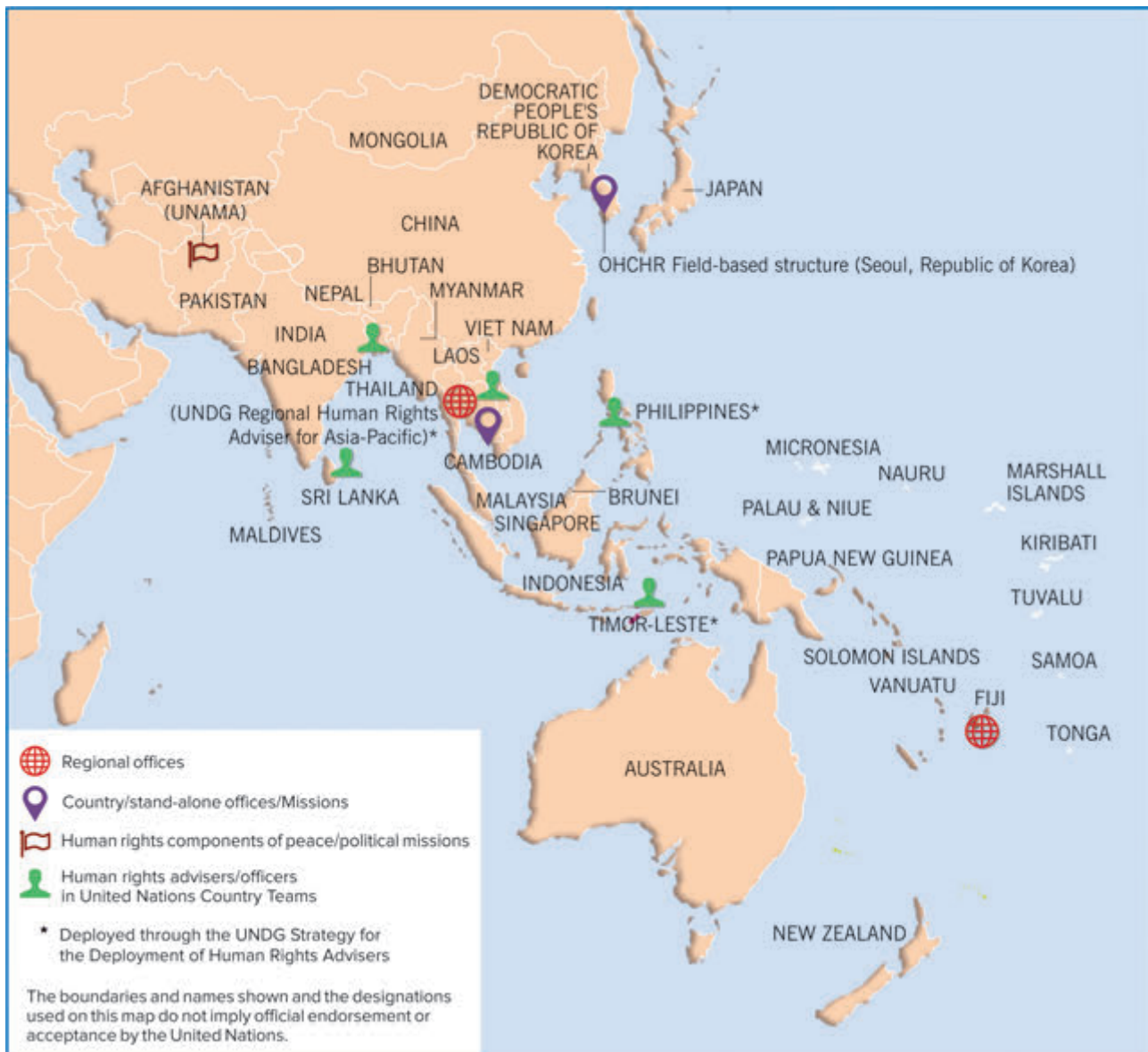


UN Human Rights in the field: Asia and the Pacific



Type of presence	Location
Country office	● Cambodia
Regional offices	● Pacific (Suva, Fiji) ● South-East Asia (Bangkok, Thailand)
Field-based structure	● OHCHR (Seoul)
Human rights component in UN Peace Mission	● Afghanistan (UNAMA)
Human rights advisers in United Nations Country Teams	● Bangladesh ● Papua New Guinea ● Philippines* ● Sri Lanka ● Thailand (UNDG Regional Human Rights Adviser for Asia-Pacific)* ● Timor-Leste*

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

The Asia Pacific region is the world's largest region, both in terms of geography and population. In fact, the region accounts for more than half of the world's population. The work of OHCHR covers 39 countries in the region, bordered by Afghanistan to the west, Mongolia to the north, Kiribati to the east and New Zealand to the south. In 2017, the Office supported one country office in Cambodia; human rights advisers in Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste and a Regional Human Rights Adviser at United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Asia-Pacific, based in Bangkok; two regional offices for the Pacific and South-East Asia; one human rights component in a peace mission in Afghanistan; and one field-based structure, based in Seoul, that covers the Democratic

People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). While negotiations for a country office in Myanmar continued in 2017, the South-East Asia Regional Office sustained the temporary deployment of OHCHR staff to Myanmar. Additionally, OHCHR supported two national officers in the Offices of the Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh and the Maldives, respectively. It also assisted four special procedures country mandate-holders for Cambodia, the DPRK, Iran (until March 2017) and Myanmar.

OHCHR oversees the implementation of five Human Rights Council resolutions for Afghanistan, Cambodia, DPRK, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. Following a decision undertaken in a special session, in December, on the "Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar," the Council requested that the High Commissioner track progress concerning the human rights situation of the Rohingya people in Rakhine State, Myanmar.

Since June 2015, the OHCHR Seoul Office has monitored and documented human rights in the DPRK, where millions of people remain trapped in the grip of a totalitarian system which denies their freedom and deprives them of their basic needs for survival. In March 2017, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 34/24, which strengthened the capacity of OHCHR "for a period of two years," to facilitate the implementation of the relevant recommendations outlined in the report of the Group of Independent Experts on accountability for human rights violations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Emphasis has been placed on the recommendations related to monitoring and documentation, the establishment of a repository of central information and evidence and an assessment of information with a view to developing investigation and prosecution strategies.

Although the overall human rights situation in Sri Lanka has improved since the beginning of 2015, there have been a number of episodes of intercommunal violence in 2017 that are of serious concern. The Government's fulfilment of its commitments in relation to transitional justice, accountability and reconciliation has been worryingly slow. It has yet to establish the three outstanding mechanisms noted in Human Rights Council resolution 30/1, namely, the truth and reconciliation commission, the accountability mechanism and the reparations office. A fourth mechanism, the Office of Missing Persons, has recently been established

and its commissioners appointed in early 2018. More progress is needed to foster accountability and with regard to critical confidence-building measures, such as the repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism and the release of land occupied by the military.

During the year, OHCHR responded to requests to address allegations of severe human rights violations in the region. In January, September and October, OHCHR teams visited Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh to carry out monitoring missions on reported human rights violations in the northern Rakhine State of Myanmar, providing the High Commissioner with credible information on the situation in the areas most affected by the eruption of violence and to inform OHCHR's position in stopping the violence against the Rohingya. The teams were tasked with meeting various stakeholders, including alleged victims and witnesses from the Rohingya community, who had sought refuge in Bangladesh.

OHCHR strengthened the Regional Office for the Pacific to expand its capacity to engage with a wide range of actors, provide technical support and monitor the diverse human rights situation in the region. The Regional Office has become the driving force for OHCHR's work on climate change. Concerning Australia's offshore detention centres, based in Nauru and Manus Island in Papua New Guinea, OHCHR continued to closely monitor the situation, including the implementation of the US-Australia refugee deal reached in November 2016. In collaboration with UNHCR, OHCHR identified and referred vulnerable cases to authorities for rapid solutions.

The South-East Asia Regional Office increased its activities in the area of economic, social and cultural rights and its work on business and human rights. Across the region, people increasingly voiced their concerns regarding the adverse impact of large-scale economic projects on economic, social and cultural rights and about access to land and natural resources. The Office also continued to implement the Human Rights up Front Initiative. The Office advised Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams on timely and adequate responses to complex and sensitive human rights situations. During the reporting period, the Office completed a communication strategy and took steps to share public information and material through consistent and proactive engagement with the media and across its various social media platforms.

Country Office/ Field-based Structure

Cambodia

Year established	1993
Staff as of 31 December 2017	35
Expenditure in 2017	US\$2,164,704

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

Following discussions with the Cambodian Human Rights Committee in 2015 and 2016, the State presented its follow-up report to the Human Rights Committee in January 2017. In relation to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), OHCHR and some civil society organizations organized a workshop, in June, to follow up on UPR recommendations and help the organizations prepare a mid-term report. Initial discussions were also held in preparation for the submissions for Cambodia's third cycle of the UPR in 2019. The Cambodian Human Rights Committee attended the workshop and expressed an interest in working jointly with civil society organizations on the follow-up to recommendations and in preparation for the 2019 review. It also began to meet every three months to discuss progress made on the implementation of recommendations. The results of the meetings have not been made public.

