

UN Human Rights approach to field work

Background

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) implements its work at national and regional levels, which includes the provision of advisory services and technical cooperation, in accordance with the High Commissioner's mandate under General Assembly resolution 48/141.

At the country level, OHCHR works with its national counterparts to strengthen protection systems and implement effective measures to break down obstacles to the realization of human rights. To do so, the Office acts to establish or reinforce the capacity of accountability and justice mechanisms at the national level to undertake monitoring and investigation and secure redress for victims of human rights violations. OHCHR prioritizes follow-up to recommendations is-

sued by international human rights mechanisms in relation to Member States, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The ultimate aim of these efforts is to strengthen the national human rights infrastructure through the establishment of coordination mechanisms that are led by the executive with the active participation of State institutions, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and civil society organizations for integrated reporting and follow-up. Ensuring that this work is systematically and increasingly carried out in line with national development plans enhances the abilities of Member States to address gaps in implementation and revise legislation and practices to be in conformity with human rights norms, while also contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2017, OHCHR responded to deteriorating human rights situations and early signs of emerging crises



OHCHR staff members on the road to a monitoring mission in Antioquia province, Colombia. © OHCHR/Colombia

through the rapid deployment of monitoring missions or additional surge capacity for UN operations in the context of humanitarian emergencies. As of the end of the year, OHCHR was operating in 59 field presences and providing support to other members of the UN system through rapid deployments of human rights officers in response to emerging situations.

Types of field presences

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

Country and stand-alone offices

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

OHCHR has 14 country or stand-alone offices which consist of 13 country offices in Bolivia, Burundi, Cambodia, Colombia, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Mauritania, Mexico, the State of Palestine¹, Tunisia, Uganda and Yemen, as well as one field-based structure in Seoul covering the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. OHCHR also operates the Human Rights Mission in Ukraine.

Regional offices and centres

Regional offices have an important role to play in supporting governments in their engagement with the international human rights mechanisms, specifically the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures and

the UPR. They also focus on cross-cutting regional human rights issues, in close cooperation with regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations and civil society. Regional offices further support and cooperate with OHCHR country offices by providing assistance on institutional and thematic issues. OHCHR also maintains regional centres with specific mandates that are established through General Assembly resolutions. Regional offices and centres are funded by the UN regular budget and voluntary contributions.

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

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

During 2017, 13 UN peace missions maintained a human rights component and incorporated human rights protection and promotion into their mandated work in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iraq, Kosovo², Liberia, Libya, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan (Darfur). The peace mission in Côte d'Ivoire was closed in mid-2017, and the peace mission in Haiti closed as another opened, in October, with a new mandate. The Heads of human rights components of peace missions report to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights. They represent OHCHR in connection with both the peace and security and human rights aspects of their missions. In addition to monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation on the ground, the human rights components conduct a wide range of activities including technical assistance, capacity building, investigation into serious human rights violations and also support follow-up action to the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in relation to the host country.

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

² Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

In 2017, OHCHR proactively engaged with Security Council members to integrate human rights into the peace and security agenda and with the General Assembly's Fifth Committee to ensure the adequate allocation of resources for human rights work in peace operations. OHCHR focused on the implementation of the Secretary-General's decision to consolidate specialized protection functions under the human rights components of peace missions, including through the practical implementation of the guidance note on consolidation in the peace and political missions in the Central African Republic, Mali and Somalia and by supporting the enhanced impact and coherence of protection approaches in missions. Under the Protection of Civilians mandate, OHCHR ensured that information gathered by human rights components was used to inform early warning assessments, analyses of common threats and joint protection responses to identified hot spots, particularly for vulnerable populations. Based on OHCHR casualty recording and monitoring methodologies, human rights components in Afghanistan, Iraq and Somalia issued reports on the Protection of Civilians.

OHCHR actively engaged with the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) to develop and shape policy documents on key areas, such as the protection of civilians and related accountability, the approaches of missions to conflict-related sexual violence and the detention by UN personnel. OHCHR also supported peace operations in implementing the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on UN Support to non-UN Security Forces (HRDDP). OHCHR continued to work closely with DPA and DPKO in delivering human rights training to senior mission leaders and uniformed personnel, including by being part of the core group developing the United Nations Police Commanders Course.

Engagement with the African Union (AU) to develop a robust human rights framework, notably in the context of plans to finance AU peace operations, was a key focus area for OHCHR in 2017. The Office provided substantive support to the AU Peace and Security Department to develop a compliance framework for regional peace support operations and prepared a common workplan towards its implementation. The Office partnered with the Department of Field Support (DFS) and DPKO in the implementation of human rights due diligence mechanisms related to the UN's support to the operations of the AU Mission in Somalia. Furthermore, OHCHR played a leadership role in ensuring the creation of a compliance framework in the establishment and operations of the Joint Force for the G5 Sahel States, as called for by the Secretary-General and Security Council in December 2017.

OHCHR continued to integrate human rights into the day-to-day operations of DPKO and DFS, including through direct involvement in the Integrated Operational Team's discussions on mission concepts and the development of strategic priorities. The Office provided technical guidance on the implementation of the HRDDP to peacekeeping missions and special political missions in CAR, DRC, Haiti, Mali and Somalia, to the African Union and the United Nations Police Division in the context of their support to national police. OHCHR helped to facilitate the downsizing and placement of human rights staff in the missions in Côte d'Ivoire and Haiti and supported DPKO in starting up the human rights component in the new UN Mission for Justice Support in Haiti, including by providing advice on required staffing numbers and structures and screening candidates for deployment. Moreover, OHCHR supported peacekeeping and special political missions in the selection and deployment of Heads of human rights components in DRC, Haiti, Iraq and Sudan (Darfur) and screened over 140 UN Volunteer profiles for human rights deployment to peace operations.

Human rights advisers in United Nations Country Teams

Human rights advisers are deployed at the request of resident coordinators on behalf of the United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs). Advisers support and assist the resident coordinators, Heads of UN agencies and members of UNCTs to integrate human rights into their programming strategies and build and strengthen national human rights capacities. A particular focus of the advisers is to provide human rights expertise in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. Additional functions include advising on the establishment and delivery of training to independent national human rights institutions and other stakeholders; advising State actors on the promotion and protection of human rights and other UN norms and standards; building networks with and providing practical support to civil society actors; providing operational support to human rights training and/or national capacity-building activities; promoting engagement with the international human rights mechanisms; promoting and supporting the integration of gender equality and women's rights into programming and, when applicable, advising on integrating human rights into humanitarian response and post-crisis recovery processes.

Human rights advisers are funded through extrabudgetary contributions. In some instances, cost-sharing agreements have been concluded with UNDP or relevant UNCTs as well as other UN entities at the country level. Since 2012, new deployments have been

aligned with the UNDG Strategy for the Deployment of new HRAs. This Strategy faced numerous challenges at the beginning of 2017 in terms of financial sustainability, which resulted in the termination of a number of deployments. Nevertheless, due to ongoing cooperation with the UN Development Coordination Office and UNDG and with the financial support of a number of Member States, OHCHR managed to ensure continuity for existing deployments through 2018 and responded to the requests from the teams on the ground. This development also resulted in the expansion of modalities of support to UNCTs on the ground.

During 2017, OHCHR deployed 24 human rights advisers/human rights mainstreaming projects in various countries, including Bangladesh³, Barbados³, Chad, the Dominican Republic⁴, Jamaica⁴, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi⁴, Mozambique⁴, Niger³, Nigeria⁴, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay (until February 2017), the Philippines⁴, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Serbia, Sierra Leone⁴, the South Caucasus (based in Tbilisi and covering Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia), Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste⁴, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and to the UNDG regional team in Bangkok⁴.

Engagement in humanitarian action

The Office maintained strong engagement in humanitarian action at the global and field levels, with a view to ensuring that the protection of human rights remained a central tenet of humanitarian action in line with the UN's Human Rights up Front Action Plan and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's (IASC) Centrality of Protection Agenda. Throughout the year, OHCHR participated in global humanitarian leadership fora, including the IASC Principals, Working Group and Emergency Directors Group, as well as IASC subsidiary bodies, such

as the Task Team on the Humanitarian-Development Nexus and the Task Team on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action. OHCHR continued to implement the commitments it made at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit.

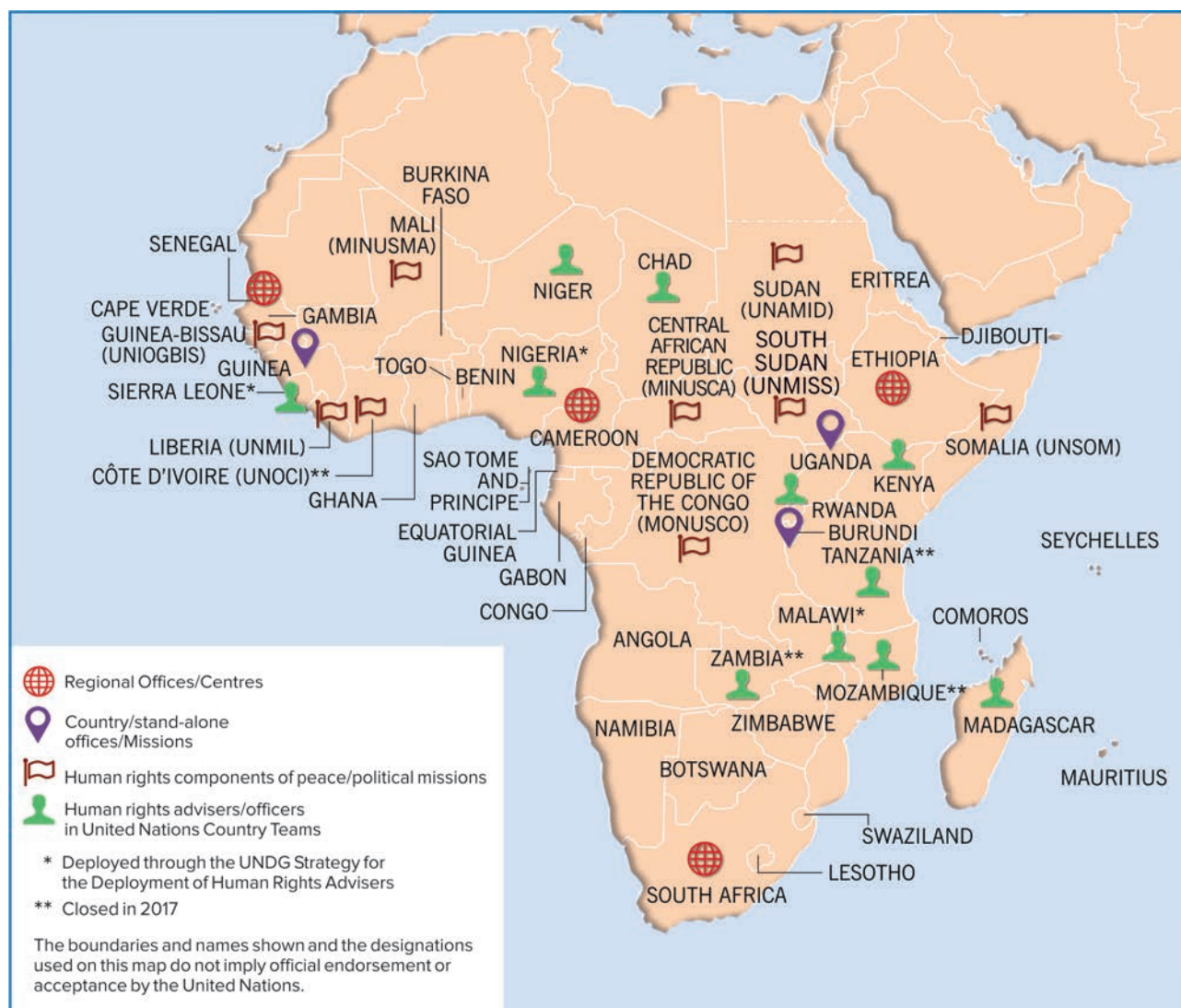
At the country level, OHCHR integrated human rights into the overall efforts of Protection Clusters, humanitarian country teams and humanitarian coordinators. The Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights participated in the annual humanitarian coordinators retreat and OHCHR maintained the deployment of three staff members to advise the regional- and country-level humanitarian leadership of the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic. OHCHR led the Protection Cluster in the State of Palestine and participated in the work of Protection Clusters or working groups, in Guatemala, Haiti, Iraq, Lebanon, Mauritania, Mexico, Myanmar, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Somalia, Timor-Leste, Ukraine and Yemen, as well as in the Pacific region. In the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, OHCHR supported the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency in its recovery planning discussions with affected countries. In addition, through its deployments to Bangladesh, the Office endeavoured to assess the protection needs and risks of the Rohingya community displaced in Cox's Bazaar. Also, in the context of humanitarian operations in north-east Nigeria, OHCHR deployed six human rights officers who contributed to establishing mechanisms for systematic monitoring and response to protection concerns. During the reporting period, the Central Emergency Response Fund supported the Office's engagement in Myanmar.

In 2017, OHCHR created the first emergency response teams for the Regional Offices in Pretoria and Bangkok. Recruitment has been finalized. The teams are composed of a human rights emergency response officer and a national professional officer specialized in information management to enhance the production of human rights analysis and early warning information at the regional level; and to establish the basis for targeted preventive action and swift response in relation to potential, emerging or actual crises.

³ National human rights advisers/officers in UNCTs.

⁴ Human rights adviser deployed through the UNDG Strategy for the Deployment of Human Rights Advisers operationalized by OHCHR.

UN Human Rights in the field: Africa



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

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

** Closed in 2017.

The work of OHCHR in Africa covers the 48 countries of sub-Saharan Africa. The Office supported four regional offices (Central Africa, East Africa, Southern Africa, West Africa); three country offices (Burundi, Guinea, Uganda); eight human rights advisers (HRAs) in United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) in Chad, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique (until July), Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, as well as a national human rights adviser in Niger; and nine human rights presences in United Nations peace and political missions in the Central African Republic (CAR), Côte d'Ivoire (until June), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan (Darfur). OHCHR also provided support to six special procedures country mandates, namely, Somalia (1999), Sudan (2009), Côte d'Ivoire (2011), Eritrea (2012), Mali (2013) and CAR (2013), and to the work of the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Burundi, the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan and the team of international experts on the Kasai regions (DRC).

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

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

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

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

Country Offices

Burundi

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

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

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

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



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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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

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

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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

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



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

Guinea (Conakry)

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

Strengthening international human rights

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

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

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

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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

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

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

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



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

in compliance with international human rights standards (EA 3)

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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

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

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

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

- *Integration of international human rights standards, including selected recommendations of the UPR, into the UNDAF 2013-2017, through its mid-term review and in the UN Contingency Plan and UN Protection Clusters, particularly concerning the forest region (EA 11)*

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

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

Uganda

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

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *National institutional mechanisms are in place and functioning to increase engagement with international human rights mechanisms, namely, the National Human Rights Action Plan and the National Human Rights Education Plan (EA 6)*

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

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

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

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

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

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

Widening the democratic space

- *The Uganda Human Rights Commission increasingly implements its constitutional mandate in accordance with the Paris Principles, monitors and handles*

cases of human rights violations and undertakes human rights promotion interventions (EA 1)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Regional Offices and Centres

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

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

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Regional Office for East Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

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

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

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

- *The strategy on the post-2015 development agenda of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the AU systematically integrates vulnerable and disadvantaged groups (EA 10)*

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Regional Office for Southern Africa (Pretoria, South Africa)

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

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

- *Standing invitation to special procedures issued by Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius and Namibia (EA 6)*
During the reporting period, standing invitations to the special procedures have been extended by Lesotho, Malawi and Mozambique.

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

A total of 15 special procedures requests resulted in visits to countries in the subregion during the reporting period, including the missions of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons to Namibia and the Special Rapporteur on the right to food to Zambia, both of which took place in 2017.

- *The number and diversity of civil society actors and UNCTs submitting information to the UPR in Angola, Comoros, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Swaziland and Zimbabwe is increased or maintained (EA 7)*

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

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Effective and efficient implementation of existing programmes to ensure the representation of marginalized and discriminated groups in key institutions in South Africa (EA 4)*

Work continued on the development of the National Disability Rights Policy for South Africa with the support of OHCHR and other UN agencies. The latest consultation was held in December 2017. The Office also supported the launch of public consultations in relation to the National Action Plan to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance 2016-2021.



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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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

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

Regional Office for West Africa (Dakar, Senegal)

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

Results

Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

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



The OHCHR Regional Office for West Africa organized with the Senegalese Ministry of Foreign Affairs a symposium for religious leaders and civil society representatives on the rights of women and children from the perspective of Islam, May 2017.
© OHCHR/West Africa

and human rights and in stressing the importance of increasing the knowledge on the human rights mechanisms in a society where religious and traditional values play a major role.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

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

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Human Rights Components in UN Peace and Political Missions

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

Year established	2000
Staff as of 31 December 2017	85

Results

Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms

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

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



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

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

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

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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

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

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

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

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

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



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

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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

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

- *National protection mechanisms are established to ensure protection and greater accountability for human rights violations, including a national committee for the prevention of the crime of genocide (EA 3)*

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

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

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

African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2017	66

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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



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



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

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

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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

- *Transitional justice and other mechanisms of redress are fully functioning in accordance with international human rights norms and standards (EA 3)*
- Sudan's National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) took steps to enhance its reach through workshops in North, South, East and West Darfur. The workshops were the first to be held in areas outside of North Darfur and provided civil society and State actors with an opportunity to meet with officials from NCHR and review the five-year action plan. Additionally, HRS contributed to the development of an action plan by the Justice, Truth and Reconciliation Commission with a view to improving the discharge of its mandate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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

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

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

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

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

► *Increased number of human rights violations cases investigated and brought to justice by Joint Investigation Teams (EA 3)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau

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

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

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

Supporting human rights defenders in Guinea-Bissau

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

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

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

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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

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

United Nations Mission in Liberia

Year established	2003
Staff as of 31 December 2017	30

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

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

- *UN One Programme periodic and final reviews indicate that human rights have been mainstreamed into the majority of UN programmes and are based on a human rights-friendly monitoring and evaluation framework (EA 11)*

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

Year established	2013
Staff as of 31 December 2017	76

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

► *The Human Rights Due Diligence Policy is effectively implemented by MINUSMA (EA 11)*

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

United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2017	31

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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



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

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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

Widening the democratic space

► *Legislation for the establishment of a NHRI and on the media adopted in compliance with human rights standards (EA 1)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

United Nations Mission in South Sudan

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2017	104

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

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

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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

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

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



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

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

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Human Rights Advisers in UN Country Teams

Chad

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2017	3

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

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

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

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

Kenya

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2017	5

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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



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

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

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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



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

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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

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

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

Madagascar

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2017	4

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *International human rights law partially used in court proceedings and decisions (EA 1)*
Further to OHCHR's advocacy and awareness-raising efforts, two main decisions of the High Constitutional Court referred to international human rights laws, including the 2016 decision declaring the Media Code "constitutional under reservation," and the 2017 decision relating to the National Reconciliation Law, which highlighted the distinction between political and national reconciliation processes by citing international standards on transitional justice.
- ▶ *Security forces and prison wardens increase their compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)*
Partly as a result of continuous advocacy undertaken by OHCHR, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed by the United Nations Country Team, the Ministry of National Defence, the Secretary of State in charge of the National Gendarmerie and the Ministry of Public Security. The MOU provides for OHCHR's technical support for the implementation of the reform of the security sector. It also outlines plans for OHCHR to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the existing internal control mechanisms for defence and security forces and their codes of conduct. In addition, a proposal relating to a draft law on alternative criminal sanctions has been presented by OHCHR in anticipation of the Government's planned review of the Criminal Code in 2018.
- ▶ *Positive actions undertaken by the Government as a result of cases raised by OHCHR (EA 3)*
In February 2017, the National Reconciliation Law was promulgated and a National Reconciliation Council was established and tasked with conducting the national reconciliation process. OHCHR provided technical support and advice to the Government during the drafting of the Law. In addition, a database was set up in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice to enable follow-up to cases raised by the Office, especially those relating to natural resources and allegations of torture. Moreover, joint advocacy that was undertaken with local and international civil society actors led to a positive response from the Government in relation to a number of cases, including the release of a community leader who had been arbitrarily arrested after a discussion with managers of a mining company installed in his community.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Mining sector policy protecting human rights adopted (EA 1)*
With the Office's technical support, a Tripartite Charter was developed with representatives of civil society, the Government and mining companies in order to promote the principles of participation, transparency and accountability in law and policymaking and ensure that the Government's general policy and sector-based policies incorporate a human rights-based approach. Despite the Government's commitment to adopt the Charter and integrate it into the new Mining Code by the end of 2017, this did not occur as the revision of the Mining Code has been suspended since July 2017. In addition, the Office conducted several capacity-building actions regarding the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights for the benefit of mining and extractive associations and companies operating in Madagascar. Consequently, OHCHR was invited to provide technical assistance for the development of human rights-compliant social corporate responsibility policies, which in turn resulted in improved human rights compliance by some mining companies.
- ▶ *Rights-holders meaningfully participate in the design and monitoring of public policies, budgets and development projects affecting their human rights, especially their rights to food, housing, water and sanitation and their access to natural resources, such as land (EA 5)*
Civil society actors participated in the drafting of the National Development Plan for 2015-2019, which is human rights-oriented. The protection and promotion of human rights are part of the strategic



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

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Malawi⁵

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2017	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

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

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

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

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

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

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

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

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

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

Niger

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2017	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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

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

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

Nigeria⁶

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2017	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

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

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



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

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Increased compliance of national legislation, policies, programmes and institutions with international human rights norms and standards relating to torture, ill-treatment and the deprivation of liberty (EA 1)*
In 2017, the President signed into law the Anti-Torture Act and the Compulsory Treatment and Care for Victims of Gunshot Act. While the former provides comprehensive provisions for penalizing torture and related acts, the latter prescribes treatment in all health facilities for victims of gunshot wounds, in-

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

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

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

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

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

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

Legal assistance in Nigeria

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rwanda

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2017	3

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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



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

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

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

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

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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



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

Sierra Leone⁷

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2017	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

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

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

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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

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

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

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

UN Human Rights in the field: Americas



Type of presence	Location
Country offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bolivia** ● Colombia ● Guatemala ● Honduras ● Mexico
Regional offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Central America (Panama City, Panama) ● South America (Santiago de Chile, Chile)
Human rights component in UN Peace Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Haiti (MINUJUSTH)
Human rights advisers in United Nations Country Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Barbados ● Dominican Republic* ● Jamaica* ● Paraguay**

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

In 2017, OHCHR continued its engagement with the Americas region from its headquarters in Geneva, the New York Office and 11 field presences. These presences included two regional offices (Panama City and Santiago de Chile); five country offices (Bolivia (until December 2017), Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico); three human rights advisers in the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Paraguay (until February 2017); one human rights component in a peace mission in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) and one national human rights adviser in Barbados. Until the end of March 2017, OHCHR provided substantive and administrative support to the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti. During its thirty-fourth session, the Human Rights Council decided not to renew this country mandate and

instead requested that OHCHR report on the advancement of the National Human Rights Action Plan. OHCHR also worked with a special project, based in Barbados, on supporting countries in the English-speaking Eastern Caribbean to implement recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review. In 2017, OHCHR stepped up its engagement, monitoring and reporting capacities from headquarters to respond to the human rights situation in Venezuela. OHCHR had to adopt a strategy of remote monitoring as access to the country was not authorized. In August, OHCHR issued a report documenting extensive human rights violations committed in the context of mass protests in Venezuela from April to July.

The region faces widespread violence and insecurity and reports one of the highest murder rates in the world. In some countries, complex networks of organized crime and drug trafficking exacerbate the situation of violence. Security and justice systems face enormous challenges in responding to the violence and governments frequently rely on the military to maintain law and order, which has serious human rights implications. Impunity remains a major concern. Countries in the region were also marked by challenges in democratic governance and increasing political and social tensions, prompted in part by corruption scandals and the slow progress made by governments to reduce poverty and tackle social and economic exclusion. The expansion of the extractive industries negatively impacted on the rights of indigenous peoples and peasant communities, further exacerbating social and economic conflict. Racial discrimination remained a significant barrier to the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights and political participation. Violence against women remained widespread in the region, which has one of the highest rates of gender-related killings in the world. Discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons is an ongoing issue of concern. Cruel and inhuman treatment, excessive use of force by law enforcement officials, inhuman detention conditions and violence in prisons, were a matter of distress. An increase in hate speech against minorities and migrants was also reported as migrants and asylum-seekers, mainly from Northern Central America, the Caribbean and Venezuela, continued to be extremely vulnerable to human rights violations.

OHCHR assisted countries to adopt a human rights perspective to combat insecurity and violence, with a special focus on the fight against impunity. In 2017, the Office worked on widening the democratic space with a particular emphasis on protection mechanisms for journalists and human rights defenders in Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico. Work on non-discrimination issues was carried out, including by strengthening United Nations local and regional capacities to integrate human

rights into policies, programmes and activities, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In response to the migration crisis in the region, OHCHR conducted a mission to El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico to monitor the human rights situation of migrants in transit and at borders. The objective of the mission was to strengthen the capacity of OHCHR field offices to help promote and protect the rights of migrants and identify opportunities for implementing technical cooperation strategies with government and civil society organizations.

To advance human rights in the region, OHCHR maintained close contacts with regional organizations, especially the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. In February, OHCHR submitted a written contribution to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on LGBTI rights. In October, the High Commissioner attended the 165th session of the IACHR, in Montevideo, and launched a Joint Action Mechanism to Contribute to the Protection of Human Rights Defenders in the Americas.

During 2017, OHCHR supported and/or accompanied the visits of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru, Uruguay and Washington D.C., the Deputy High Commissioner to Canada and the Assistant Secretary-General to Colombia and Honduras. OHCHR actively participated in Regional Monthly Reviews under the Human Rights up Front Initiative, identified situations for potential risks of human rights deterioration and recommended appropriate UN integrated responses in the Americas.

Country Offices

Bolivia

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2017	- (The field presence closed in 2017)
Expenditure in 2017	US\$1,903,702

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

In order to fulfil a commitment undertaken during its second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the Government of Bolivia created a mechanism, in 2015, to coordinate its reporting to the international human rights mechanisms and the follow-up to their recommendations. The mechanism held regular meetings between 2016 and 2017 and arranged for the development of a web-based tool (SIPLUS) to facilitate monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations. The Office provided technical support for the development of SIPLUS and the improvement of its functionalities in 2017.

- ▶ *A National Human Rights Action Plan integrating follow-up to selected recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms is adopted and a participative coordination mechanism for its implementation is in place (EA 6)*

In 2015, the Government of Bolivia approved the Plurinational Human Rights Policy for 2015-2020, which outlines all of the human rights actions to be undertaken by the State. Since then, OHCHR provided the Ministry of Justice with technical and financial assistance in order to disseminate and implement the Policy. The National Human Rights Action Plan for 2014-2018 was also developed with the assistance of the Office although, by 2017, it was still under consideration by different State entities.

Enhanced equality and countering discrimination

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

The National Committee against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination continued to disseminate its “Multisectoral Plan of the Plurinational State of Bolivia 2016-2020,” and promote the implementation of the 58 specific actions contained therein. Nonetheless, the limited resources made available to the Committee have had a negative impact on its capacity to carry out its planned activities.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *The Council of Magistrates, the Plurinational Constitutional Court, the Public Prosecutor’s Office and the Ministry of Justice improve the compliance with human rights standards of their policies and programmes in relation to judicial independence, access to justice, institutional transparency and the criminal justice system (EA 1)*

Between February 2016 and December 2017, the Office produced a report with information on all prisoners in Cochabamba and La Paz (about 5,000) that was disaggregated by sex, age, occupation, custodial status and duration of the pretrial detention. The study was presented to relevant authori-

ties of the penal system, judges of the Supreme Court, members of the Constitutional Commission of the Chamber of Deputies of the Plurinational Legislative Assembly, the Ministry of Interior, the Ombudsperson’s Office and civil society organizations. The information provided by the Office served as the basis for holding hearings in the penitentiary centres of La Paz in order to reduce the percentage of prisoners being held in detention without a conviction. In addition, OHCHR’s identification and description of problems in the justice system prompted legislators to review the Penal Code.

- ▶ *The School for Judges, the School for Public Prosecutors and the Plurinational Academy of Constitutional Studies incorporate international human rights law into their curricula (EA 1)*

With the support of the Office, the Plurinational Public Defence Service and the Victim Attention Service offered the second version of the postgraduate course in human rights and the administration of justice, which was taken by 50 public defenders from the nine departments of the country. In 2014, the Office provided technical support to the School for Judges and the School for Public Prosecutors for the review of their training programmes. As a result, human rights were substantively incorporated into the training programmes for new judges, prosecutors and public defenders. Currently, the training curriculum for prosecutors has one module that specifically focuses on international human rights law and two others make substantive references to the rights of women and children. The training programme for future judges includes 15 modules on international human rights law. Furthermore, the Office contributed to the development of an online training platform for the School for Judges, which formed the basis for its own e-learning platform. In turn, the adapted platform was used to conduct training courses for university professors on the administration of justice, three postgraduate courses that were developed in cooperation with the Police University, two postgraduate courses that were tailored for the Plurinational Public Defence Service and the Victim Attention Service and two courses on international standards for judges and prosecutors on preventive detention.

- ▶ *Transitional justice mechanisms, including a Truth Commission, are in place and functioning (EA 3)*

The Truth Commission of Bolivia was created by Law 879 at the end of 2016 and its commissioners were appointed in August 2017. During 2014, the Office supported the advocacy of victims’ organizations, including two that presented a bill on the Truth Commission to the Plurinational Assembly. The Office provided technical assistance to align the proposed bill with international human rights standards.

- *A civil society coalition against torture has been established and is functioning (EA 5)*

In 2013, Law 474 creating the Torture Prevention Service (SEPRET) was adopted. Since then, the SEPRET has served as the National Preventive Mechanism under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Most local human rights organizations, however, have expressed concern about the mechanism's independence. With the support of OHCHR, a number of civil society organizations came together in a working group, in 2014, to prepare a legislative proposal to reform Law 474, with the aim of ensuring that SEPRET became a truly independent mechanism. Following a number of meetings with SEPRET, it became clear that a review of Law 474 was unlikely. The working group therefore decided to establish, in 2015, a civil society-led "coalition against torture" aimed at coordinating joint actions to promote the State's compliance with national and international laws and instruments for the prevention, investigation and sanction of torture. In addition to other activities, the coalition cooperated with OHCHR, in 2017, to hold a two-day local event to discuss topics related to the phenomenon of torture in Bolivia. One of these issues included a proposal on a new formulation for the offence of torture that was to be presented to the Legislative Assembly in the context of the reform of the Penal Code.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *An increasing number of State institutions develop and implement human rights indicators according to their areas of competence, in accordance with international human rights standards, taking into account the Sustainable Development Goals (EA 1)*
- From 2011 to 2017, OHCHR supported approximately 30 State institutions in the development of human rights indicators. As a result of this work, 490 indicators were developed on the following prioritized human rights: food, education, health, housing, labour, water and sanitation, access to justice and a fair trial and the right of women to a life free of violence and the right to a life free of trafficking. These indicators were also included in SIPLUS, the online database established by the Government of Bolivia to systematize all of the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in relation to the Bolivian State and to monitor relevant follow-up actions. In 2017, a number of meetings, facilitated by OHCHR, were held with approximately 70 focal points, in line ministries and experts from Bolivia's National Institute of Statistics (INE). The purpose of the meetings was to review and consolidate the human rights indicators devel-

oped to date and coordinate the necessary actions to make use of them.

Widening the democratic space

- *Significant improvement in the compliance of legislation on freedom of opinion and expression and the right to information with relevant international standards (EA 1)*

In 2014, the Ombudsperson's Office requested that the Constitutional Court declare the unconstitutionality of some provisions of Law 351, which regulates the work of national NGOs in Bolivia and imposes excessive restrictions on freedom of association. The Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association presented an amicus curiae brief to the Constitutional Court supporting the request for unconstitutionality. In 2015, however, the Constitutional Court issued a decision declaring the constitutionality of the provisions, which did not take into account the inputs provided or the international human rights standards. Following this decision, four national NGOs filed a petition of precautionary measures with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, in 2016, which has not yet been considered. At present, although NGOs are reportedly still facing some administrative difficulties arising from Law 351, none have lost their authorization to operate in the country.

- *Increased participation of indigenous peoples in public life at the national and international levels, in particular through consultation processes and participation in the processes of referenda with regards to indigenous autonomy and international events (EA 5)*

The Bolivian Guaraní Indigenous University developed training programmes on human rights for representatives of indigenous populations. As a result of these programmes, 42 representatives increased their knowledge about national and international mechanisms and were able to participate in public life and take steps to protect and promote their rights. Over the past four years, OHCHR provided individuals, groups and communities with technical assistance, offered legal opinions and developed a number of guidelines and other tools, which have contributed to the increased awareness of the general public about the human rights situation of indigenous peoples. The Office also provided expert assistance to indigenous communities regarding free, prior and informed consultation and consent.

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

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

During the reporting cycle, a number of laws were adopted to promote and protect the rights of women, including the Integral Law to Guarantee Women a Life Free of Violence and the Law against Sexual Harassment and Political Violence against Women. The Office provided technical assistance to the Bolivian State regarding the implementation of both Laws. It further supported the Vice-Ministry of Equal Opportunities and the police in the development of a manual to investigate crimes of femicide, based on the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women. OHCHR also worked with the Vice-Ministry of Equal Opportunities on the implementation of the Integral System of Prevention, Attention, Sanction and the Eradication of Gender Violence through the development of a curriculum on the subject for the School of Judges and by conducting training on combating violence against women for the Ministry of Justice. The Office trained 90 judges from across Bolivia on implementing a gender approach in the courts. In addition, the technical assistance offered to the judicial Gender Committee led to the development of a protocol for judges, which included a gender-based approach, and the organization of three workshops, which were attended by approximately 200 participants. The protocol was presented to the Congress in 2017.

Bolivia: Expenditure in 2017		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	1,140,140
Activities and operating costs	-	544,552
Subtotal	-	1,684,692
Programme support costs	-	219,010
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,903,702

Colombia

Year established	1997
Staff as of 31 December 2017	54
Expenditure in 2017	US\$9,786,329

Results

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Increased implementation of anti-discrimination legislation and governmental initiatives in accordance with international standards (EA 4)*

In 2016, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) reviewed the State Party report of Colombia and issued recommendations which noted the obstacles to economic, social and cultural rights, the right to land and territory and to the participation of discriminated groups. The recommendations remained fully relevant in 2017. In its monitoring of issues such as participation in peace processes, prior consultation and the effective protection of the right to land and territory, OHCHR determined that little progress had been achieved in addressing the areas of concern noted by CERD. In addition, the legislative measures related to access to education, housing and health do not take into account the differentiated approach required to overcome the exclusion of groups in vulnerable situations, such as Afrodescendants, indigenous peoples and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. Law 1482 of 2011, which amended the Criminal Code to include measures against racism and discrimination, represented a positive step in addressing discrimination. The Law focuses on sanctioning acts of discrimination, yet it fails to promote prevention measures or provide reparations to address the impact of discriminatory acts on the rights of victims.



OHCHR staff member facilitating an activity with kids in El Bagre, Colombia. © OHCHR/Colombia

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Decisions of the national justice system, including ordinary, indigenous and special jurisdictions (military justice), increasingly conform to international human rights standards, norms and principles (EA 1)*
Impunity in cases of gross human rights violations remained a significant concern in 2017. The apparent inactivity of the authorities responsible for the investigation and prosecution of cases of serious human rights violations resulted from a number of factors, including extended time spent on building strong cases for prosecution, obstacles to the advancement of certain causes, the prioritization of other, more visible criminal cases, especially those related to the fight against corruption, and the amount of time required to establish and operationalize transitional justice mechanisms, all of which created delays in the administration of justice. In 2014 and 2015, the State promoted constitutional and legal reforms that sought to broaden the constitutional scope of military and police jurisdiction through provisions that did not correspond to relevant international standards. The Office presented technical documents to the Congress and the Constitutional Court, reiterating the need to respect the limits established by international law in relation to the military justice system and the use of force. It also followed up on the passage of these reforms through the Congress. Moreover, the Office undertook advocacy to ensure that the rulings on reform of the 2016 Constitutional Courts were consistent with Colombia's international obligations. Specifically, the rulings emphasized the complementarity between international human rights law and international humanitarian law and the restrictive scope of military jurisdiction.
- ▶ *Transitional justice mechanisms, including accountability, truth, reconciliation and reparations mechanisms, providing for the active participation of victims, established and/or functioning in accordance with international standards (EA 3)*
With regard to transitional justice, the Office produced a technical document for the Ministry of Justice, which included recommendations on coordination between the Special Jurisdiction for Peace and the Special Indigenous Jurisdiction, in conformity with international norms and standards. This had a positive impact on the recognition of the Special Indigenous Jurisdiction, in accordance with the scope established by international law.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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



Meeting with the Arhuaco indigenous community in Sierra Nevada, Colombia, to validate a protocol for prior consultation.

© OHCHR/Colombia

The Administrative Department for Social Prosperity increasingly applied standards of economic, social and cultural rights in poverty eradication programmes and other programmes related to the right to food and water in La Guajira. The Office further observed positive changes in the Department's guidelines to provide access to education for children with disabilities and efforts to empower women in rural areas. Regarding the implementation of comprehensive solutions to the right to an adequate standard of living, the Department and the Office took steps, in 2017, to establish a mechanism to monitor the programmes that were implemented to guarantee the rights to drinking water and food of the Wayúu indigenous peoples. While these efforts are commendable, more needs to be done to tackle the conditions of poverty and inequality in the rural regions of the country. For its part, the Ministry of Health began to disseminate the Integrated Health Care Model in the department of Chocó, taking into account recommendations issued by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in relation to Colombia. OHCHR also provided support for the development and dissemination of the Health Care Model in Chocó, based on a thorough assessment of the human rights situation in the area, and observed its compliance with international standards, including with regard to the participation of indigenous and Afro-Colombian peoples in its design. While OHCHR's work with the Ministry of Education has not been as systematic as it was with the Department and the Ministry of Health, the Office facilitated the hiring of 450 teachers in order to guarantee the right to education in Caquetá and encouraged the Ministry to commit to improving the infrastructure,

quality of education and reinforcement of the teaching staff in Buenaventura.

- *Relevant institutions and programmes from the national, regional and local levels increase their capacity to incorporate a human rights-based approach into policy design and the formulation of indicators that allow the measurement of progress in their implementation (EA 1)*

As a result of OHCHR's support and advocacy, article 123 of the Law establishing the National Development Plan, approved in 2015, provides that the 2014-2034 National Strategy to Guarantee Human Rights should include a human rights-based approach and be implemented at the national and regional levels. The Law also required national states to incorporate this approach into their public policies. The Presidential Council on Human Rights, the Ministry of the Interior's Human Rights Division and the National Planning Department subsequently received training on the incorporation of a human rights-based approach into public policies. OHCHR also supported the development of three brochures providing a practical explanation on how to incorpo-

rate a human rights-based approach into local development plans, which were distributed to mayors and governors. In 2016, the Presidential Council on Human Rights made an assessment of the process and reported that nearly 80 per cent of the territorial entities had incorporated a human rights-based approach into their development plans. Finally, a human rights-based approach was incorporated into at least 10 public policy documents in four communities that were prioritized by the Office.

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

Since 2013, the Office has been participating in Guías Colombia, a multi-actor initiative that was created in 2006 to establish due diligence guidelines so that businesses can prevent or mitigate the negative impact of their operations on human rights. The initiative is composed of eight businesses from different economic sectors and includes the National Business Association, two government institutions, the National Ombudsperson's Office, five civil society organizations and three multilateral organisms.

Changing lives of women in La Gabarra

In 2014, 54 women from the La Gabarra community in Tibu, who were victims of enforced displacement, enforced disappearance and sexual violence, formed the Asociación de Mujeres Campesinas y Negritudes Emprendedoras para un Futuro de La Gabarra (AMUCANEFU). They are women heads of household who provide financial support to their 210 children and grandchildren in one of the regions of Colombia with the highest levels of unsatisfied basic needs. The region is also one of the most conflict-ridden in the country due to the continued presence of several armed groups.

At the request of the National Ombudsperson's Office, UN Human Rights began to support this association in October 2015. The Office facilitated a series of training sessions on a human rights-based approach, gender, project formulation and the understanding and scope of collective reparations. In addition, the Office led the collaborative implementation of advocacy strategies with institutions and international cooperation agencies in order to seek funds for the association.

The implementation of the project provided opportunities for the women from AMUCANEFU to meet, work together and talk about the violence they had suffered. "We already know one another and accept each other as we are. We know that we have support, that we are no longer alone, that we are a family," said one of the members of the Association.

The members have slowly come to recognize themselves as rights-holders. Discreetly and confidentially, they speak about the most terrifying incidents of the past and present and ask questions to reassure themselves that their perceptions are correct. They are very careful with their knowledge because they know that it guarantees their safety, but they do not keep silent. Together, they have learned to develop strategies to protect their lives, including by providing psychosocial care to other women victims of gender-based violence.

New leaders have emerged during this process, such as Isabel, who, like many other women, made the decision to build a life project for her children that is far from violence and illegal activities. In 2016, she began her university studies in business administration, which she in turn taught to the other members of the Association during their monthly meetings. Because she understood the value of education and the transformative power that it brings to women's lives, she took steps to ensure that the participants in the projects learned to read, write, add and count. This is the best tool for life and overcoming marginality and violence. "I had already given up and believed that I was destined to live in poverty in the countryside, but the workshops made me see that I could study. I now explain to my children that school is a tool to gain knowledge and become independent. It's not only about receiving a better salary," said Isabel.

Through its technical advice, the Office contributed to the inclusion of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in the Guías Colombia guidelines and participated in the formulation of guides on decent work, land acquisition, supply chains and institutional strengthening by providing information on applicable human rights standards. The Office influenced the adoption of mandatory due diligence standards for the diagnosis, prevention and mitigation of human rights impacts, both in the operations of the Guías Colombia members and the operations of their contractors and suppliers. An evaluation undertaken in 2017 demonstrated that approximately 60 per cent of the businesses reporting to Guías Colombia made significant progress in the implementation of the guides.

The Office achieved significant progress in promoting the incorporation of human rights into business operations by, for instance, facilitating training activities for business personnel who are responsible for making decisions related to environmental, social and labour issues in Mineros S.A., EPM, CENS and Amerisur; reviewing complaints mechanisms and procedures for engagement and the protection of local social leaders with ISAGEN and Mineros S.A.; and promoting the local development initiatives of companies such as ISAGEN, Cerro Matoso, Ecopetrol and Mineros S.A. in their respective areas of influence. In addition, the Office supported companies in the management of social conflicts that arose in the course of their commercial operations in different regions in the country. The establishment of dialogue round-tables, supported by the Office, enabled many relevant stakeholders to discuss solutions to the conflicts that have frequently resulted in protests or blockades.

Less progress was made in relation to the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights as there was limited scope for the adequate integration of the UN Guiding Principles. In 2017, however, the Presidential Council was able to advance its implementation of the Plan. The Office contributed to the formulation of departmental public policies on business and human rights in Antioquia and Magdalena; the design of mechanisms for non-judicial remedies; and the formulation of a human rights policy for the energy and mining sectors.

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

The territorial development plans, formulated over the reporting period, provided an opportunity for the Office to advocate for and facilitate the engagement of rights-holders in the design of public policies. The Office therefore undertook a number of capacity-building activities with civil society actors to enable

them to meaningfully participate in these processes. For instance, members of the National Human Rights Platform, “La Alianza,” received training on how to formulate municipal and departmental public policies that incorporate a human rights-based approach. The participants of the trainings formed a network to further disseminate the information and achieve more effective participation in the formulation and oversight of public policies. In addition, in cooperation with the Presidential Council, the Ministry of the Interior and regional Ombudsperson’s Offices, the Office strengthened the capacity of social leaders and organizations in five prioritized communities to prepare them for the process of public policy formulation deriving from the peace agreement between the Government and the FARC-EP. The objective was to ensure that the communities would be ready for the initial drafting of the “Development Programmes with a Territorial Approach,” in each region, as required by the peace accords, so that they could more effectively participate in and advocate for an improvement of the human rights situation in their respective territories. The same strategy was implemented in Arauca and Serranía del Perijá, where the National Liberation Army (ELN) has greater influence, so as to prepare them for the formulation of public policies before an eventual disarmament agreement between the ELN and the Government.

- *Increased use of national protection systems to ensure free, prior and informed consultation (EA 5)*
While Colombia is one of the Andean countries that conducted a significant number of prior consultation processes with indigenous communities during the reporting period, the majority of these processes did not comply with international standards since they were conducted over very short periods of time and did not allow for internal decision-making processes. This is in violation of the right of indigenous peoples to effective participation in the decisions that affect them. At the same time, some authorities and the media promoted a perception that the right to prior, free and informed consultation was a deterrent to development. In this context, a draft regulatory law, announced in 2016, was introduced with the objective of reducing the scope, cost and duration of prior consultations without guaranteeing the right of communities to prior, free and informed decision-making. Despite these difficulties, prior consultation continues to be claimed by relevant stakeholders as a fundamental right and their use of legal mechanisms has led to 97 Constitutional Court rulings, which have upheld this right.

With regard to the protection of the right to land, although 122 requests for the protection of territories were presented by indigenous and Afrodescendent authorities over the reporting period, most of these were not processed. This resulted in the denial of

the economic, social and cultural rights of various ethnic peoples, which was manifested in the loss of land and fauna due to the clearing of forests and the contamination of water sources, negatively impacting on food autonomy, child morbidity and mortality. The limited realization of the rights to territorial integrity and participation also affected the exercise of the autonomy and self-determination of ethnic peoples, thereby increasing their vulnerability. After the peace agreements were signed, new displacements and restrictions to the effective enjoyment of the right to land and territory were generated as a result of disputes over land by new actors involved in drug trafficking in areas that were previously controlled by the FARC-EP guerrillas. In 2016 and 2017, there was a marked increase in the number of threats against and homicides of indigenous and Afrodescendent leaders.

In view of this situation, the Office supported the formulation of protocols for interaction with third parties in the post-conflict phase and prior, free and informed consultation and consent with 17 indigenous and Afrodescendent communities based in seven regions of the country. It further supported five indigenous and Afrodescendent peoples in obtaining protection measures in cases of vulnerability and physical and cultural risk.

Widening the democratic space

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

The National Ombudsperson's Office, the national human rights institution (NHRI) of Colombia, was created 20 years ago and has consistently operated in substantive compliance with the Paris Principles. The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) reviewed the NHRI in March and, as noted by GANHRI and the same National Ombudsperson's Office in its annual reports, it has been operating with financial constraints and limited staff. Consequently, the Office advocated with the Government for the provision of additional funding. OHCHR accompanied the staff of the National Ombudsperson's Office in their field missions to strengthen their monitoring capacities and help improve their relationships with social organizations. Efforts were also undertaken to strengthen the Early Warning System of the National Ombudsperson's Office by sharing concept notes and findings that were compiled during field missions to rural areas and prioritized communities.

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

In order to develop mechanisms to protect human rights defenders, OHCHR provided technical support and collaborated with various national entities, including the National Army, the National Police, the

National Ombudsperson's Office, the Human Rights Division of the Ministry of the Interior and the National Protection Unit. The National Army, for instance, developed and strengthened the National Immediate Response System to Advance Stabilization to improve the quality of responses to threats and attacks against organizations that advocate for human rights. Specifically, the Response System is triggered when complaints are made regarding alleged threats, displacement, extortion and attacks against human rights leaders, primarily in the departments of Chocó, Antioquia and Cauca. Furthermore, through the development of the National Police's Protection Strategy for Vulnerable Populations, a new coordination mechanism was created whereby OHCHR informs the police about alleged threats and attacks against social leaders and human rights defenders, which triggers an immediate response by local police forces and judicial investigation groups. OHCHR issued two documents outlining the protection that the State should provide to human rights defenders. These documents contributed to the establishment of parameters for police intervention in cases of threats against human rights defenders, indigenous representatives, social leaders and other groups in vulnerable situations.

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

- *Policies and regulatory frameworks applied by the National Police and the Armed Forces in relation to security and the use of force, including in the context of demonstrations, increasingly comply with human rights standards (EA 1)*

With the technical assistance of OHCHR, the Ministry of the Interior and the National Police developed and implemented the concept of prevention-based security, which includes prevention measures in relation to social, cultural, economic or environmental risk factors that have an adverse impact on levels of violence and criminality. Another significant development in the area of citizen security was the approval and implementation of the National Police and Coexistence Code (Law 1801 of 2016). The Office assisted in drafting the Law and delivered a document, at the request of the legislators who introduced the bill, on the integration of human rights standards into the National Police and Coexistence Code.

In relation to the peace accords, OHCHR supported the formalization of the Special Investigation Unit to dismantle paramilitary successor organizations by advising the legislators responsible for introducing Decree 898/2017 and drafting the proposed text. The Office also delivered a technical document on the structure of Decree 299/2017 to the legislators who introduced the Decree. As a result, a representative of OHCHR was invited to participate in the

Security and Protection Technical Round-table. In the 10 sessions of the Round-table that have taken place, OHCHR provided technical inputs to inform decisions related to the protection of members of the new FARC party. The Office produced two other technical documents on the creation of the security and protection sub-section of the National Protection Unit. The documents specifically refer to mechanisms for coordination with public security forces on the implementation of prevention and protection measures, as well as information collection processes that are undertaken by government institutions, the State and the organizations and agencies responsible for prevention and security.

With regard to guarantees for mobilization and peaceful protest, OHCHR is working with legislators in charge of introducing a bill on the application of human rights standards. The draft calls for ensuring full guarantees for peaceful mobilization and protest as part of the constitutional right to freedom of expression, right of assembly and right to opposition; guaranteeing the rights of protesters and other citizens; guaranteeing the right to information during mobilization and protest; and reviewing and amending norms that are applicable to social mobilization and protest.

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

Advances made in the prevention of human rights violations committed by State agents demonstrate that the application of the human rights standards proposed by OHCHR increased the capacity of State agents to intervene in and investigate complaints of misbehaviour by public security forces. Between 2014 and 2017, 12,150 disciplinary investigations were opened, resulting in 8,800 sanctions. Advances in the prevention of human rights violations also included judicial investigations. With regard to judicial activity, the Office found that inquiries were initiated in 92 cases, 13 arrest warrants were issued, 13 formal investigations were opened and 31 trials were carried out, which resulted in 15 convictions. In the cases of threats against human rights defenders, OHCHR helped to implement protection measures in all of the cases, including by collecting and sharing information that facilitated the protection process, participating in 215 meetings of the Committee to Assess Risk and Recommend Measures (CERREM) and ensuring the implementation of the protection measures for human rights defenders.

- *Mechanisms for dialogue and negotiation are in place to enable the Government and CSOs to re-*

solve disputes and avoid an escalation of violence, including in the event of a peace agreement (EA 3) OHCHR developed, applied and institutionalized a methodology to prevent violence and reduce the risk of escalating violence during social protests through coordination with State authorities, including public security forces, as well as organizations and communities that had mobilized in different regions. By applying this methodology during 47 demonstrations of peasants and indigenous peoples that took place in 2016, the Office contributed to the de-escalation of violence and the end of strikes. In October 2017, the same methodology contributed to reducing tensions between indigenous communities, which were mobilized in various regions of the country, and public security forces.

The Office also facilitated the establishment of spaces for dialogue between parties in conflict and provided methodological support for the creation of technical secretariats and the settlement of agreements that were reached during the dialogues. This approach was particularly useful in ending the civil strike in Buenaventura, in 2017. In coordination with the Office of the Prosecutor General, OHCHR ensured that the proposals and agreements responded to concrete measures, addressed the principal demands of the strikers and included specific mechanisms to guarantee the fulfilment of agreements. Other relevant examples include the dialogue process facilitated by the Office in La Lengüeta (Santa Marta) to promote respect for the territorial rights of indigenous peoples of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta; and the negotiation between peasants and the Government in Catatumbo (Norte de Santander), where agreements were reached on local development projects.

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

OHCHR contributed to improving the alignment of the plans of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) with international human rights standards. The Office actively participated in the development of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2015-2018 and provided technical advice to the UNCT in order to reinforce its capacity to integrate human rights standards into the planning document. The Office also participated in meetings of the Humanitarian Country Team to provide technical advice on human rights standards. As a result, the Humanitarian Country Team's response plans integrate human rights and gender approaches. OHCHR also contributed to strengthening the UNCT's capacity in relation to the internal armed conflict and peace process. In 2016, the UNCT ac-

cepted OHCHR's technical assistance on the incorporation of a human rights-based approach into its work to support the implementation of the peace accord. OHCHR worked with UNODC, WHO and FAO, as well as the Ministry of Justice and Law, on a road map for the formulation of a public policy on drugs and the implementation of point 4 of the peace accord, "Solution to the Drug Problem," in accordance with a human rights-based approach.

Furthermore, OHCHR drafted and shared with the Special Political Mission, areas of cooperation and coordination between OHCHR and the Special Political Mission based on UN human rights policies. The document systematized seven key types of human rights complaints that the Mission would need to be prepared to address in its deployment and operations. In addition, OHCHR facilitated briefings on regional and local human rights situations where the Mission will be present. OHCHR also ensured that the Mission was aware of and implemented the obligatory online course on human rights for all of its incoming members and delivered orientation sessions on the human rights responsibilities of UN personnel and the human rights context in Colombia, including the Human Rights up Front Initiative. The Office participated in the Integrated Planning Core Group, which provided visions and strategies for coordination and cooperation between the Mission and the UNCT. Finally, OHCHR facilitated the inclusion of a focus on human rights in all discussions and documents produced by both the Integrated Planning Core Group and the UNCT.

Colombia: Expenditure in 2017

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	6,806,308
Activities and operating costs	-	1,901,991
Subtotal	-	8,708,299
Programme support costs	-	1,078,031
GRAND TOTAL	-	9,786,329



OHCHR staff members monitor massive demonstrations against corruption in Guatemala. © OHCHR/Guatemala

Guatemala

Year established	2005
Staff as of 31 December 2017	22
Expenditure in 2017	US\$3,929,338

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *State institutions are coordinated to achieve integrated reporting and implementation of recommendations (EA 6)*

Since 2014, OHCHR has been providing capacity-building support to the Presidential Coordinating Commission on Human Rights (COPREDEH) in relation to Guatemala's reporting obligations. The Office provided technical assistance in the classification of more than 1,000 recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. In 2017, the Office began providing technical assistance to COPREDEH to develop a system to monitor the implementation of recommendations based on the SI-MORE experience in Paraguay.

- *Civil society and the NHRI make increased use of the individual communication procedures of the human rights treaty bodies or UPR follow-up procedures (EA 7)*

The Office continued building the capacity of civil society actors and the national human rights institution (NHRI) to provide them with the necessary tools to submit alternative reports to the human rights treaty bodies, follow-up reports to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and communications to the special procedures. Civil society organizations submitted approximately 20 communications to the special procedures during the reporting period.

- *UN agency plans and programmes deriving from the 2015-2019 UNDAF serve to systematically follow up on recommendations emanating from the international human rights mechanisms (EA 11)*

After a year-long negotiation, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the Government of Guatemala signed the 2015-2019 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which includes an annex with all of the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in relation to Guatemala, as well as the indicators OHCHR proposed to measure the effectiveness of the UNDAF. To contribute to this result, OHCHR worked closely with the Resident Coordinator's Office in its discussions with the Government and advocated with other UN agencies on the key human rights aspects to be included in the UNDAF. Following the signature of the UNDAF, OHCHR developed a matrix for the UN agencies to report on what human rights recommendations they could help to implement. In 2017, OHCHR continued working with UN agencies and supporting them on the follow-up to the relevant recommendations under their responsibility.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Indigenous organizations, traditional authorities and communities use litigation as a channel to demand recognition of their rights (EA 5)*

The results achieved through the Maya Programme far exceeded initial expectations. One of the litigation cases, for example, led to the establishment of a State policy that recognizes traditional territories within protected areas. In one case, indigenous communal property rights were recognized in relation to over 4,000 hectares that a Maya-Kaqchikel community had occupied since pre-Columbian times. In another case, the Supreme Court urged the Congress to legislate a norm that would recognize indigenous community radios. Through this Programme, OHCHR provided technical assistance to indigenous rights-holders and Government duty-bearers on the application of relevant international standards in the litigation cases. The Office also implemented a training programme on strategic litigation, which was attended by almost 100 persons, most of whom were representatives of indigenous organizations. This contributed to strengthening their knowledge and capacity to claim their rights before the judiciary. In 2016, within the framework of the national dialogue on justice reform, OHCHR promoted and facilitated the participation of at least 225 indigenous Mayan, Garifuna and Xinka authorities in seven regional dialogue events. The process enabled them to discuss and articulate their proposals on the general content of constitutional reforms and highlight the scope and



A representative of an indigenous community, supported by OHCHR's Maya Programme in Guatemala, presents her case before the Supreme Court. © OHCHR/Guatemala

limitations of the recognition of indigenous jurisdiction in the Constitution.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

A series of tailored activities that were undertaken by the Office for the judiciary, prosecutors and legal clerks strengthened their knowledge regarding the practical application of international human rights standards. The Constitutional Court issued important decisions based on international human rights standards on the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, in particular regarding the recognition of indigenous jurisdiction, the right to prior consultation and to collective property and the unconstitutionality of lowering the minimum wage in some municipalities and of the application of the death penalty in the case of murder. Moreover, sentences handed down by judges and magistrates, including in the high-risk court and the Supreme Court of Justice, were increasingly based on human rights standards. This was particularly evident in decisions regarding transitional justice, indigenous peoples, women and the abusive use of criminal charges against human rights defenders. In the emblematic Sepur Zarco Case, the Court condemned two army officers for crimes against humanity that were committed during the armed conflict in the form of sexual violence, murder and enforced disappearance.

The Office also supported the Attorney General's Office to strengthen their capacities to facilitate access to justice for indigenous peoples. The Office helped to develop guidelines for the design of a policy on access to justice for indigenous peoples

and a protocol on cultural expertise. Both documents were used to elaborate the policy, which was developed through a participatory process with indigenous representatives. The policy was presented in May 2017 and the Attorney General created the position of Secretary for Indigenous Peoples to ensure its implementation. The Attorney General's Office has demonstrated significant progress in the fight against corruption and impunity, including in the investigation of past crimes. The so-called CREOM-PAZ case is the first transitional justice case at the national level, which led to the arrest of military officials at all levels in the chain of command.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *Selected policies related to the exploitation of natural resources and rural and local development incorporate human rights standards into their design and implementation (EA 1)*

A number of policies on the use of natural resources and rural development, which were drafted with the support of OHCHR, incorporate applicable human rights standards. Through the development of several workshops for the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, the Office was able to influence the design of policies on environmental issues. The Ministry committed to developing a guidance document for consultation with indigenous peoples during the initial phase of environmental impact studies related to the exploitation of natural resources. In 2015, OHCHR supported the Ministry of Labour in developing and approving a protocol on the verification of labour law violations in accordance with a human rights-based approach. In 2016, the Ministry adopted the Single Protocol of Procedures for the General Inspectorate of Labour, which contains a specific section on agricultural workers. As a result of the implementation of the Protocol, labour inspectors are more aware of the issues faced by agricultural workers, most of whom are indigenous peoples. With the technical assistance of ILO and OHCHR, the Ministry is developing a procedure for the inspection of labour and human rights conditions in manufacturing operations.

- *The Labour Inspectorate adopts and increasingly implements a policy to monitor the fulfilment of the rights of land workers (EA 1)*

In 2014, the Office supported the establishment of a Task Force focusing on human rights issues in the agricultural sphere. The Task Force is composed of trade unions, rural peasant organizations, academics, lawyers, activists and other groups. The Task Force developed a study on the human rights of agricultural workers, which was shared with relevant authorities. The study benefited from the findings of OHCHR's monitoring missions to observe labour

rights in the departments of Suchitepequez, Retalhulehu, Escuintla, Alta Verapaz, Quetzaltenango, Coatepeque, Totonicapán, San Marcos, Sololá, Chichicastenango and Quiché. In 2015, OHCHR supported the Ministry of Labour to develop and implement a manual to guide labour inspectors when verifying the human rights situation of agricultural workers.

During the reporting period, the Office also tackled the issue of business and human rights, in particular due to the limited capacity of the State to investigate business operations that result in human rights violations and the lack of implemented institutional reforms to incorporate business and human rights standards into relevant State policies. OHCHR facilitated discussions and conducted training activities with State representatives on the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. As a result, COPREDEH expressed its intention to develop a policy on business and human rights.

- *A national network of NGOs monitors the implementation of public policies, including budgets, related to the right to food, land and housing and engages with government institutions in these areas (EA 5)*

In 2014, a national network of NGOs working on economic, social and cultural rights was established. The network held regular meetings to exchange information and drafted a shadow report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Several of the issues addressed in this report, prepared with the technical assistance of OHCHR, were incorporated into the final report and recommendations issued by the Committee. With the support of the Office, these organizations increased their knowledge in relation to international standards on human rights, the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights and access to information, all of which significantly helped them in their monitoring and auditing of the State's budget.

Widening the democratic space

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

The NHRI strengthened its capacity to undertake the investigation and documentation of human rights violations in a number of different settings, including prisons, situations of social conflict and elections. The NHRI also improved its instrument on early warning, resulting in the increased capacity of its regional offices to monitor and report on urgent cases of human rights violations. OHCHR contributed to these results by conducting joint monitoring missions and exchanging information with the NHRI. With the technical support of OHCHR, the NHRI issued thematic reports and studies on pretrial detention and vio-

lent deaths in detention and prepared a Guide on interventions in urgent and specific situations, which was implemented to monitor the electoral process in 2015. In 2017, information gathered by OHCHR during six monitoring missions to the western part of the country was used to identify trends, patterns and potential crisis situations in order for the NHRI to take preventive steps.

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

Throughout the years, civil society actors, including journalists and human rights defenders, have increased their capacity to use regional and international human rights mechanisms to claim and defend their rights. In 2014, for instance, following assistance provided by the Office, human rights defenders participated in sessions of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and provided information on individual cases of attacks on defenders. They also documented cases of human rights violations against them and presented their findings to the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders and the OAS Special Rapporteur for freedom of expression. In addition, the Office regularly monitored allegations of threats and attacks against human rights defenders across the country and advocated with State authorities to ensure the implementation of adequate responses. The State demonstrated an improvement in ensuring protection mechanisms for human rights defenders as a result of OHCHR's capacity-building activities, including trainings on investigation techniques for public prosecutors. Furthermore, in 2017, the Office participated in the development of a public policy on the protection of human rights defenders, which is still under development.

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

The Office continued promoting the debate on human rights issues of particular concern through press conferences, press releases, meetings with opinion leaders, social media platforms and networks and interviews. Through these means, the Office increased the awareness of the general public on critical human rights issues, including the situation of human rights defenders and journalists, insecurity, justice, transitional justice, the situation of indigenous peoples and economic, social and cultural rights. In the area of human rights education, the Office worked with institutions and relevant actors, such as teachers, students and community leaders, to promote practical methodologies for human rights education. Through assistance provided to the Board of Education for Peace, Human Rights and Memory (composed of over 35 civil society organizations), the Office and other UN agencies contributed to the design of the

National Strategy for Citizenship Education, which includes practical pedagogical guidelines for teachers of primary and secondary education and focuses on five thematic axes, namely, human rights, democracy, historic memory, multiculturalism and a culture of peace. Launched by the Minister of Education in 2016, the Strategy represents a key step in advancing human rights education in the official education system.

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

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

During the reporting cycle, a number of laws and policies were developed or amended in line with international standards. The Migration Code, which incorporates a human rights-based approach as a result of the Office's joint work with the UNCT and civil society, was adopted in September 2016. A proposal for amendments to the Law that regulates private security services, which would align it with international human rights standards, was presented to the Congress. The proposal was made after OHCHR facilitated a visit to Guatemala of a member of the UN Working Group on the use of mercenaries, who interacted with the Congress, civil society and the private sector. Furthermore, State security institutions made good progress in incorporating human rights into their policies. For instance, the police improved their internal procedures to limit the use of force against civilians, particularly in the context of judicial evictions. In addition, the unit within the Ministry of Interior that regulates private security services adopted internal manuals and protocols. OHCHR played an important role in this result.

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

In cooperation with the School of Judicial Studies and the Supreme Court of Justice, the Office presented a toolkit, in 2016, for the incorporation of a human rights-based approach and a gender perspective into sentences of femicide and other forms of violence against women. The toolkit is based on a 2014 study, supported by OHCHR, which analysed how the specialized tribunals incorporated international standards into their rulings and applied a gender perspective. Further, the study also assessed the impact of the training curriculum of the School of Judicial Studies in relation to gender matters. The toolkit has now been disseminated to all judges of the specialized and ordinary tribunals across the country. It has also been shared with other Latin American countries as a good practice.

Guatemala: Expenditure in 2017

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	2,781,037
Activities and operating costs	-	745,149
Subtotal	-	3,526,186
Programme support costs	-	403,152
GRAND TOTAL	-	3,929,338

Honduras

Year established	2015
Staff as of 31 December 2017	9
Expenditure in 2017	US\$1,957,777

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Optional Protocols to ICESCR and CEDAW ratified and declarations made recognizing the competence of CERD, the Human Rights Committee, CAT, CED and CMW to handle individual complaints (EA 2)*
Honduras has ratified the core human rights treaties but no progress has been achieved in the ratification of their optional protocols, in spite of the targeted recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.
- *Establishment of a participatory standing national coordinating body on reporting on/replying to in-*

dividual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

A national mechanism for reporting on and following-up to recommendations from the international human rights mechanisms is not yet in place. OHCHR provided inputs to the draft decree that would create such a mechanism. It is anticipated that the draft decree will be submitted to the Council of Ministers for approval in 2018. In the meantime, an ad hoc inter-institutional mechanism will follow up on the implementation of recommendations accepted by Honduras.

- *Increased number of substantive submissions to the international human rights mechanisms by the NHRI and civil society organizations (EA 7)*
With OHCHR's guidance, NGO submissions were made, in 2017, in anticipation of the review of Honduras by the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The Office also supported submissions by the national human rights institution to the two previously mentioned human rights treaty bodies.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *National justice systems, including military justice, increasingly conform to human rights principles and standards in their institutional setup and decisions (EA 1)*
OHCHR sought to promote the adoption of a legal framework for the establishment of a judicial council and to strengthen the selection process of justice operators, in compliance with human rights standards. On several occasions, the Office met with a judge of the Supreme Court who is in charge of the commission that is tasked with reviewing relevant legisla-



OHCHR's Representative in Honduras meets with community leaders in relation to a demonstration against a hydroelectric project in Pajuiles, Honduras. © Movimiento Amplio por la Dignidad y la Justicia

tion. The Supreme Court submitted a formal request for technical assistance from the Office. The Office also engaged with the Judiciary School to develop capacity-building trainings on human rights for justice operators. It is expected that a memorandum of understanding will be signed in 2018. A technical collaboration agreement has been struck with the Office of the Attorney General to develop and implement a protocol for the investigation of crimes against human rights defenders. Since September 2017, six working sessions of the drafting team have taken place.

- *National protection mechanisms, in particular the CONAPREV, are strengthened to monitor, investigate and redress acts of torture and ill-treatment and violations of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty (EA3)*

OHCHR provided support to the National Committee for the Prevention of Torture, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (CONAPREV), established in 2016, aimed at strengthening its mandate, structure and visibility. The Office offered technical assistance during several of CONAPREV's planning meetings and discussions around legislative reforms and also advocated with institutions of the penitentiary sector for their increased engagement with CONAPREV. Furthermore, OHCHR engaged with the Director of the Penitentiary Institute to promote the Institute's compliance with the recommendations of CONAPREV. Due to its weak institutional framework and limited resources, the Office undertook advocacy with national authorities to strengthen that framework.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *National protection systems related to the right to participation and free, prior and informed consent are developed/strengthened (EA 1)*

Over the last two years, OHCHR advocated for the respect of international and regional human rights standards during the development of the draft law on prior consultation. The Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples also provided comments, in 2016, on the process to legislate free, prior and informed consultation. In April 2017, during her visit to Honduras, the Special Rapporteur noted that her comments on the legislation had not been observed and, subsequently, provided further observations. The draft law has not yet been approved.

- *Increased integration of human rights standards into development legislation and policies, including with regard to business operations (EA 1)*

The Honduran National Association of Industries developed an initiative to promote human rights among their members and created the Industrial Committee on Human Rights. In 2016, it signed an agreement on technical cooperation with the Vice-Ministry of Justice and Human Rights to provide human rights

training to business operations. The Office held meetings with the main Honduran business associations in order to raise their awareness about the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, as these associations have decisive influence over governmental decisions and policies in the development sphere.

Widening the democratic space

- *Respect and exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, assembly and participation in political life are promoted, including in the context of elections and public protest (EA 1)*

Through a number of advocacy efforts, OHCHR sought to promote respect for the freedoms of opinion and expression. The Office actively advocated with the Congress for the decriminalization of the so-called honour crimes that were outlined in the proposed Criminal Penal Code. While the approved Code maintains the crime of defamation, it is now punishable with a fine, rather than imprisonment. The Office also issued a joint press release with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights expressing concern over the adopted reforms in the Honduran Penal Code, which may negatively impact the legitimate exercise and enjoyment of freedom of expression in the country.

- *The Ombudsperson's Office works in conformity with international standards (EA 1)*

In 2010, after the 2009 military coup, the status of the national human rights institution (CONADEH) was downgraded from 'A' to 'B' by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions. Following several failed efforts by CONADEH to regain an 'A' status, the last of which was in 2016, the Global Alliance issued a series of recommendations to help CONADEH operate in compliance with the

Children in conflict with the law

In May 2017, as part of its response to violence and insecurity in the country, the Honduran Executive launched a proposal to reform the Children and Adolescents' Code to increase the detention sentences for children in conflict with the law to up to 20 years. In coordination with the United Nations Country Team and the Organization of American States, UN Human Rights promoted a debate on the rights of the child by engaging a wide constituency, including civil society actors, State institutions and the international community. This contributed to the abandonment of the proposal by the Executive. Luis Pedernera, Member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, who visited Honduras to support the debate, highlighted the value and impact of the efforts of UN Human Rights.



OHCHR staff member monitors a demonstration demanding justice for the deceased Honduran environmental activist Berta Cáceres.
© OHCHR/Honduras

Paris Principles. In 2016, OHCHR and UNDP agreed to support CONADEH through a capacity assessment. The final report contained 22 recommendations to strengthen the institution. In February 2017, OHCHR and CONADEH began to develop a plan to implement the findings of the assessment.

► *A protection mechanism for human rights defenders and journalists is in place (EA 3)*

The National Protection Mechanism (NPM) continued to work in overall compliance with international standards. The Office provided technical support to the NPM on the operationalization of its structure and follow-up to individual cases. The Office also participated in at least 35 meetings of the technical committee that is tasked with risk assessment and the provision of protection measures. At a structural level, the Office provided guidance in relation to the interpretation of the Law on Human Rights Defenders and to fact-finding missions conducted to assess community-level risks.

In September, the Office began cooperating with the Office of the Attorney General to provide technical assistance on the elaboration of a protocol for the investigation of crimes committed against human rights defenders. With the assistance of OHCHR, the protocol is being developed on the basis of international norms and the experiences of neighbouring countries. The Office also maintained constant communication with a wide network of national human rights organizations and human rights defenders and provided guidance on available protection mechanisms at the regional and international levels. In 2017, at least 50 human rights organizations and defenders participated in trainings organized by the Office to strengthen their capacity to use regional and international human rights mechanisms.

► *Rights-holders, including women and discriminated groups, meaningfully participate in the design and monitoring of the implementation of at least three key human rights laws and policies (EA 5)*

In the context of the review of the Criminal Code Bill and the security sector reform, the Office facilitated meetings between the Congress and civil society organizations and provided expertise on relevant

international human rights standards. The Criminal Law, adopted in 2016, is not in full compliance with international human rights standards.

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

► *Public policies and regulatory frameworks in the security sector increasingly incorporate human rights standards, including in relation to citizen security and the use of force (EA 1)*

Limited progress has been achieved on the integration of a human rights-based approach into security policies by national authorities. In 2017, the Office presented its written observations regarding a number of legislative proposals, including the Penal Code and the Law on the strengthening of the security sector. It also held meetings with the Congress and its committees and with governmental focal points in charge of security. Nevertheless, OHCHR's recommendations were seldom considered and the adopted legislation could potentially have a negative impact on the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. Furthermore, the weak implementation of the National Policy on Citizen Security reflected the larger problem of an absence of financial resources for the implementation of local security plans.

► *UN agencies increasingly apply a human rights-based approach to their violence and insecurity programmes (EA 11)*

OHCHR promoted the application of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy by the United Nations Country Team in Honduras, including by gathering information on projects that appeared to fall within the purview of the Policy, sharing the Standard Operating Procedures and the General Preliminary Risk Assessment with the UN Inter-Agency Human Rights Working Group, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Gender Reference Group and the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, and undertaking a risk assessment for the first project identified under the scope of the Policy.

Honduras: Expenditure in 2017

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	1,328,057
Activities and operating costs	-	401,271
Subtotal	-	1,729,329
Programme support costs	-	228,448
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,957,777

Mexico

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2017	21
Expenditure in 2017	US\$2,442,593

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *The competence of CESC, CRC and CED to receive and consider individual communications is recognized and reservations or interpretative declarations to international human rights treaties are withdrawn (EA 2)*

During the reporting period, OHCHR carried out a campaign, with the participation of victims, activists and experts, for the recognition of the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances to receive and consider individual communications. The Office also advocated with relevant authorities for the recognition of the competence of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Rights of the Child to also receive individual communications. Moreover, several international human rights mechanisms issued recommendations in that regard to Mexico. In response, the Mexican Government noted that it will undertake internal consultation processes to decide on appropriate follow-up action, but none of the ratifications has occurred so far.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Human rights-compliant legislation adopted on anti-discrimination issues and/or same-sex marriages and/or sexual and reproductive rights (EA 4)*

No new legislation on anti-discrimination was adopted and the proposal for a law on same-sex marriages was defeated in Congress. However, two landmark laws were adopted in 2017, with major input from OHCHR, including the General Law on Torture and the General Law on Disappearances, both of which include non-discrimination and gender principles. Moreover, the legislations establish aggravating causes when the crimes are committed against individuals and groups in vulnerable situations, such as children, women, persons with disabilities, elder persons, migrants and Afrodescendant and indigenous peoples. Also in 2017, the new Criminal Code of the state of Coahuila was adopted, which decriminalizes abortion in cases of risk to the health of the woman and/or when the pregnancy results from a sexual crime and establishes the obligation of the state to provide health care services where abortion is not penalized.



OHCHR accompanies family members of disappeared persons during an exhumation process in Cohauila, Mexico. © OHCHR/Mexico

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

OHCHR participated in the development of indicators for Mexico's plans to implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, resulting in the development of indicators with a human rights and equality perspective, and promoted the disaggregation of data by sex, age, ethnic origin and vulnerability factors. A National Information System on Human Rights was designed by OHCHR and the National University's Human Rights Programme for use by the Ministry of Interior. The content and variables of the system are based on OHCHR's indicators framework, which were established through a participatory process involving the Supreme Court, the National Human Rights Institution, the National Statistical Institute, the National Council for Social Policy Evaluation, civil society and academia.

OHCHR also supported the adoption of a methodology for following up on the implementation of local human rights plans in the states of Mexico, Oaxaca and Coahuila and of the National Human Rights Action Plan. The indicators elaborated by those institutions, which were validated by all relevant actors, focused on the rights to health, to a fair trial, life, liberty and security of the person and the human rights of prisoners.

- *An increasing number of judicial institutions and universities formally incorporate human rights into their curricula (EA 1)*

One of the outcomes of the 2011 constitutional reform was the recognition that international human rights standards need to be incorporated into do-

mestic legislation. To this end, OHCHR cooperated with the Supreme Court of Justice, the Human Rights Commission of the Federal District and some academic institutions to develop the “Reforma DH” tool. Reforma DH is a virtual human rights training tool, available to the general public, which details each of the elements related to human rights that are included in the constitutional reform and promotes its implementation according to the highest standards of the promotion and protection of human rights. The tool has been widely used by various judicial schools in Mexico, becoming mandatory for judges in several states. It has also been used in several private and public universities and educational centres across the country and has been formally adopted as part of their human rights curricula.

- *By the end of 2017, the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture will have established an annual programme of training for relevant authorities on the application of the Istanbul Protocol (EA 3)*
In 2017, the Congress adopted the long-awaited General Law on Torture to which OHCHR contributed by ensuring the incorporation of relevant international standards. The law provides for the creation of a National Programme for the Prevention of Torture and the strengthening of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM). Over the period under review, OHCHR has supported several institutions that play a key role in the prevention of torture and the application of the Istanbul Protocol, including the National Human Rights Commission, within which the

NPM is located. OHCHR carried out trainings on the application of the Protocol for relevant authorities, including judges and magistrates, public prosecutors, public defenders, federal police forensic officials and staff of local human rights institutions. OHCHR also trained independent experts, members of academia and NGOs, physicians and psychologists from six states on the same subject. As a result of these and other capacity-building activities, a group of stakeholders from different branches of government, academia, NGOs and independent experts have the knowledge and skills to implement the Istanbul Protocol.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *Legislation adopted on the right of indigenous peoples to prior consultation and the rights to food and water is in compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)*
Although a constitutional amendment provides for the adoption of legislation on the rights to food and water and the right of indigenous peoples to prior consultation, and that there were several legal initiatives in that direction, the Congress has not adopted such laws in the present legislative period. In terms of prior consultation of indigenous peoples, OHCHR has prioritized work on specific cases of large-scale projects with an impact on the rights of indigenous communities (e.g., Maya communities in the state of Campeche affected by a project for transgenic soy,

Acquittal of an illegally detained woman in Mexico

On 26 October 2012, María del Sol Vázquez Reyes (Marisol, 31 years old) was arrested in Córdoba, Veracruz, by members of the State investigation agency. She was falsely accused of kidnapping and theft and not shown an arrest warrant at the moment of her detention or afterwards.

Following her arrest, members of the investigation agency tortured Marisol over a period of 14 hours. The agents applied electric shocks to her abdomen and pelvis and she suffered injuries to various parts of her body after being beaten as they tried to force her to accept responsibility for the kidnapping of a woman she did not know. They also threatened to rape her and harm her family if she did not confess to the crimes. Although she refused to confess, the agents extracted her signature on blank pages, which they then used to prepare a false declaration admitting her guilt. From the time of her arrest, she was held in pretrial detention.

In December 2016, UN Human Rights approached the judge in her case and shared international standards

on the right to freedom and not to be tortured. These standards were integrated into the judicial file and were used as the basis for the ruling that was issued, in August 2017, which acquitted her of the charges as a result of violations of her right to due process, in particular her illegal detention and torture. The Office also worked with the NGO which provided her with legal assistance and other civil society organizations to highlight this case as part of a nationwide campaign on the eradication of sexual torture in Mexico.

Although Marisol has been acquitted of all of the charges, she is now facing the emotional and physical scars of the torture and the more than five years that she spent in detention without cause. While seeking justice and reparations for the violations committed against her, Marisol has been vocal about her case and has publicly spoken out about what she endured in order to raise awareness about the use of sexual torture, especially against women, as a method of investigation.

Yaqui communities in Sonora affected by megaprojects, indigenous communities in the state of Mexico affected by highway construction, communities in Oaxaca affected by industrial-scale construction of wind turbines, communities in Yucatan affected by massive solar energy projects). OHCHR has accompanied the communities in the consultation processes, provided training to public authorities and organized seminars on the subject, with the aim of developing good practices before actual legislation is proposed. Furthermore, the outcomes of the 2016 visit of the Working Group on Business and Human Rights, published in 2017, and of the 2017 visit of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, have been highly relevant in terms of guidance.

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

During the reporting period, 30 per cent of the cases of violations of economic, social and cultural rights that were documented by the Office received a positive response from relevant authorities. OHCHR has documented many cases related to the right to water, environmental rights and business and human rights and shared its findings with all of the relevant stakeholders involved, including representatives of the Government, civil society organizations and private companies.

Widening the democratic space

- *By the end of 2017, federal or local legislation will be adopted in compliance with international human rights standards in order to safeguard the exercise of freedom of expression (EA 1)*

Mexico is one of the most dangerous countries in the world for journalists and human rights defenders (with at least 12 journalists assassinated in 2017). OHCHR has worked with the National Protection Mechanism for Human Rights Defenders and Journalists to ensure that adequate protection measures are in place for persons at risk. Also, the 2017 visit of the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders and the subsequent joint visit of the Special Rapporteurs on freedom of expression of the UN and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights provided strong messages to the authorities to address the structural causes of risk, particularly the prevalent impunity. Moreover, OHCHR has consistently advocated for the derogation of crimes that restrict freedom of expression on the level of individual states and for the regulation of official advertising, both on federal and on state level. In addition, three Mexican states (Baja California, Tlaxcala and Tabasco) derogated so-called honour crimes in their



OHCHR staff members engage with local communities in Sierra Norte, Puebla, to understand their human rights concerns.
© OHCHR/Mexico

legislation. OHCHR undertook several missions to lobby state congresses to encourage such amendments. OHCHR also identified that 26 states in Mexico regulate the crime of insults against authorities in different ways, thereby having a potentially negative impact on freedom of expression. In 2017, the Supreme Court established that the crime of insults against the authorities contravenes the Constitution.

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

- *Legislation adopted on the use of force, military jurisdiction, victims' rights and asylum-seekers is in line with international human rights standards (EA 1)*
- Following the 2014 amendment to the Military Justice Code, all human rights violations against civilians allegedly perpetrated by military personnel were removed from military jurisdiction, although violations committed against military personnel by military personnel remained under military jurisdiction. Furthermore, the fast-track adoption of a controversial Law on Internal Security, in December 2017, was challenged by OHCHR as it provides sweeping authorization of the role of the armed forces in law enforcement, which had been going on de facto since 2006, and because in doing so it does not create adequate safeguards. OHCHR's arguments were widely publicized, and although they did not prevent the adoption of the Law, they were echoed by a number of other actors, including the National Human Rights Institution and a representative group of members of Congress who are challenging the Law before the Supreme Court as unconstitutional. The outcome of the constitutionality review is still pending. With regard to legislation on the use of force, a law that was approved by the State of Mexico was challenged before the Supreme Court, with OHCHR inputs, in order to align the legislation with international standards. In 2017, the Supreme Court issued a resolution which declared several sections of the law to be unconstitutional.

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

In 2015, the Constitution was amended to enable the Congress to enact a general law on enforced disappearances. The adoption process lasted approximately two years. During that time, OHCHR was in regular communication with the Executive Branch and the Congress to advocate for the approval of a bill that incorporated provisions on the rights of victims, in accordance with international standards. The Office further supported victims' organizations in their advocacy activities. In November 2017, the Law on Enforced Disappearances Committed by Private Persons entered into force and many of OHCHR's recommendations were incorporated, notably the recommendation to establish a mechanism to search for disappeared persons. Moreover, OHCHR has supported the establishment of the Specialized Office on Disappeared Persons in the state of Jalisco. As a result of OHCHR's training activities, 160 police officers and prosecutors in Jalisco increased their knowledge about human rights, including the norms and standards relating to enforced disappearances, as well as investigation methodologies, women's rights and gender perspectives. OHCHR further engaged with families of disappeared persons in several states to strengthen their advocacy capacities and knowledge of international human rights standards and support them in meetings with local and federal authorities. For example, OHCHR accompanied victims of disappeared persons in their meetings with local and federal authorities in Veracruz and Tamaulipas and drew the attention of the authorities to the key role of victims in the search and investigation activities being developed.

Mexico: Expenditure in 2017		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	1,744,140
Activities and operating costs	-	417,447
Subtotal	-	2,161,587
Programme support costs	-	281,006
GRAND TOTAL	-	2,442,593

Regional Offices

Regional Office for Central America (Panama City, Panama)

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2017	10
Expenditure in 2017	US\$1,269,342

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

► *Increased ratification of international human rights instruments, especially CPED and the OPs to CRC (3rd) and ICESCR and increased number of declarations under article 14 of ICERD (EA 2)*

Several countries made tangible progress in the ratification of core human rights treaties, as a result of voluntary commitments made in the context of their Universal Periodic Reviews and technical assistance provided by OHCHR. During the period from 2014 to 2017, eight new ratifications were deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, including the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict by El Salvador, in 2015, and Panama, in 2017. The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure was ratified by Costa Rica, in 2014, El Salvador, in 2015, and Panama, in 2017. Also in 2015, Belize ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol on the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

► *Establish fully functioning participatory standing national coordinating bodies in some of the countries covered by the Regional Office and strengthening the existing ones in Costa Rica and Panama to report on/reply to individual communications and enquiries; Integrated follow-up to recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms (EA 6)*

In Belize, the Government maintained the existing ad hoc collaboration between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the other line ministries to follow up on recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. In Costa Rica, OHCHR supported the inter-institutional mechanism for reporting and follow-up by developing a matrix with recommendations received from the international human

rights mechanisms. During the second review of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), El Salvador committed to establishing a coordinating body for reporting and follow-up, which has not yet been created. In Panama, OHCHR provided support to the existing inter-institutional mechanism with emphasis on bringing up to date their reporting obligations to the treaty bodies, with the submission of reports to CRC and CAT, and strengthening of the capacity to coordinate with civil society actors.

► *Increased number of civil society organizations, NHRIs and UN entities making substantial submissions to the international human rights mechanisms (EA 7)*

In Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama, UPR submissions were prepared by several stakeholders as a result of OHCHR briefings, trainings and advocacy. In El Salvador, four of the 12 NGO submissions were from NGOs that attended an OHCHR training workshop. A specific training for representatives of indigenous traditional authorities in Panama resulted in several individual and joint submissions to the international human rights mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples. Several reports were also submitted by civil society organizations from Nicaragua prior to the review of the country's initial report by the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

► *Public policies, legislative frameworks and practices in the area of non-discrimination (racial discrimination, gender equality) are in compliance with international human rights standards (EA 4)*

In December 2016, Panama adopted the Law to establish the National Secretariat for the Development

of Afro-Panamanians, which is tasked with designing and implementing initiatives to achieve the full inclusion of Afrodescendants in Panamanian society. Within the context of the International Decade of African Descent, OHCHR published its Guidelines to elaborate reports on racial profiling, in 2015. The Guidelines represent an important tool to promote the elaboration of thematic reports and studies on racial profiling cases and to demonstrate and document the racial profiling that is carried out by the security forces against the Afrodescendant population. The newly created National Secretariat for the Development of Afro-Panamanians has shown an interest in conducting the study, which is planned for 2018.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

► *Judicial operators increasingly apply international and regional human rights standards in their work regarding women's rights and the rights of indigenous peoples, anti-discrimination, the rule of law and impunity (EA 1)*

During the reporting cycle, the technical assistance provided by OHCHR to institutionalize training of trainers courses on human rights at the Judicial and Public Prosecutor's Academies in Costa Rica, El Salvador and Panama contributed to significantly strengthening the capacity of the judicial sector. Furthermore, in El Salvador, OHCHR promoted the discussion on impunity and transitional justice through the organization of high-level meetings and tailored trainings addressed to prosecutors. In March, OHCHR organized a high-level forum, entitled "Impunity, past and present," with the goal of sharing good practices and lessons learned in the region on addressing impunity in relation to past violations of human rights. The Of-



Indigenous communities in Costa Rica voting for the approval of a protocol on prior consultation. © Roberto Carlos Sánchez/Casa Presidencial Costa Rica



The High Commissioner meets with the Ombudswoman during his visit to El Salvador, November 2017. © OHCHR/Central America

fice also organized a second high-level public forum under the title “Why transitional justice?” The event was attended by more than 130 participants, including members of the judiciary, representatives of the diplomatic community, UN agencies, academics, civil society organizations and journalists.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *Increased number of consultation processes between States and indigenous peoples in order to obtain the latter’s free, prior and informed consent in line with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EA 5)*

Progress in the establishment of consultation processes between indigenous peoples and authorities is uneven among countries of the region. In Costa Rica, the creation of a consultation mechanism was initiated in 2016 and included the participation of the eight ethnic groups from 24 indigenous territories across the country. In 2017, after more than 120 meetings and activities throughout the country, a national meeting was held, in May, during which 96 indigenous delegates from the 24 indigenous territories met with representatives from the Government, the national human rights institution and UN agencies. At the meeting, a draft proposal was discussed and indigenous delegates requested additional time to revise a final proposal regarding the consultation mechanism within their respective territories. Consequently, the Government undertook a new cycle of consultations within each territory to clarify doubts and collect more inputs for the draft proposal. In 2018, the Government will hold a second national meeting in order to conclude the process.

In Panama, the indigenous round-table, established in 2012, continued meeting to discuss the ratification of ILO Convention No. 169 and the adoption of the National Development Plan for Indigenous Peoples. The ratification of ILO Convention No. 169

is still under discussion while the implementation of the National Development Plan began in 2017 after concrete actions were included in the annual plans of relevant public institutions. Furthermore, OHCHR facilitated the dialogue between the Government and indigenous authorities from the Comarca Ngäbe-Bugle region to guarantee the participation of indigenous peoples in the decision-making process related to the exploitation of natural resources in the Barro Blanco hydroelectric project. The dialogue contributed to ending violent confrontations between indigenous peoples and security forces and led to a negotiated agreement between indigenous authorities and the Government. The draft agreement included compensation for the communities affected by the project as well as measures to reduce its social, economic, cultural and environmental impact. Nonetheless, the General Congress of the Comarca Ngäbe-Bugle rejected the agreement and no further progress has been achieved since that time.

Over the last four years, OHCHR continued to work with State institutions and indigenous peoples to promote their dialogue on issues such as land tenure, consent, self-determination and self-governance. Through its work, OHCHR aimed to assist States in putting in place the necessary conditions to initiate consultation processes, upon their request, enhance the negotiating skills of the representatives of indigenous peoples, and liaise with extractive companies to ensure the adoption of policies and practices that are respectful of the rights of indigenous peoples.

- *UNDG LAC integrates a human rights-based approach in its support to countries in the context of the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda and implements the Human Rights up Front Action Plan (EA 11)*

With the support of a regional human rights adviser, between 2014 and 2016, OHCHR actively participated in meetings of United Nations Country Teams

The Central American migration route: The fate of migrants

In February 2001, two major earthquakes struck El Salvador, destroying more than 100,000 houses and taking the lives of nearly 1,000 people. Immediately after the earthquake, Luis' older brother, "Calin" (24), made a difficult decision to leave his family behind and begin a journey to the United States in search of better opportunities for himself and his family and in order to secure the means to rebuild the house they had lost.

After promising his 21-year-old brother that he would send for him after a year, Calin left his home on a breezy morning, riding on the steps of a bus heading to Guatemala with a small bag and a heart full of hope. He travelled the 425 kilometres from San Salvador (El Salvador) to Tecun Uman, situated on the Guatemala-Mexico border, to join a group of migrants that was led by a "coyote" (smuggler of migrants), to whom they entrusted their lives. Upon his arrival, Calin rushed off of the bus to phone his mother and tell her that he would cross the border that very night. "She was devastated," Luis later recounted. "She prayed that he would change his mind and return home...That was the last we heard from him."

Seventeen years have passed since that phone call and Luis still feels that Calin just left home. "My father, my mother and my grandmother have all passed away hoping to see my brother's face one last time. I witnessed their suffering and despair from not knowing if my brother was even alive," remembered Luis. "This indescribable feeling of uncertainty forced me to step up and take action, together with a promise to my family that I will find him and bring him home."

Luis Alberto López is one of the leaders of the Committee of Families of Deceased and Disappeared Migrants of El Salvador (COFAMIDE), an NGO created in 2006 by a group of families with the sole purpose of finding and

returning the relatives they have lost along the migration route from Central America to the United States.

COFAMIDE, along with similar organizations in the region, organize search tours, provide psychological counselling and legal support to the families and create local and regional actions to advocate for stronger commitments from the involved States to facilitate the search and identification of deceased and disappeared migrants along the migration route. The work of these organizations has resulted in their identification of an alarming list of obstacles, ranging from government bureaucracy to a lack of political will and commitments from the States to guarantee appropriate forensic investigations and stronger legal frameworks to enable better search mechanisms.

The story of Luis' brother and the efforts undertaken by organizations such as COFAMIDE, is just one example of the countless stories encountered by a joint mission organized by the UN Human Rights Regional Office for Central America, the country offices of Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico and the headquarters in Geneva to assess the human rights situation of migrants, their families left behind and the challenges that they face once they are forcibly returned to their countries.

The 17-day joint mission that toured El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and the border with the United States collected a vast amount of data from government authorities, local NGOs, international organizations, the United Nations System, families of migrants, shelters and migrants. This data will be used to design a regional action plan aimed at guaranteeing that the human rights of migrants and their families are respected and protected from the moment they leave their homes until they reach their destination, including if they are returned. The action plan will be drafted in 2018 for its subsequent implementation across the region.

(UNCT) in Central America and contributed technical advice, trainings and the dissemination of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms to the mainstreaming of human rights into UN development programmes. By delivering targeted trainings on a human rights-based approach for UNCT members and being actively engaged in the preparation of programming documents, such as road maps, common country assessments (CCAs) and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), OHCHR ensured that human rights were mainstreamed. Following the adoption of the Secretary-General's Human Rights up Front Action Plan, OHCHR supported the implementation of

the Action Plan in the region in order to strengthen the ability of UN agencies to prevent and respond to human rights violations and crises. In this context, the Office reviewed the contents of the online human rights course for UN staff and provided relevant examples from the region to illustrate good practices on human rights protection. The Office also ensured the translation of the course into Spanish. The Office played an active role in a number of UN regional working groups, including the Regional Human Rights Group, the Regional Inter-Agency Group on Indigenous Peoples and the Inter-Agency Regional Group for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, through which it pursued efforts to main-

stream human rights into the regional and national programmes and activities of other UN agencies.

Widening the democratic space

► *National human rights institutions established and functioning in accordance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)*

In 2017, the 'A' status of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama was reviewed and confirmed by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). OHCHR continued supporting NHRIs of the region to implement their mandates in accordance with the Paris Principles through a number of activities. For instance, in 2016 and 2017, the Office supported the meetings of the network of Central American Ombudsperson Offices in the region, during which NHRIs discussed their work on monitoring and actions with regard to the situation of migrants and the protection needs of human rights defenders in the region. The Office also supported the work of the NHRI in Costa Rica on issues related to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons and of the NHRI in Panama on its engagement with the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders and civil society actors with regard to practices on the protection of human rights defenders in the region.

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

The protection of human rights defenders was identified as a thematic priority for the joint work of OHCHR and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). In December 2016, in the framework of the IACHR 159th regular session, OHCHR organized a working session and a public event with the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders and the IACHR Commissioner on Human Rights Defenders. The forum sought to examine the situation of human rights defenders in the region and analyse measures required to protect them. Participants included high-level officials from American countries, civil society organizations and Ombudspersons from Central America.

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

► *Measures taken to combat gender-based violence, in particular through the use of the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women (EA 1)*

OHCHR, together with UN Women, developed the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women, which was released in 2014. The Model Protocol has been recognized as a valuable tool for strengthening the capacities of judi-

cial operators tackling the investigation, prosecution and judgment of gender-related crimes. The Model Protocol was presented at a number of regional and international events and has been applied in some countries in Latin America. The Public Prosecutor's Office of Panama adopted the Model Protocol and it has been included in the curricula of the Attorney General Office's Training School. Similarly, in Argentina, the Protocol was endorsed by the Attorney General's Office of La Pampa province. Following requests by different Attorney Generals in the region, OHCHR provided advice for the implementation of the Model Protocol as a tool to guide the action of prosecutors in their criminal investigations at the national level. OHCHR also developed an online self-training course on the Model Protocol directed at relevant judicial officials and has promoted its use in countries throughout Latin America. In 2017, the online course was administered to 72 judges, public prosecutors and police officers in Argentina. The virtual course was also implemented in Central American countries and reached almost 200 judicial officials and other key actors dealing with the investigation of femicide cases. Furthermore, the first official visit by the High Commissioner to El Salvador raised the need to combat violence against women, and in particular around the need to establish a moratorium on the criminalization of women for obstetric emergencies.

► *A human rights-based approach is increasingly incorporated into the implementation of the Central American Security Strategy at both regional and national levels (EA 11)*

In the area of citizen security, the Regional Office reinstituted its cooperation with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Central American Integration System (SICA) and provided capacity-building and technical assistance to public forces in El Salvador and Panama. In cooperation with the IACHR, OHCHR followed up on the implementation of the recommendations related to the modernization of police forces, as outlined in the IACHR *Report on Citizen Security and Human Rights*. With the support of OHCHR, the report was published in 2009. Six years later, in 2015, a regional consultation was held in Panama, with the participation of approximately 40 experts from Central and South America, to analyse the status of police reform. The Directorate of Security of SICA's General Secretariat actively participated in the event, which opened avenues of collaboration for OHCHR. In El Salvador, in 2017, OHCHR held a training workshop for police forces on the human rights standards that are applicable to policing. Moreover, during his official visit to El Salvador, the High Commissioner raised concerns around the implementation of security policies in the country and its negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights.

Regional Office for Central America (Panama City, Panama): Expenditure in 2017

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	770,226	213,955
Activities and operating costs	182,636	66,116
Subtotal	952,862	280,070
Programme support costs	-	36,409
GRAND TOTAL	952,862	316,480

Regional Office for South America (Santiago, Chile)

Year established	2009
Staff as of 31 December 2017	9
Expenditure in 2017	US\$1,355,982

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *At least one international human rights treaty and five optional protocols are ratified (EA 2)*
OHCHR used every available opportunity to advocate with governments for the ratification of optional protocols. For example, the Office held a number of trainings for civil society organizations regarding the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure. High-level discussions were also organized on the ratification of the instrument in Argentina, Chile and Peru. The Optional Protocol was ratified by Argentina in 2014, and in 2015, by Chile, Peru and Uruguay.
- ▶ *Improved timely submission of national reports to the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR in compliance with the reporting guidelines (EA 6)*
Since 2014, OHCHR has strongly promoted the establishment of permanent national mechanisms for reporting to the international human rights mechanisms and monitoring the implementation of their recommendations. In this regard, regional workshops were held in Argentina, Brazil and Peru to exchange good practices in this area, which contributed to strengthening such mechanisms in a number of countries in the region. The Office also advised on the development of databases for following up on recommendations in Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay. OHCHR provided technical support to States in the preparation of their reports to the hu-

man rights treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and for engaging with civil society on these processes.

- ▶ *CSOs and NHRIs, when applicable, make substantive submissions to the human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay (EA 7)*

The Office worked to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay regarding the use of international human rights mechanisms through a large number of workshops and trainings on how to effectively engage with these mechanisms and develop strategies to follow-up on the implementation of recommendations. In Ecuador, OHCHR's efforts led to 13 submissions to the UPR by local civil society organizations. Similar results were seen in Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay in relation to other international human rights mechanisms.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

The establishment of National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) has been key to reporting serious human rights violations against persons who have been deprived of their liberty. In recent years, the Office has significantly invested in ensuring that such mechanisms are created and have the adequate resources and independence to implement their mandates. Results in the region have been uneven, as most of the NPMs have been situated within national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and lack the adequate resources and political weight to work alongside authorities to improve detention condi-



Indigenous representative presents his concerns to the High Commissioner during his visit to Peru, October 2017.
© OHCHR/South America



The High Commissioner talks to participants in a meeting where OHCHR and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights launched a joint action plan on the protection of human rights defenders, October 2017. © OHCHR/South America

tions and rehabilitation measures. In Chile, the Office participated in several meetings with authorities to advocate for the adoption of the law that establishes the NPM. To date, however, the NPM does not have a robust legal framework or the necessary financial resources to implement its mandate. In Peru, the Regional Office promoted the adoption of a law designating the NHRI as the NPM through workshops and various high-level meetings. In Argentina and Brazil, the Office assisted with the institutionalization of the National and Local Mechanisms for Preventing and Combating Torture to function in compliance with international human rights standards. The Office also advocated for torture to be typified as a crime in accordance with the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Almost all of the countries in the region now have relevant legislation.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Constitutions, laws and policies increasingly protect human rights, especially land and housing rights, with particular attention paid to non-discrimination and gender equality, in the context of development and the exploitation of natural resources (EA 1)*
In 2017, with the support of OHCHR, the Government of Chile developed and launched a National Plan

on Business and Human Rights. In Peru, the Office trained the staff and commissioners of the NHRI on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, resulting in the adoption of a strategy for the monitoring of cases of human rights violations in the context of business activities. In collaboration with the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, the Office organized regional consultations on business and human rights in the framework of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. This contributed to the identification of gaps and a discussion on the development of a road map to facilitate implementation of the Guiding Principles in the region.

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

United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) in the region have generally demonstrated a strong commitment to support the promotion and protection of human rights through their programmes, in close cooperation with the Office. While providing advice and technical cooperation, OHCHR has promoted the inclusion of a human rights-based approach and recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms into the UNCT's planning documents. In 2017, the Office developed a matrix linking the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

its targets and indicators with the recommendations issued by the UPR, special procedures and human rights treaty bodies in relation to the countries of the region and shared it with UNCTs. As a result, the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks 2017-2021 of Brazil and Peru incorporate a matrix that matches each strategic outcome of the plan with relevant SDGs and recommendations emanating from the international human rights mechanisms.

Widening the democratic space

- *Civil society, in particular youth and women, increasingly advocate for and claim their rights; and protect themselves more effectively from reprisals (EA 5)*

In view of the increasing number of reported killings and threats against human rights defenders in the region, the Office continuously advocated with States and supported civil society organization initiatives to promote the establishment of NPMs for human rights defenders. In relation to national initiatives, Peru drafted a National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, which includes human rights defenders as one of the priority thematic areas.

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

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

OHCHR carried out a number of missions to Brazil to meet with relevant authorities and shared an analysis of legislative and policy initiatives on security issues that could have a negative impact on human rights, including the use of force by the police. Unfortunately, such efforts have not resulted in new or improved legislation or changes to the behaviour of police forces. In Peru, following the adoption of Legislative Decree 1186/2015 on the use of force by law enforcement agencies, OHCHR organized a series of activities to support the preparation of the regulation of this Decree, which was adopted in 2016. