rights of persons with disabilities. While the National Assembly passed a simi-

⁶ Deployed through the UNDG Strategy for the Deployment of Human Rights Advisers.



Persons with disabilities participate at an event to commemorate Human Rights Day in Nigeria. © OHCHR/Nigeria

lar bill in 2015, it has not yet been signed into law. In relation to the Child Rights Act, only one of the outstanding 12 northern states has domesticated the Act. The Office advocated for the adoption of a law on disabilities and for the domestication of the Child Rights Act by the northern states.

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 torture, ill-treatment and the deprivation of liberty (EA 1)*
In 2017, the President signed into law the Anti-Torture Act and the Compulsory Treatment and Care for Victims of Gunshot Act. While the former provides comprehensive provisions for penalizing torture and related acts, the latter prescribes treatment in all health facilities for victims of gunshot wounds, in-

cluding in the absence of a police report and without an initial deposit. It also prohibits subjecting victims to any form of torture or inhuman treatment by a public official. OHCHR supported the process of national consultations that preceded the adoption of the Anti-Torture Act and commented on early drafts.

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

- *At least four states adopt legislation against gender-based violence (EA 1)*

In 2015, the Violence against Persons (Prohibition) Act was signed into law, which includes a number of new offences, including spousal battery, forceful ejection from home, forced financial dependence or economic abuse, harmful widowhood practices, female genital mutilation, harmful practices, political violence and violence by State actors. Victims and survivors of violence are entitled to comprehensive medical, psychological, social and legal assistance by accredited service providers and government agencies as well as the protection of their identities during court cases. Following its enactment, 13 states adopted similar legislation. Five states passed the Gender and Equal Opportunities Act, which seeks to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women in education, employment and other spheres of life. OHCHR advocated for the adoption of the Act in line with international standards and promoted the engagement of civil society during the drafting process.

- *Increased compliance of security agencies deployed in conflict zones with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

The Nigerian Army significantly enhanced its legal and institutional framework to ensure that it complies with international standards during counter-insur-

Legal assistance in Nigeria

Kehinde, a 25 year-old woman who resides in the remote area of Ilesha, Osun State, Nigeria, was arrested on 14 October 2013. She was charged with kidnapping and subsequently remanded at the Kirikiri female prison.

In narrating her ordeal, she stated that her boyfriend had requested that she pick up his son from Lagos and take care of him until he returned from a trip. What she did not know was that this was part of her boyfriend's plan to stage a kidnapping in order to defraud innocent people. On the day that she was due to return the child, officials of the Department of State Security arrested Kehinde.

For almost four years, Kehinde remained behind bars awaiting trial. Because she was indigent, she was un-

able to pay for a lawyer. In December 2016, lawyers providing pro bono legal assistance under a project funded by UN Human Rights took her case and with their assistance, she finally had her day in court. "I had reconciled myself to a life behind bars and without trial for an offence I did not commit," she recounted. She was convicted and after completing her sentence, in November 2017, Kehinde was released from prison.

In a recent interview, Kehinde talked about the challenges she continues to face as she attempts to reintegrate into society after being rejected and stigmatized by her friends and family. While these challenges are daunting, Kehinde is grateful to be out of jail.

gency operations. Specifically, it adopted rules of engagement and a Code of Conduct for its operations as well as a human rights policy. It also established a human rights desk, which addressed allegations of violations against Army personnel and facilitated dialogue and engagement with civil society organizations. Moreover, in August 2017, the Government announced a judicial commission to investigate military compliance with its Code of Conduct, rules of engagement and human rights obligations. During the reporting period, OHCHR organized a series of workshops for military personnel, undertook advocacy meetings with military authorities to garner support for the approval of human rights-compliant programmes and policies and provided human rights materials to the human rights desk.

- ▶ *National Human Rights Commission effectively monitors and reports, especially in the north east (EA 3)*

Through OHCHR engagement and advocacy, in collaboration with UNDP and UNHCR, the National Human Rights Commission deployed monitoring missions to the north east, albeit on an ad hoc basis. More remains to be done, however, to increase the Commission's presence in the region and to improve its capacity to undertake investigations.

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

The national authorities established a working group in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, within the Federal Ministry of Justice, to handle terrorism cases. In 2017, the working group initiated the first major trial of Boko Haram detainees. In collaboration with UNODC, OHCHR provided technical assistance to prosecutors from the Federal Ministry of Justice in relation to investigations and the prosecution of complex terrorism cases and offered ongoing technical assistance to the working group.

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

In 2017, the National Human Rights Commission received over 90,000 complaints, representing a significant increase over the 21,000 cases received in 2012. During the reporting period, the Commission organized public hearings on evictions in three geopolitical zones and investigated allegations of serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law by the military in the context of its deployment in Plateau State. The Commission continued to receive and process reports of human rights violations and abuses from different sectors of society. OHCHR provided the Commission with training on human rights monitoring. Following OHCHR's advocacy, the European Union and UNDP funded a consultancy to assist the Commission with its investigations and case management.

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

As a result of OHCHR training and advocacy with humanitarian actors, a number of humanitarian assessment and programming documents, including the Humanitarian Needs Overview and the Humanitarian Response Plan, fully integrate human rights principles and take into account the recommendations issued by international human rights mechanisms.

- ▶ *Increased application of a human rights-based approach by UN programmes addressing violence, insecurity and conflict (EA 11)*

UN programming documents addressing violence, insecurity and conflict, as well as the UN Sustainable Development Partnership Framework, fully adopt a human rights-based approach. OHCHR provided training on human rights to the United Nations Country Team and was a member of the drafting team of the Partnership Framework.

Rwanda

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2017	3

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *The national Task Force on Human Rights Treaty Body Reporting submits periodic reports to different human rights treaty bodies and leads the process of implementing the new UPR recommendations (EA 6)*



The Human Rights Adviser briefs UN staff in Rwanda on the human rights-based approach. © OHCHR/Rwanda

Through its Task Force on Reporting, the Government submitted its report for the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review, in 2015. Following the review, the Task Force developed a road map for the implementation of the recommendations received. OHCHR and other partners supported the Government in the preparation of reports to the international human rights mechanisms and the implementation of their outcome recommendations.

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

With OHCHR's assistance and training, a number of NGOs were empowered to engage with the international human rights mechanisms. Particular focus was placed on the preparation of shadow reports and the formation of a coalition to work on the follow-up to the recommendations issued by the mechanisms.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *A human rights-based approach is 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)*

OHCHR produced and disseminated a handbook on a human rights-based approach to the United Nations Country Team as one of a number of activities that were undertaken to promote the implementation of the approach. It also produced visual materials with photos of the Heads of UN agencies in Rwanda holding a copy of the handbook. This sent a powerful message to staff of the UN agencies in Rwanda regarding the importance of integrating a human rights-based approach into their programmes and projects. As a result, there was increased interest in integrating human rights into projects on housing, water and sanitation, land and the environment.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *NHRC carries out effective human rights education programmes among the population (EA 1)*

OHCHR trained the National Human Rights Commission staff on methodologies for carrying out human rights education activities in the country. Furthermore, it provided the Commission with financial support to carry out awareness-raising activities, particularly around Human Rights Day. Due to this assistance, staff of the Commission was in a position to pass on the knowledge to their partners and therefore contribute to their increased understanding of human rights concepts.



Participants of a training session on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities supported by OHCHR in Sierra Leone. © OHCHR/Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone⁷

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2017	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

During the reporting period, some progress was achieved by the Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is responsible for coordinating with other line ministries to draft reports for the international human rights mechanisms. In order to facilitate follow-up, the Unit grouped the recommendations received by Sierra Leone into 14 themes and established four working groups. Through training, OHCHR helped to develop the skills of the Unit in relation to data collection. It also discussed the possibility of developing a database to monitor the implementation of recommendations.

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)*

OHCHR worked closely with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) on the integration of recommendations issued by the international human

⁷ Deployed through the UNDG Strategy for the Deployment of Human Rights Advisers.

rights mechanisms into UN programming, including through active participation in meetings, at retreats and in the UNCT Gender Task Force. The Office also provided input into the United Nations Development Assistance Framework road map narrative, which will be launched in 2020.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *An active and effective network of human rights defenders advocates for and engages in the promotion and protection of human rights (EA 5)*

The Human Rights Working Group, co-chaired by OHCHR and the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL), developed a collaborative forum for civil society organizations to discuss and advocate for specific human rights issues, including in relation to the election, business and human rights, women's rights and the rights of persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the Human Rights Defenders Network continued to bring together various civil society groups to collectively advocate for the adoption of a proposed law on the protection of Human Rights Defenders and the implementation of the recommendations issued by the Universal Periodic Review. As a result of the first National Conference on

Business and Human Rights, a Steering Committee has been established to develop a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights. In collaboration with ILO and UNESCO, the Office also made progress in the development of the SDG indicator on violence against human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists under Goal 16.

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

- ▶ *Preventive and protective measures in place for the effective investigation and prosecution of perpetrators of SGBV (EA 1)*

The HRCSL developed a checklist for monitoring the status of the implementation of the Gender Justice Laws and the Sexual Offences Act 2012. Quarterly monitoring of the implementation of the Sexual Offences Act was undertaken with magistrates' courts, hospitals and police stations. A number of mechanisms have been put in place by the HRCSL to monitor women's awareness about their rights and to improve the gender sensitivity of various law enforcement agencies. During the reporting period, OHCHR facilitated capacity-building activities for commissioners and staff of the HRCSL.