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

None of the overdue periodic reports have thus far been presented by the Government of Cambodia. The Office met with the Cambodian Human Rights Committee to discuss the State's reporting obligations and carried out three trainings on reporting to the human rights treaty bodies for its officials and representatives of other institutions that are mandated to submit reports. It also provided technical and financial assistance to the Cambodia National Council for Children in the drafting of a periodic report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and to the Cambodia National Council for Women in the drafting of a periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.



Community members affected by a dam project in Cambodia learn about their rights. © OHCHR/Cambodia

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

The Office provided support to civil society organizations in the preparation of nine alternative reports to the human rights treaty bodies. As the coordinator of the United Nations Country Team's (UNCT) Human Rights Working Group, OHCHR supported the preparation of UNCT's submissions to the special procedures and the human rights treaty bodies. These inputs included a response to the questionnaires of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities for her thematic report on the right to liberty and security of persons with disabilities, and of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity for his thematic report at the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, and comments on the draft General Comment on State Party obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the context of business activities.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

The three fundamental laws on the judiciary (the Laws on the Organization of the Courts, the Status of Judges and Prosecutors and the Supreme Council of Magistracy) were adopted in 2014. In particular, the Law on the Organization of the Courts introduced important provisions to improve the administration of the courts, including by establishing

a court administration office, which separates the adjudicative work from the administrative work. The Law, however, does not provide clear guidance on the specific roles of each actor within the judiciary under this new system. This has resulted in a lack of clarity on all sides in relation to individual duties and responsibilities. Three meetings that were jointly organized by OHCHR and the Supreme Council of Magistracy enabled court presidents and prosecutors to discuss challenges they had faced in defining clear duties and responsibilities and communicating with other stakeholders within the justice system. The Juvenile Justice Law was enacted in 2016 and came into force in January 2017. OHCHR helped to publish and disseminate the Law and provided extensive comments on the operational plan for its implementation, most of which were incorporated into the final document. In addition, during a consultation on the draft whistle-blower protection and witness protection legislation that was held in March, OHCHR provided oral comments and it is currently preparing written comments on the changes that are needed to bring the legislation in compliance with international standards. The drafts are currently with the Ministry of Justice for its analysis.

- ▶ *Judges and prosecutors apply the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Criminal Code in compliance with international human rights law (EA 1)*
Progress was achieved in increasing the knowledge of judges and prosecutors in dealing with cases of impunity, torture, ill-treatment and deaths in custody, among others. The Office continued engaging with various authorities at the national and local level to follow up on individual cases, including cases of excessive and arbitrary detention and death in detention. In a number of other cases, no information was available because of poor records and/or changes in the judges and prosecutors assigned to the cases. OHCHR also monitored 80 hearings and proceedings in 29 trial cases concerning 67 persons, including human rights defenders, opposition members and supporters, as well as political analysts. The monitoring reports helped to identify areas where the application of the Code of Criminal Procedure needs to be strengthened, particularly with regard to due process. Additionally, the communication and cooperation between prison officers, courts and the police improved thanks to the organization of four meetings in Battambang, Pursat, Pailin and Kampong Speu provinces. Some of the main problems highlighted in these meetings included limited coordination between judges and police; a lack of human and material resources for gathering evidence; and the inadequate enforcement of arrest warrants. These issues will be addressed at the national conference on communication within the justice system, which will be organized in 2018.

- ▶ *International human rights law, especially related to economic, social and cultural rights and women's rights, has been used in some court proceedings (EA 1)*

There is an increased use by Cambodian lawyers of international human rights standards and jurisprudence in their legal argumentation, particularly with regard to pre-trial detention and fair trial rights. This is due in part to the production and dissemination of the OHCHR Annotated Code of Criminal Procedure, the extensive work carried out by OHCHR to facilitate discussions and exchanges between judicial officials at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) and their peers in the domestic system and a number of trainings organized by OHCHR. Judges, however, rarely take international standards into consideration and, in some cases, reject the arguments as inapplicable in domestic courts, despite a contrary landmark decision of the Constitutional Council in 2007.

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

Although detention conditions and the treatment of prisoners improved in some prisons in terms of their access to physical exercise, health services, food, water and sanitation, as well as family visits, most prisons are dealing with severe challenges caused by higher levels of overcrowding. This is in turn leading to increased tensions, skin diseases, limited sleeping space and reduced outdoor time. One more provincial referral hospital was equipped with two secured rooms for prisoners, thus facilitating the hospitalization of sick prisoners without a heightened risk of escape. Detainee patients were therefore provided with medical care without being restrained by handcuffs or chains. OHCHR's 2017 authorization for prison visits did not allow for confidential interviews with prisoners. Nevertheless, the Office was able to report to relevant prisons and judicial authorities on specific concerns, such as allegations of ill-treatment, excessive detention and over-long pending appeals, and sought remedial actions. For instance, through effective collaboration with the courts, OHCHR secured the release of 13 prisoners who had overstayed their prison sentences. The Office further supported increased awareness about international standards on prisons, including by printing the recently adopted Nelson Mandela Rules in both English and Khmer and distributing them to prison staff, prison trainers, officials of the General Department of Prisons and NGO partners.

- ▶ *The Lawyers Training Centre and the Royal Academy of Judicial Professions include a human rights training module focusing on fair trial rights (EA 1)*

Building on the successful pilot training on fair trial rights that was delivered by OHCHR, the Lawyers

Training Centre and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute in 2013, a 30-hour human rights course for trainee lawyers was approved by the Bar Association and delivered each year from 2014 to 2016. In 2017, however, following changes in leadership of the Bar Association and the Lawyers Training Centre, the course was put on hold and postponed until an undetermined date.

- ▶ *General Department of Prisons and the police academy systematically train prison staff on good prison management practices and integrating human rights core values and principles (EA 1)*

Professional training of prison staff improved during 2017. The Police Academy of Cambodia (PAC) organized three successive training sessions of three months each and one in-service one-month training session for newly recruited staff and in-service staff from 28 prisons. In total, trainers from PAC and the General Department of Prisons (GDP) trained 183 prison staff, including 31 women, on prison management, legislation, human rights and the prevention of torture. Good progress was also achieved in revising the training curricula of PAC and GDP. Twelve revised modules were shared with OHCHR and 10 of the modules specifically include human rights di-

mensions of prison management. OHCHR has been advocating for the allocation of more time for the human rights-related modules once the initial training is extended from three to four months and the in-service training from one to two months in 2018. In order to help make the initial training more practical and concrete, OHCHR supported and accompanied one-day visits to prisons for the trainees in order for them to contextualize their learning in real prison environments.

- ▶ *A transitional justice system functions in full compliance with international human rights standards (EA 3)*
In spite of concerns that the ECCC would be closing down during the reporting cycle, it continued to hand down decisions, in conformity with human rights standards, on a number of cases. There remain, however, concerns with regard to the alleged interference of the Government in the proceedings of the Court.

- ▶ *A National Preventive Mechanism against torture is established and functioning to monitor places of detention in compliance with OP-CAT (EA 3)*
The Cambodian National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), an interministerial committee established in 2009 that was not compliant with the require-

Released at last from prison, a year after completing his sentence

In Cambodia, prison authorities and prisoners themselves are often without up-to-date information on their cases. Consequently, prisons are unable to fully implement their sentences, prisoners are unable to apply for sentence reductions or pardons and release procedures are hampered. Prison authorities are also unable to monitor whether prisoners are being held in excess of their terms, which amounts to arbitrary detention. Moreover, the absence of information makes it difficult for lawyers to assist their clients.

This was the case for Mr. Sok Heng (not his real name), a 37-year-old Cambodian man who was working in Thailand when he was arrested and convicted by a Thai court in 2005. In March 2013, as part of a bilateral agreement on prisoner transfers between Cambodia and Thailand, he was sent to Banteay Meanchey provincial prison, in Cambodia, to serve out the remainder of his sentence. After completing eight years in prison, Mr. Sok Heng received a sentence reduction from the King of Thailand. Although he had completed the remainder of his sentence by the end of 2016, the decision in his case had not yet been communicated to the Banteay Meanchey court. As of mid-2017, he was still behind bars.

His case, and the cases of nine other prisoners in the same situation, came to the attention of the UN Human Rights Office in Cambodia, in June, as part of its regu-

lar monitoring work. The human rights officers compiled and translated all of the information and documents they were able to gather. To seek remedial action, they approached their counterparts at the local court, the Office of the General Prosecutor attached to the Appeal Court, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Ministry of Justice. After months of follow-up, Mr. Heng and the nine other detainees were released from prison, in October 2017.

In recent years, UN Human Rights has documented thousands of cases in Cambodia that were missing information on their sentences or appeal rulings. By working with legal aid NGOs, the prisons and the courts, the Office has helped to track missing documents, contributed to reducing the backlog of prisoners awaiting appeal and helped to improve the legality of detention and therefore deliver justice.

UN Human Rights advocates for and supports better communication between prisons, courts and prosecutors and the establishment of clear procedures in order to share court documents with prisons and for prisoner release. In working closely with prison authorities, the Office is empowered to become a central actor in the justice system with an active role to play in combating excessive detention.

ments of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT), underwent restructuring following changes to its legal framework and membership. In August 2017, a new Royal Decree repealed the 2009 Sub-Decree and nine new members were subsequently appointed through another Royal Decree, in November, under the revised provisions. The Office engaged with the Government to again share the briefings and documents on legal options that it had produced over the years to support Cambodia in the establishment of a NPM that is compliant with international standards and continued to facilitate communication with the UN Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Torture. Although the new mechanism, known as the National Committee against Torture, still falls short of OP-CAT requirements, there have been several positive improvements, most notably in relation to the nomination and independence of the new members.

- ▶ *Allegations of torture and ill-treatment by the police, including the military police, are promptly investigated and where confirmed, appropriate action is taken by police chiefs and prosecutors (EA 3)*

In Prey Veng, eight police officers and gendarmes were arrested in relation to cases of torture and ill-treatment. The arrests demonstrated increased knowledge at the provincial and district level about these types of violations following briefings by OHCHR. The Office continued to receive requests from local authorities, for instance in Koh Kong, Kratie and Takeo, to carry out capacity-building activities for local law enforcement officials on the prevention of torture and ill-treatment. Furthermore, OHCHR encouraged the Office of the General Prosecutor attached to the Appeals Court to continue carrying out monitoring visits to police stations as a torture prevention tool.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

The key ministries involved in land and housing issues in Cambodia, including the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Rural Development, only partially improved the extent to which their means of addressing land issues are in compliance with international human rights standards. The Ministry of Environment launched timely and open consultations on its new



OHCHR monitors a demonstration during the Supreme Court hearing on the dissolution of a political party in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. © OHCHR/Cambodia

draft Environmental Code in 2016 and included several of OHCHR's comments on the rights of indigenous peoples and the due diligence obligations of private actors. The drafting by the Ministry of Agriculture of a controversial draft law on agricultural land management was abruptly stopped, in November, after negative comments were made by the Prime Minister. In July, OHCHR released a legal analysis that raised serious human rights concerns about the draft legislation.

The collaboration with the key ministries in charge of the Communal Land Titling (CLT) Process for indigenous peoples has positively developed over the last four years. In 2017, thanks to OHCHR support, six indigenous communities in three provinces obtained their indigenous peoples identity registration (the first of three steps in the CLT process). Shortly afterwards, one of these communities was registered as a legal entity by the Ministry of Interior (step two). Simultaneously, OHCHR engaged with the three ministries in the drafting of a manual on the CLT process for local authorities and developed a discussion paper on the future simplification of that procedure. Over the past several years, OHCHR and indigenous rights organizations have raised concerns regarding the complexity, length and cost of the CLT process. Indeed, since the enactment of the Land Law providing for communal land ownership in 2001, and the issuance of the Sub-Decree establishing the CLT three-step process in 2009, only 22 indigenous communities have been able to secure communal titles to their land as of the end of 2017.

- ▶ *Existing dispute resolution mechanisms, including the courts, improve their compliance with human rights standards in handling land issues (EA 3)*
- In response to the inefficiency of the court system to address land disputes, alternative non-judicial resolution mechanisms have increasingly been es-

tablished by a variety of actors in the last four years. In some cases, this has improved the extent to which the handling of land issues are in compliance with international human rights standards. For instance, since 2015, OHCHR has been supporting the establishment and operation of a tripartite committee and the organization of regular multi-stakeholders meetings in Busra, where a private company has been in conflict with the Bunong indigenous peoples regarding their traditional land, which was granted to the company in 2007 as an economic land concession. In 2017, as a result of discussions in the multi-stakeholders meetings, it was decided that a mediation process would be launched that would be led by an NGO and supported by the Office.

► *Rights-holders meaningfully participate in the design of public policy related to land and housing and the management of natural resources (EA 5)*

With OHCHR's support, indigenous representatives were able to participate in consultations on the draft Environmental Code and the draft Law on Agricultural Land Management. Indigenous peoples in seven provinces were better able to participate in the communal land titling process with various ministries. As a result, six indigenous communities in Koh Kong, Kratie and Monduliri provinces were able to obtain their indigenous peoples identity registration, (step one of the CLT process), one community in Monduliri province obtained its registration as a legal entity (step two) and, in Battambang province, an indigenous community was able to advance in their CLT process following OHCHR's advocacy with authorities for the demining of their land; a necessary step for its demarcation.

Rights-holders continued to enhance their capacity to meaningfully participate in processes that affect their rights as a result of OHCHR's capacity-building efforts. In 2017, OHCHR trained 55 indigenous representatives on indigenous rights and the CLT process. Training was also provided for more than 120 human rights defenders, community activists and representatives of local authorities and private businesses on land and housing standards and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Information about these rights was disseminated through multimedia platforms, including smartphone applications on land rights, a video on the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, another video on the Communal Land Titling Process for indigenous peoples and monthly radio programmes on economic and social rights.

Widening the democratic space

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

The legal framework pertaining to fundamental freedoms has generally deteriorated during the year, although there have been promising developments in select areas. In relation to labour-related laws, in particular freedom of association, collaborative advocacy work carried out by the Office and relevant stakeholders, such as trade unions and the ILO, yielded positive results, including a halting of the introduction of new legal provisions that would have undermined the existing framework. In October, the Minister of Labour and Vocational Training announced that the drafting of a controversial Labour Dispute Procedure had been suspended and that the existing, efficient Arbitration Council would remain in place for collective labour dispute resolution. Moreover, the drafting of the Law on Access to Information has been open to meaningful consultations. OHCHR provided legal comments during both the preparatory meetings with UNESCO, OHCHR and civil society organizations and the meetings of the formal Technical Working Group that were co-chaired by the Ministry of Information and UNESCO. The current draft is in overall compliance with relevant international standards. In addition, the draft law on whistle-blower protection was shared with relevant stakeholders in early 2017 but has not evolved since that time.

On a more negative note, in an increasingly tense political environment ahead of the 2018 general elections, the Parliament enacted two sets of amendments to the Law on Political Parties allowing the suspension or dissolution of political parties on vague grounds and impose prohibitions on persons convicted on any ground from leading or being associated in any way with political parties. Furthermore, several draft laws and subsidiary legislation with strong human rights implications, such as the Cybercrime Law, are in various stages of drafting but have not yet been open to public consultations with relevant stakeholders. No progress was made in the development of subsidiary legislation under the 2015 Law on Associations and NGOs. The Law has been used on several occasions to suspend or close NGOs.

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

There has been a further deterioration in the way that subnational authorities misapply the legislation on peaceful demonstrations. An administrative instruction, which the Ministry of Interior issued in October, directly contradicts the Law on Peaceful Demonstration and international standards and significantly restricts the capacity of civil society organizations and citizens to organize any kind of gathering. Under the instruction, subnational authorities are tasked with controlling NGO activities and are empowered to

prevent or stop any NGO activities that have been organized without formally notifying provincial and local authorities of their plans at least three days in advance. In this context, OHCHR continued its efforts to increase the awareness of rights-holders about their right to freedom of peaceful assembly and build their capacity to claim that right and challenge any misapplications of the Law. The Office also widely disseminated the 2009 Law on Peaceful Demonstrations and its implementation guide and held a number of training workshops about the Law for civil society actors.

► *Human rights education programmes established at high school and university levels (EA 1)*

Efforts to engage with the Ministry of Education and the National Election Committee on the issue of human rights education programmes were postponed in light of the situation of civil and political rights around Cambodia's local and national elections in 2017 and 2018 and OHCHR's need to focus on more immediate priorities.

Cambodia: Expenditure in 2017		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	1,368,624	346,603
Activities and operating costs	213,735	183,155
Subtotal	1,582,358	529,758
Programme support costs	-	52,588
GRAND TOTAL	1,582,358	582,346

OHCHR field-based structure to strengthen monitoring and documentation of the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Year established	2015
Staff as of 31 December 2017	5

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

► *The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea implements the accepted UPR recommendations relevant to non-discrimination (EA 6)*

In September and November, respectively, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) had its

periodic reports reviewed by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). This was the first time the DPRK underwent review by a treaty body since 2009. While CEDAW welcomed improvements in the policy and institutional framework, it also expressed concern about the lack of publicly available data necessary to assess the effectiveness of implementation of the areas covered in the Convention. OHCHR strengthened the ability of civil society organizations based in the Republic of Korea to participate in the process, including through co-organizing a seminar on women's rights in the DPRK with the National Human Rights Commission of Korea and a seminar on the role of human rights mechanisms in the protection and promotion of human rights in the DPRK. In the Strategic Framework for cooperation between the United Nations and the DPRK, launched in 2017, the United Nations offers support to the Government of the DPRK to ensure improved compliance with international human rights standards, including recommendations accepted as part of the UPR process.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

► *Increased responsiveness of the international community to the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (EA 10)*

The Human Rights Council, General Assembly and Security Council remained responsive to the human rights situation in the DPRK. This was achieved through various actions that were undertaken within the UN system, including ongoing monitoring, documentation and the analyses of primary human rights issues. Support was also provided to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK and the Group of Independent Experts on accountability for human rights violations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. During 2017, OHCHR conducted 90 interviews with individuals who had left the DPRK. In particular, it focused its research efforts on the situation of women who were repatriated to the DPRK and faced serious human rights violations in detention as a result of their decision to leave. The Office supported the Special Rapporteur on two visits to Seoul, one to Japan, one to Cambodia, one to New York and one to Geneva. During the visits, the Special Rapporteur met with government officials, members of the diplomatic community, persons from the DPRK and representatives of civil society organizations. Following the missions, the Special Rapporteur submitted and presented reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly. The Rapporteur also issued 11 press releases and public statements during the year, including calls to decrease military tensions,



The High Commissioner briefs the Security Council on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, December 2017. © UN Photo/Rick Bajornas

resume family reunion events and investigate the case of a U.S. student who died shortly after being released from a DPRK prison. He also issued two Urgent Appeals jointly with other mandate-holders urging China not to forcibly repatriate DPRK escapees. OHCHR also took some initial steps to implement the recommendations outlined in the report of the Group of Independent Experts on accountability for human rights violations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. On 11 December, the Security Council held a meeting on the situation in the DPRK and, during the year, it also held a ministerial-level briefing on the DPRK and non-proliferation during which the UN Secretary-General urged DPRK authorities to engage with the international human rights mechanisms. Finally, from 6 to 10 February, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances held a plenary meeting in Seoul. Following advice from OHCHR, civil society actors, primarily based in the Republic of Korea, submitted 73 new cases for the Working Group's review.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Increased awareness through outreach relevant to a DPRK audience and organizations that support them, including CSOs and the media (EA 5)*

Throughout the year, OHCHR worked closely with civil society organizations outside the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to increase their capacity to promote and protect the human rights situation in the country. For instance, in July, the Office and the civil society organization Transitional Justice Working Group, co-organized a seminar on the technical aspects of monitoring and documentation. OHCHR developed and distributed outreach materials, including a leaflet summarizing the work of the Office, which was aimed at persons from the DPRK who are living outside of the country. Sharing information and interacting with the target audience via social media was another important way of ensuring ongoing visibility of the human rights situation in the country. The OHCHR field-based structure engaged with its 6,500 Facebook and Twitter followers on issues related to women's rights, detention, enforced disappearances, child rights, forced repatriation, separated families and other topics. Furthermore, OHCHR provided accurate and timely information about the human rights situation in the DPRK to a wide range of audiences, including members of the diplomatic community and journalists.

Regional Offices

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

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2017	14
Expenditure in 2017	US\$2,308,265

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Ratification of OP-CAT by Indonesia and Thailand; and of CAT, ICCPR or ICESCR by Myanmar (EA 2)*
Myanmar ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in October 2017. Throughout the reporting period, OHCHR continued to work closely with the Government of Myanmar to encourage its ratification of the international human rights treaties. In 2014, a treaty ratification workshop was organized with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which brought together representatives from other ministries and the Parliament. Despite the Office's sustained advocacy for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, neither Indonesia nor Thailand ratified the Convention during the period under review.
- ▶ *Increased engagement with special procedures by civil society actors in Brunei Darussalam, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Singapore (EA 7)*
Civil society organizations in Singapore submitted a number of communications to the special procedures on issues related to imminent executions and to freedom of expression and assembly.
- ▶ *The new NHRI, an increased number of NGOs and the United Nations Country Team submit contributions to CEDAW and the UPR in Myanmar (EA 7)*
Myanmar underwent its second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2015 and the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission submitted a report. The capacity of national stakeholders to prepare submissions was strengthened through OHCHR's participation in a UPR workshop organized by the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute. As a result, the number of submissions by national stakeholders increased substantially, from 24 in 2011 during the first cycle of the UPR to 47 in 2015. OHCHR further coordinated the submission of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), which resulted in a comprehensive compilation of information with contributions from nine UN

entities. Finally, the Government was encouraged to identify a focal point for the national UPR process and establish an interministerial mechanism.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Countries in the region abolish the death penalty or increase the compliance of relevant legislation and policies with international standards, particularly in relation to the reduction in the number and scope of the crimes covered (EA 1)*
OHCHR continued to actively campaign for the abolition of the death penalty in the subregion. The Office consistently sent letters to the Governments of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore and urged that stays of execution be granted in cases of imminent executions for drug-related offenses or in light of allegations of flawed judicial processes. It also issued public statements expressing its concerns regarding executions. Although the letters and public statements did not stop the executions, they nevertheless contributed to debates at the national and regional levels on the use of the death penalty. In Thailand, OHCHR supported the Ministry of Justice in reviewing the country's use of the death penalty with the aim of abolition. As a result of regular advocacy carried out by OHCHR and other stakeholders, Thailand demonstrated its commitment to work towards abolishing the death penalty and has not carried out a death sentence since 2009.
- ▶ *National Preventive Mechanism against torture (under OP-CAT) established and/or functioning in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand (EA 3)*
In Malaysia, the national human rights institution increased its monitoring work, particularly with regard to visiting detention centres and immigration detention centres. In Thailand, OHCHR advocated for the enactment of a law on anti-torture and anti-disappearance. In 2016, the Cabinet approved the draft but it was rejected by the National Legislative Assembly in March.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Human rights related to land and natural resources, along with recommendations for increased compliance with international standards in South-east Asia, are raised in international fora (EA 10)*
Following the 2016 Universal Periodic Review of Thailand, the Ministry of Justice committed to developing an Action Plan on business and human rights. OHCHR regularly advocated with the Government for the development of an action plan to address human rights concerns arising from large-scale development projects and other economic activities. The Office is currently providing technical support to the Ministry of Justice for the drafting of an action plan.
- ▶ *UN entities apply a human rights-based approach to programmes in Myanmar (EA 11)*

The Myanmar UNCT's capacity to apply a human rights-based approach to programming in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) has been strengthened through OHCHR's technical guidance. The draft UNDAF 2018-2022, which integrates human rights perspectives, is currently under negotiation with the Government. Human rights are also featured in the UN's Situation Analysis.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Increased responsiveness of governments to allegations of violations of freedom of expression (EA 3)*
Following the 2014 military coup in Thailand, OHCHR increased its advocacy and raised cases of human rights violations in relation to restrictions to the rights to freedom of expression, opinion and assembly with the Government, including the military. The Government of Thailand has replied positively to nearly one fifth of the cases raised by the Office.
- ▶ *Human rights defenders use national protection systems to initiate credible State investigations and prosecutions, particularly in emblematic cases or for the release of human rights defenders from custody (EA 5)*

In Thailand, OHCHR trained at least 60 human rights defenders and provided targeted mentoring to those who are active in the southern border provinces to effectively document human rights violations in the region. In 2014, the Ministry of Justice established a Working Group for the protection of human rights defenders, however, due to a change in leadership within the Ministry, the Working Group has not been very functional. The Office continued to engage with the Ministry of Justice to revive the mechanism. In other countries of the subregion, including Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Viet Nam, OHCHR promoted the increased familiarity and engagement of local human rights defenders with the work of the international human rights mechanisms. In most of these countries, this has resulted in an improved use of these mechanisms by human rights activists.

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

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

In 2017, the Special Rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar, other thematic mandate-holders, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other UN partners, including the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, consistently alerted the international community to the seriousness of the situation in Rakhine State and other parts of Myanmar. This contributed

to action being taken by the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council and the Security Council in an attempt to address the crisis. Through its resolution A/RES/72/248 (October 2017), the General Assembly called upon authorities in Myanmar to end military operations that led to the violations of the human rights of the Rohingya community and to grant unrestricted access to the international human rights mechanisms to independently monitor the human rights situation in the region. Furthermore, following a December 2017 special session on the human rights situation of the minority Rohingya Muslim population and other minorities in the Rakhine State of Myanmar, the Human Rights Council, through resolution A/HRC/RES/S-27/1 condemned the human rights violations committed in Rakhine State, called upon the Government to cooperate with the special procedures and requested that the High Commissioner track progress made concerning the human rights situation of the Rohingya people and provide updates to the Human Rights Council.

- ▶ *UN entities in the region apply a human rights-based approach to policing and the prosecution of sexual violence; humanitarian operations and international responses to situations of violence and conflict (EA 11)*
OHCHR continued to regularly participate in regional meetings of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and deployed human rights officers to support UN emergency relief efforts, including in the aftermath of Cyclone Yolanda in the Philippines, in 2014, the 2015 earthquake in Nepal and Bangladesh and following the violence in Rakhine State and other parts of Myanmar. This engagement enabled OHCHR to ensure the integration of human rights in humanitarian work through increased evidence-based advocacy. Furthermore, support provided by the Office to the UNCTs in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand to prepare an early warning mechanism to respond to human rights violations, within the context of the Human Rights up Front Initiative, enabled the increased engagement of members of the respective UNCTs on human rights issues.

Regional Office for South-East Asia (Bangkok, Thailand): Expenditure in 2017

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	736,229	670,461
Activities and operating costs	95,747	670,045
Subtotal	831,975	1,340,506
Programme support costs	-	135,784
GRAND TOTAL	831,975	1,476,290

Regional Office for the Pacific (Suva, Fiji)

Year established	2005
Staff as of 31 December 2017	6
Expenditure in 2017	US\$958,988

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Six new ratifications/accessions of human rights treaties with a focus on ICCPR, ICESCR and CAT (and their optional protocols) in the subregion (EA 2)*

In 2017, Fiji ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, while other countries in the region showed a greater interest in acceding to international human rights instruments such as the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. OHCHR took steps to strengthen its advocacy and capacity-building efforts with government officials to enhance their understanding of specific human rights treaties.

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

Although Pacific Island countries submitted 32 initial and periodic reports to various human rights treaty bodies, at the end of 2017, 26 reports remained overdue. All Pacific Island countries have completed their second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and fully complied with their reporting obligations under this mechanism. OHCHR undertook a number of capacity-building initiatives to increase the reporting capacity of States. These initiatives included sessions on reporting to the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR in the Marshall Islands, Palau and Samoa and a regional workshop on national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up (NMRF) that was convened in Fiji with a view to sharing experiences and challenges in relation to reporting. In addition, while Samoa established an NMRF in 2016, other countries in the region showed an interest in shifting from their current ad hoc approaches and structures towards a more permanent NMRF. OHCHR has strongly encouraged the governments in the Pacific to establish functioning NMRFs in order to tackle their reporting and follow-up obligations. It has also



Participants of an OHCHR workshop on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Palau, May 2017.

© OHCHR/Pacific

provided technical cooperation on drafting NMRF decrees, shared terms of reference and assisted in developing implementation plans. In August, the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice visited Samoa, representing the first visit of this special procedure to the country. Also, in November and December, the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism visited Fiji.

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

Civil society in the Pacific has had limited engagement with the UN human rights mechanisms. To overcome this situation, OHCHR has been providing support to these actors to help build their capacity in relation to monitoring and report writing. For example, in December 2017, approximately 25 members of civil society benefited from an OHCHR training focused on using international human rights mechanisms, which included practical information on the preparation of substantive submissions. Similarly, the same number of participants from the media and NGOs in Fiji benefited from training on human rights reporting and how to use the recommendations issued by the mechanisms to advocate for the protection of human rights. These interventions, however, have yet to yield concrete results.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

In 2017, OHCHR in coordination with the Fiji Police Force's Academy conducted a pilot human rights training session for the Fiji police recruits. Training was also provided in partnership with the Fiji Disabled People's Federation, ICRC, the Police Juvenile

Bureau and the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission. The success of the pilot course led to the delivery of a second training later in the year, resulting in the training of 257 police recruits in 2017. In November, OHCHR provided human rights briefings to Fiji Police Force leadership. As a result, a task force was set up to liaise with OHCHR and support the police in its efforts to harmonize operational directives, processes and procedures with human rights principles, ensure the proper management of persons under arrest and in custody and develop a unified performance appraisal system within the Fiji police. OHCHR will support the task force by providing technical assistance and capacity-building tools.

Widening the democratic space

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

Following the passage of the National Human Rights Institution Act 2017, the Government of Tuvalu established the national human rights institution (NHRI) in December. Support is being provided to the Governments of Cook Islands and Nauru in relation to the next steps that need to be taken towards the formal establishment of NHRIs in their respective countries. Support was also extended to the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission by having regular meetings with the Director and staff and conducting specialized workshops regarding the international human rights mechanisms, interviewing and investigating techniques and prison monitoring skills. The trainings included detention visits to the Korovou Prison, the Women Prison and the Naboro medium and maximum correction centres in Suva. The Commission, nevertheless, continues to face capacity and structural challenges, preventing it from meeting the requirements of compliance with the Paris Principles.

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

- ▶ *Support to UNCTs for the development of a country-level human rights strategy in Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Samoa (EA 11)*

The Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific 2017-2030 was launched during the reporting period. The Framework promotes an integrated approach to address climate change and disaster risk management and also highlights migration issues. The Framework was developed by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, UNDP and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, with inputs from OHCHR. The Office regularly briefed the United Nations Country Team for the Pacific on key human rights developments and concerns in the region.

Regional Office for the Pacific (Suva, Fiji): Expenditure in 2017

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	85,698	558,498
Activities and operating costs	-	214,326
Subtotal	85,698	772,823
Programme support costs	-	100,467
GRAND TOTAL	85,698	873,290

Human Rights Component in UN Peace Mission

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2017	88

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *During the reporting period, the Government will continue strengthening its cooperation with UN treaty bodies, including by submitting its pending periodic reports, as well as its report under the simplified reporting procedure on the ICCPR (EA 6)*

In 2017, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) provided technical support to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to assist with the drafting of Afghanistan's State Party report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. While the report was due by mid-2017, delays in its drafting compelled the Government to request an extension to complete the drafting process. In August, Afghanistan extended a standing invitation to Special Procedures of the HRC.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

In relation to the Afghan People's Dialogue on Peace, which took place in previous years, the drafting process for all 34 provincial road maps for

peace was completed. The launch of the road maps was scheduled to take place in early 2018. UNAMA strongly supported the implementation of six local peace initiatives. To this end, UNAMA partnered with The Asia Foundation and co-organized a National Conference, in October 2017, to present four provincial road maps to provincial invitees and relevant stakeholders. In addition, UNAMA continued its efforts to advance women's political participation. From 17 October to 22 November 2017, it organized 14 dialogues across the country with 364 participants, representing a wide spectrum of Afghan society, to highlight their experiences and discuss their perspectives regarding women's participation in the electoral process. The events provided opportunities for participants to debate key issues, including how to overcome barriers, restrictions and impediments to women's active participation in elections, and develop recommendations for relevant stakeholders on promoting women's participation. In March, the Government issued a law on the prohibition of torture and a new Penal Code, both containing a definition of torture more in line with the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT). The draft law on the prohibition of torture is being reviewed by the National Assembly. Furthermore, the Government of Afghanistan indicated its intention to withdraw its reservation to CAT, and the Cabinet approved in principle the decision to ratify the Optional Protocol to that Convention.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission works in conformity with international standards, especially in the areas of independence and improving female representation (EA 1)*
The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) maintained its 'A' status and is operating in compliance with the Paris Principles. Over the past four years, the AIHRC extensively engaged with the United Nations human rights mechanisms and submitted reports to the human rights treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review. The AIHRC placed particular emphasis on empowering civil society and human rights defenders for the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. In 2017, it completed the drafting of the national strategy on the protection of human rights defenders. Nevertheless, a lack of appropriate resources limited the capacity of the AIHRC to be fully staffed and engaged in the field. During 2017, UNAMA jointly with the AIHRC organized provincial and regional round-tables, discussions and workshops to strengthen civil society actors and increase their engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.



The Chief of the Human Rights Unit of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan launches the 2016 Report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict in the country.
© UN Photo/Fardin Waezi

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

- ▶ *Provincial authorities, law enforcement and prosecutors work together to support victims and improve investigations of cases of violence against women to support prosecution (EA 1)*
Violence against women and the use of harmful traditional practices continued across Afghanistan. Harmful traditional practices, which have been criminalized under the 2009 Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women, were frequently misunderstood to be in reference to aspects of Islamic law/teachings. As a result, law enforcement and judicial practitioners inconsistently applied the Law. Its implementation remained similarly inconsistent in the provinces due to the wide variety of State actors involved in these cases, the vast differences in their interpretation of the Law and a lack of coordination or a single country-wide database. Other factors that led to the denial of redress to women included an absence of coordinated official reporting mechanisms; a strong reliance on traditional dispute resolution mechanisms where women are often at a disadvantage; limited outreach of law enforcement due to Afghanistan's protracted conflict, factional and ethnic divisions; an institutionalized culture of impunity; and the perceived shame surrounding crimes of sexual violence. UNAMA continued to monitor and document cases of violence against women and girls, monitored the implementation of the Law and engaged in advocacy to promote the rights of women.
In 2017, the Government continued to implement the national action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in the promotion of peace and security, and to take measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence in armed conflict. However, these efforts were hampered by lack of funding.
In March 2017, the new Penal Code was passed under a presidential legislative decree and was submitted to the Parliament for endorsement. Over the past four

years, UNAMA supported the drafting of the Code, which defines rape, codifies corruption offences and war crimes, criminalizes land grabbing and reduces the number of crimes that are subject to the death penalty. The Anti-Harassment Law came into force on 31 December, while other legislative reforms with a bearing on the protection of women's rights are ongoing, including the Family Law, the Reconciliation and Civil Disputes Law, and the Mediation Regulation.

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

The Government and the international community achieved progress on devising mechanisms for the protection of civilians. The Government and the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission have policies and mechanisms in place for the protection of civilians. Furthermore, in response to a UNAMA recommendation and with its technical support, the Government developed the National Policy on Civilian Casualty Prevention and Mitigation in 2015. The National Security Council endorsed the Policy in September 2017. In August 2017, the Government ratified the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, as well as all five Protocols, including Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War. The Taliban also established a Department for Prevention of Civilian Casualties and Complaints that is responsible for documenting civilian casualties and investigating complaints against Taliban members. The Department issued intermittent statements to their fighters to refrain from attacking civilians. In response to a UNAMA 2016 recommendation, the Government-led Civilian Casualty Avoidance and Mitigation Board established a working group to prioritize the completion of the action plan that would guide the implementation of the National Policy on Civilian Casualty Prevention and Mitigation. UNAMA remained fully engaged with the working group as a core member and provided it with technical assistance.

UNAMA continued to report on civilian casualty trends. Between 1 January and 31 December 2017, UNAMA documented 10,453 civilian casualties, a decrease of nine per cent compared to the same period in 2016. The 2017 annual report on the protection of civilians in armed conflict was released in early 2018. UNAMA continued to advocate with all parties to the conflict on civilian protection issues, including on the use of explosive weapons in civilian populated areas, which has led to some improvements on the ground.

- ▶ *UN support to national institutions is in compliance with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (EA 11)* In September 2016, UNDP and UNAMA conducted a desk study to further assess gaps in human rights

mitigation mechanisms. Based on the recommendations of the report, UNDP and OHCHR proposed a framework for implementing the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) in Afghanistan involving all UN entities providing operational support to security forces, mostly the Afghan National Police. OHCHR and UNDP co-chaired the new HRDDP Working Group established under the UNCT and continued to engage with the relevant national and international stakeholders to initiate the implementation of the Policy.

Human Rights Advisers to UN and Regional Country Teams

Bangladesh

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2017	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Increased number of visits by special procedures (EA 6)*

Bangladesh has not issued a standing invitation to the special procedures. In addition, the Government has not responded to a number of outstanding requests for visits by special procedures mandate-holders.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *A human rights-based approach is substantially integrated into the UNDAF (EA 11)*



Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. © EU/ECHO

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2017-2020 is in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and focuses on overcoming structural inequalities, promoting the advancement of women and disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals and groups, strengthening governance and developing the capacities of rights-holders and duty-bearers. The UNDAF also emphasizes the implementation of the country's treaty obligations. OHCHR provided advice to the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) on the mainstreaming of human rights into UN activities in Bangladesh and supported the Office of the Resident Coordinator on building the capacity of the UNCT, National Human Rights Commission, civil society and the Government to better engage with the international human rights mechanisms.

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

- ▶ *Human rights concerns increasingly raised with the Government in humanitarian situations (EA 11)*

With regard to the Rohingya refugee crisis, OHCHR highlighted a number of protection gaps for remedial action by the UN system, including in relation to family separation, trafficking, restriction of freedom of movement and sexual and gender-based violence. Through providing advice and guidance in Dhaka and Cox's Bazar to key humanitarian actors in Bangladesh, OHCHR aimed at ensuring the integration of a human rights-based approach throughout UN activities in the humanitarian relief operations.

Human Rights Adviser to the Regional UN Development Group for Asia and the Pacific¹⁰

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2017	1

Results

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

Overall, since 2014, the capacity of the UNDG Asia-Pacific and the regional United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) has been strengthened to ensure the enhanced integration of human rights perspectives into common country programming, notably United

Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs). UNCTs in Bhutan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam requested and received capacity-development support and advice, including on the human rights-based approach to development. In 2017, OHCHR supported the roll-out of the recently revised UNDAF Guidance, with a particular focus on highlighting the linkages between achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the existing human rights commitments of States, notably equality and non-discrimination. The capacity of the regional UNDG Asia-Pacific Peer Support Group and its quality support and advice function for UNDAFs was enhanced with OHCHR's guidance. UNCTs updated and revised their country analyses, UNDAFs, annual plans or actual country programming as a result of this quality support.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Human Rights Defenders use national protection systems to a low level to improve the implementation of credible State investigations and prosecutions particularly in emblematic cases or for the release of human rights defenders from custody (EA 5)*

UNCTs in the region have focused on ensuring appropriate and adequate engagement with civil society and devising strategies to protect their space for participation in public life. Following OHCHR engagement in several countries, levels of awareness and commitments have increased and actions have been undertaken to maintain an enabling environment. At the regional UNDG level, the participation of rights-holders and the need to engage on civic space has remained on the agenda due to the advocacy efforts of OHCHR and the UNDG Asia-Pacific Human Rights Network member agencies in relation to violations of the rights to freedom of association, assembly, expression, information and participation in the region. Moreover, entry points for the increased participation of rights-holders and their representatives resulted from their involvement in regional processes and cooperation with civil society organizations including the Regional Coordination Engagement Mechanism (RCEM).

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

The UNDG Asia-Pacific Human Rights Network produced an Issue Brief on civil society space and stakeholder engagement in 2016 and 2017 in order to encourage the UNDG Asia-Pacific and UNCTs to take more effective action to promote and protect this space. The new UNDG Asia-Pacific subgroup on civic space, which was established by OHCHR,

¹⁰ Deployed through the UNDG Strategy for the Deployment of Human Rights Advisers.

contributed to the Issue Brief with support from ILO, UNDP, UNAIDS, UNESCAP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women and other agencies. In working with UNCTs, OHCHR encouraged them to ensure civil society participation in UNDAF development and monitoring and, more broadly, in development processes led by States and the United Nations. Engagement in various processes, such as the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, facilitated the participation of civil society in the monitoring of human rights and Sustainable Development Goals.

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

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

The regional undg Asia-Pacific Task Team, a subgroup of the Human Rights Network that is co-chaired by UN Women and OHCHR, prepared an analytical paper for UNCTs on extremism leading to discrimination against women in law and in practice. The documents will be distributed to UNCTs in 2018 to support the mainstreaming of a human rights and gender-sensitive perspective into the work of UNCTs, many of which are increasingly involved in policy and programming around the prevention of violent extremism and related issues. Additionally, in the context of the Human Rights up Front Initiative, OHCHR ensured greater coordination, policy coherence and cooperation among the agencies and UNCTs in the region through information-sharing, analysis, advocacy and capacity-building around reviews of crisis countries and linkages with common country programming.

Papua New Guinea

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2017	3

Results

Enhanced equality and countering discrimination

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

OHCHR closely monitored the situation of refugees, asylum-seekers and other related categories of persons transferred to Manus Island under the 2013 Regional Resettlement Arrangement between Australia and Papua New Guinea. In close collaboration with UNHCR Australia, OHCHR supported the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in strategic meetings with key government and non-government stakeholders.

This led to a human rights assessment of the situation of refugees in April 2016 and the close monitoring of the decommissioning of the Manus Regional Processing Centre, on 31 October 2017, and an assessment of health care facilities for refugees and asylum-seekers undertaken by the National Department of Health and the World Health Organization.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Steps taken towards abolishment or a moratorium on the death penalty (EA 1)*

In 2016, the Government rejected all recommendations issued during the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) related to abolishing the death penalty. Although the Government widened the scope of the death penalty in 2013 to include cases of aggravated robbery and killings related to sorcery accusation, no judge has handed down a death sentence since that announcement. At the end of 2017, a judge of the National Court issued a stay of execution in relation to all persons on death row based on a judicial inquiry which found that some of their Constitutional rights had not been fully respected. From 2014 to 2017, OHCHR consistently advocated with the Government on the abolition of the death penalty, including by engaging with the Minister of Justice, the Attorney General and Correctional Services. The Office extended its advocacy on the abolition of the death penalty and the need for wider civic engagement on this issue with the Resident Coordinator, the UNCT, civil society and development partners

- ▶ *Human rights training is institutionalized in the police academy of Papua New Guinea (EA 1)*

Between 2016 and 2017, OHCHR strengthened the capacity of 247 police officers in seven provinces. Human rights training was delivered jointly with six senior trainers at the Bomana Police Training College who strengthened their capacity to deliver the “Human rights and policing” training modules to in-service officers at the district and provincial levels. Furthermore, a consultant was hired by the Office to finalize the human rights training modules and develop user-friendly books and trainers guides to be integrated into the regular curriculum of the Police College. The training modules will be finalized and undergo a validation process by the Bomana Police Training College in 2018.

- ▶ *Emblematic sorcery-related killings in Papua New Guinea are thoroughly investigated and addressed through due legal processes (EA 3)*

With support from OHCHR, the Government took steps to strengthen the legislative framework and develop comprehensive strategies to address gender-based violence and sorcery accusation-related violence. OHCHR monitored the implementation of the Sorcery National Action Plan and supported its

implementation as an observer in the Sorcery National Action Plan Committee. The Committee is a multi-stakeholder entity, led by the Department of Justice and the Attorney General, comprised of key stakeholders at the national and provincial level, which meets quarterly to monitor and coordinate progress on the National Action Plan. The Office also provided technical assistance to the Committee on integrating human rights standards and norms into the Sorcery National Action Plan and strengthening engagement with the United Nations human rights mechanisms. Moreover, there have been some notable successful prosecutions of perpetrators of sorcery accusation-related violence, including in 2015 when the National Court in Southern Highlands Province sentenced two men to 21 years each for murdering a man and burning his home after suspecting him as a sorcerer. Many cases have been committed with impunity. To date, no cases have been successfully prosecuted under the 2013 Criminal Code Amendment 229A, which considers that persons who commit sorcery-related killings are guilty of committing wilful murder and liable to the death penalty.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Increased compliance with relevant international human rights standards by the State and businesses in the extractive industry in Papua New Guinea (EA 3)*
During the reporting period, no Government mechanism was established to specifically address human rights issues in the private sector. OHCHR supported the efforts of national actors to pressure the Government to ensure that human rights standards were being implemented in the extractive industry. Specifically, OHCHR provided advice on the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to a wide range of actors conducting human rights monitoring and impact assessments of the mining industry in Papua New Guinea.
- ▶ *Human rights standards and principles are increasingly integrated into CCAs/UNDAFs/CAPs and the work of UN agencies (EA 11)*
Human rights concepts and recommendations from the international human rights mechanisms were included in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2018-2022 for Papua New Guinea. As part of its capacity-building support to the UNCT, OHCHR organized a comprehensive training on the human rights-based approach for UN programme officers in 2016. With human rights and gender identified as cross-cutting strategies in the UNDAF, OHCHR worked with the UNCT to incorporate the UPR recommendations accepted by the Government during their participation in the second cycle of the UPR into the four priority areas of the UNDAF 2018-2022.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *A Paris Principles-compliant NHRI is established in Papua New Guinea (EA 1)*
The Government of Papua New Guinea reiterated its commitment to establish a National Human Rights Commission in 2016 during its second cycle of the UPR. Indeed, in October 2017, the Minister of Justice made a public announcement that the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission is a governmental priority and committed to submitting the draft legislation to the National Executive Council and the Parliament, respectively. OHCHR provided technical assistance to the Department of Justice and the Attorney General on the enabling legislation and strongly advocated for the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission compliant with the Paris Principles.
- ▶ *Effective human rights education programmes, particularly for youth, established or strengthened (EA 1)*
OHCHR supported the organization of the annual Human Rights Film Festival in all four regions of the country, including the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. The Festival continued to be an excellent awareness-raising initiative involving youth, civil society, human rights defenders, government, private sector and the international community. Films and discussion panels focused on key human rights questions that are relevant for the country, including the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers, the rights of women and girls, the right to health, including sexual and reproductive health, the right to education, voter rights and elections, development and human rights, the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and business and human rights.
- ▶ *Effective protection mechanisms and measures for civil society actors, including human rights defenders and media actors at risk established and strengthened (EA 3)*
In partnership with UNDP, OHCHR developed and published a Manual for Human Rights Defenders in Papua New Guinea: Working with Survivors of Gender-Based Violence. The Manual provides a guide for referral networks for women human rights defenders providing critical assistance to victims of gender based violence, including integrating a human rights-based approach and utilizing protection mechanisms. In 2017, OHCHR partnered with UN agencies and national stakeholders to support the establishment of a referral pathway of services for survivors of sexual violence as part of the National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence, which was approved by the National Executive Council in 2016. OHCHR provided direct assistance to vulnerable individuals facing human rights violations by linking them with legal assistance providers, such as the Office of the Public Solicitor or assisting them in their advocacy and claims efforts.

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

- ▶ *Support is provided to the UNCT for the development of a country-level human rights strategy (EA 11)*
In order to fully integrate human rights into the work of the UNCT, OHCHR chaired the Human Rights Task Team, which is composed of eight UN agencies, and actively supported the Government in the fulfilment of its international human rights obligations. OHCHR provided analysis and advocacy on critical human rights issues to the UN Resident Coordinator, supported the UNCT on joint media statements and participated in strategic meetings with the Government on a number of issues, including the death penalty and the rights of refugees and asylum seekers.
- ▶ *Human rights are integrated into United Nations preparedness, response and recovery efforts of crises emanating from natural disasters, conflicts and other situations of violence and insecurity (EA 11)*
Between 2015 and 2016, more than 2.5 million people in Papua New Guinea were affected by the destruction of crops and the drying out of water sources due to El Niño. As co-chair of the Protection Cluster, OHCHR, in coordination with the UNCT, assisted the National Disaster Centre in assessing risks, capacities and protection concerns related to the relief response and recovery. In 2017, with the support of Save the Children, OHCHR built the capacity of 50 key members of the Protection Cluster on protection preparedness. It emphasized the importance of mainstreaming human rights into the preparedness and emergency response plans of all Clusters. In addition, OHCHR strengthened the leadership role of the Government in addressing protection concerns in emergencies, including by reviewing and finalizing the Terms of Reference for the Protection Cluster and encouraging a Government representative to co-chair the Cluster.

Sri Lanka

Year established	2004
Staff as of 31 December 2017	3

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, civil society organizations, human rights defenders and UN agencies actively engage with special procedures and follow up on recommendations issued by international human rights mechanisms (EA 7)*
Since 2014, the special procedures have been particularly active in Sri Lanka with 12 visits, a number of communications and advisory engagement on

various issues, including draft legislation. Also during this four-year period, Sri Lanka underwent various human rights treaty body reviews and the Universal Periodic Review. This has provided the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), civil society and other stakeholders with numerous recommendations and advocacy tools that can be used in their engagement with the Government on issues ranging from accountability to discrimination and justice reform.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *Legislation and policies to combat discrimination against minorities in compliance with international human rights standards are systematically implemented (EA 4)*
A constitutional reform process that began in 2016 presents good opportunities to discuss and address issues of discrimination. In addition, the National Human Rights Action Plan of 2017-2021 contains specific action points to confront discrimination and promote equality.
- ▶ *UNCT members use the recommendations of the Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in the implementation of the UNDAF pillars as well as other UN joint programmes (EA 11)*
The UNCT finalized the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for 2018-2022, fully taking into account the Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and embracing the guiding principle of leaving no one behind. In November, OHCHR conducted training sessions with the UNCT and civil society on the protection of minority rights and caste-based discrimination. The Guidance Note and the new tool on caste-based discrimination were discussed during these trainings.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *A transitional justice mechanism is in place, including the right to truth; criminal justice and accountability aspects and the right to remedy and reparations (EA 3)*
In 2014, the Human Rights Council requested that the High Commissioner for Human Rights undertake a comprehensive investigation into allegations of serious violations and abuses of human rights and related crimes committed by both parties in Sri Lanka. In accordance with this mandate, OHCHR established a team to investigate allegations from February 2002 until November 2011. The outcome report was presented in 2015 and concluded that there were reasonable grounds to believe that all parties had committed gross violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law during the period under investigation. It fur-

ther called for the establishment of a hybrid court. In October 2015, Human Rights Council resolution 30/1, co-sponsored by Sri Lanka, outlined a transitional justice agenda, including a truth and reconciliation commission, an Office for Missing Persons, a reparations programme and a special accountability mechanism with a special counsel and the participation of foreign judges. In 2016, Sri Lanka held national consultations on these reconciliation mechanisms. Over 7,000 stakeholders contributed to the Consultations Report that was presented in January 2017. Moreover, the Government adopted legislation in 2016 to establish an Office of Missing Persons, which was operationalized in 2017 and is expected to start working in 2018. While the legislation for a truth and reconciliation commission and a reparations programme has been drafted, it is not yet adopted or publicly available. Between 2015 and 2017, OHCHR advised and supported the national consultations on reconciliation mechanisms and the archiving of its materials. It also supported the UNCT in building the Government's capacities on transitional justice.

- ▶ *Sustained engagement by the international community, specifically the Human Rights Council, on issues of impunity, accountability and reconciliation for past and present human rights violations (EA 10)* In 2017, OHCHR presented the comprehensive report on the implementation of Human Rights Council resolution 30/1. The Human Rights Council decided to extend the implementation period for two more years and requested that OHCHR report back to the Council in March 2018 and March 2019.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka works in compliance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)* The 19th Amendment of the Constitution, passed in 2015, introduced the Constitutional Council and, among other provisions, stated that members of independent commissions (including the Human Rights Commission) can only be appointed on the recommendation of the Constitutional Council. It further stated that the members of the Human Rights Commission must answer directly to the Parliament. These changes reinforced the independence of the Commission. The appointment of credible commissioners in 2015 further strengthened its public image. While this national human rights institution has not yet formally regained its 'A' status, the Commission seems to be taking the necessary steps to work towards this goal. OHCHR supported the improvement of the Commission's data management tools in order to contribute to its role as the civilian component of the domestic screening of military personnel proposed for UN peacekeeping assignments.

Timor-Leste¹¹

Year established	2013
Staff as of 31 December 2017	4

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Establishment of a participatory standing national coordinating body on reporting on/replying to individual communications and enquiries. National Human Rights Action Plan is adopted and partially implemented (EA 6)*

Timor-Leste has not yet established a standing body to report to the international human rights mechanisms and follow up on their recommendations, but the Ministry of Justice expressed interest in creating such a mechanism in the future. OHCHR provided the Government with essential information on the creation of these mechanisms and shared OHCHR's study and a compilation of good practices in other countries. Efforts to draft a National Human Rights Action Plan began in 2014 but were postponed in 2016 due to insufficient resources. OHCHR provided technical assistance and funding for a seminar to launch the drafting process, supported training for committee members on national human rights action plans and produced guidelines for undertaking a baseline assessment.

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

The Government of Timor-Leste doubled its reporting under the seven treaties it had ratified since becoming a UN Member State in 2002. In 2015, Timor-Leste submitted its combined second and third reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as well as initial reports under the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CRMW). The following year, it submitted an initial report under the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and its second report for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The drafting of its initial report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights continued until the end of 2017, while the preparation of initial reports under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, due for more than 10 years, is pending. OHCHR provided training to government

¹¹ Deployed through the UNDG Strategy for the Deployment of Human Rights Advisers.



Participants of a seminar on Leaving No One Behind on the Road to the SDGs organized by the National Human Rights Institution of Timor-Leste and UN agencies. © WHO

officials on CAT and CRMW, including in relation to their reporting guidelines, ensured their translation into Tetum and conducted a mock preparatory session for the governmental delegation to the UPR.

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

During the reporting period, the overall number of submissions made by the national human rights institution, NGOs, individuals and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) exceeded the initial target and reached a total of 28 for all of the UN human rights mechanisms. OHCHR provided training and technical support for civil society coalitions on the United Nations human rights system, the specific treaties to report under and the overall functioning of the various mechanisms. In addition, OHCHR led the drafting of UNCT reports in anticipation of the UPR and CAT reviews.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *Increased use of protection mechanisms by women and groups that are vulnerable to discrimination, in particular persons with disabilities, members of religious minorities, migrants and LGBTI persons (EA 5)*

Persons with disabilities and members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community increased their knowledge of human rights standards as well as the protection mechanisms that exist at the national and international level. In some instances, individuals submitted claims of alleged violations of their rights to national protection mechanisms, in particular, the police and the Office of the Prosecutor. Research that was conducted in 2014 and 2017 on stigma and discrimination against members of the LGBTI community revealed that most of the alleged rights abuses against LGBTI persons were not reported to national protection mechanisms. In response,

OHCHR and The Asia Foundation conducted training, in November 2017, on monitoring, documentation, the use of databases and referrals to protection mechanisms for relevant stakeholders, including persons with disabilities and members of the LGBTI community, persons living with HIV and other human rights defenders. A similar programme had been held in 2015 for persons with disabilities in order to increase their understanding of their rights and to provide information about national referral pathways and international protection mechanisms. As a result of OHCHR's technical advice, persons with disabilities and the LGBTI community were involved in coalitions of NGOs that submitted alternative reports to the CEDAW, CRC and CAT Committees and the Universal Periodic Review between 2015 and 2017.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Human rights, including women's rights and gender equality, have been substantially integrated into law enforcement and defence trainings (EA 1)*
- Standardized human rights training programmes were established for the police in 2014 and for the military in 2017. The training on human rights for police was integrated into the curriculum for police recruits and was also used for training in-service officers throughout the country. Since 2015, 611 police officers increased their knowledge about human rights in policing as a result of their participation in the programme. While the training programmes are led by the Provedoria dos Direitos Humanos e Justiça (PDHJ), the National Human Rights Institution of Timor-Leste, OHCHR and UNDP provided technical support to draft the police training manual in 2014. Furthermore, UNDP and OHCHR jointly conducted a training of trainers for police and PDHJ staff on the manual in 2015. OHCHR led the drafting of the manual on human rights for the military and conducted training of trainers using the manual for officials of the PDHJ, the armed forces and the Ministry of Defence in 2017. Also in 2017, the PDHJ and OHCHR began undertaking post-training evaluations, which have highlighted how the training has positively impacted on how the police approaches communities and defendants.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

Land legislation that was adopted in 2017 enables the determination of the ownership of land for the first time in the country's history and guarantees that

all Timorese people have a right to ownership. The legislation also includes a specific provision in relation to vulnerable groups to guarantee “adequate information for, consultation with and participation of these groups, in a way that promotes the right to equality and non-discrimination.” The new Law requires that evictions are carried out in a way that guarantees the dignity of human beings, the rights and safety of affected persons and respect for the principles of proportionality, appropriateness and non-discrimination. OHCHR shared materials to increase awareness of Government officials, Parliamentarians and officials in the Office of the President about the international standards on the right to adequate housing and relevant recommendations issued by the UN human rights mechanisms. The Office also led joint analyses by UN agencies of the draft legislation on land, as well as on the media, and undertook subsequent advocacy with the Parliament and the Office of the President to enhance the integration of human rights.

- ▶ *A human rights-based approach is substantially integrated into the UNDAF (EA 11)*

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2015-2019 has a strong focus on the inclusion of vulnerable groups and the realization of their rights. All four UNDAF outcomes are human rights-based and aimed at achieving inclusive, sustainable and equitable growth and development. Three of the outcomes specifically focus on the most disadvantaged groups. Progress in the realization of rights was reported in the mid-term evaluation and the evaluation report used disaggregated data based on sex and indicated whether those affected lived in rural or urban areas. OHCHR provided technical advice to the UNDAF working group during the preparation of the document and the mid-term review. As part of the UNDAF preparation, OHCHR conducted two training sessions on the human rights-based approach for UN staff and some development partners. It also provided information on human rights standards and recommendations of the UN human rights mechanisms, which guided the work and informed the programmes of several UN agencies.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *The Provedoria National Human Rights Institution maintains its ‘A’ status (EA 1)*

Staff members of the PDHJ enhanced their knowledge of national and international human rights standards to support their monitoring functions and increased their capacity to conduct quality human rights training. The PDHJ issued a series of reports, most of which were public, on human rights concerns that arose during joint security operations that were conducted in 2014-2015 against groups opposing the Government; regarding the human rights

situation during presidential and parliamentary elections; and the human rights impact of two large-scale infrastructure projects. The latter report resulted in an increase in compensation for the affected population. The PDHJ also commenced two training programmes on human rights for the national police and the national army, in 2015 and 2017, respectively. OHCHR conducted various training sessions during the reporting period on human rights standards for monitoring officers and investigators at the PDHJ, including on land and evictions and human rights monitoring during elections. Furthermore, OHCHR and UNDP worked together to provide technical support and funding to establish the training programme for the police, which included the drafting of a comprehensive training manual. Drawing on lessons learned from the police training programme, OHCHR supported the PDHJ to set up a human rights programme for the army. A training manual was drafted and launched in November 2017 and the training programme will commence in 2018.

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

The reform of the primary school curriculum took place between 2013 and 2017 and new lesson plans for grades 1 to 6 were drafted by the Ministry of Education. These lesson plans now integrate human rights principles and include information on non-discrimination, gender equality and respect for diversity, as well as specific lessons on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. During the past four years, OHCHR provided the Ministry of Education with technical advice on the draft lesson plans and financial support for the production of additional textbooks that are focused on human rights. The textbooks were drafted in collaboration with local NGOs. Moreover, teachers throughout the country were trained on how to use the new curriculum and implement the lesson plans.

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

In 2015, human rights NGOs established a network of human rights defenders to protect the safe space in which they had been operating and to facilitate more effective joint advocacy efforts on key issues of concern. The network was initially composed of five NGOs and by the end of 2017, the network had grown to 10 members and included organizations of persons with disabilities and members of the LGBTI community. Since 2015, the network has recorded only one threat against the staff of one of its member organizations. The issue was addressed by three special rapporteurs in a communication sent to the Government in early 2016, but no response has been received. In relation to its protection work, the network has assisted victims of alleged violations to

seek redress and brought cases of alleged human rights violations to the attention of the Office of the Prosecutor. It also issued three media statements focusing on alleged human rights violations by security forces, consistently called for accountability for human rights violations and increased respect for the law and human rights in order to prevent further violations. In 2015 and 2017, OHCHR provided two small grants to the network as well as technical support for the drafting of its Terms of Reference and its substantive work.

In addition, OHCHR undertook various capacity-building programmes aimed at increasing the knowledge of the network's organizations on protection mechanisms, including referral systems for victims of violations, and how to prepare submissions for the UN human rights mechanisms. As a result, civil society organizations actively engaged with the in-

ternational protection mechanisms, particularly the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR process.

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

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

In 2015, OHCHR and UNICEF revived the Protection Cluster and drafted its Terms of Reference and a Cluster Emergency Response Preparedness Plan. The documents were adopted by the Cluster in 2016 and set out specific challenges and risks that women and children face in specific types of emergencies. OHCHR also ensured that the Humanitarian Country Team was made aware of the new 2016 Inter-Agency Standing Committee Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action.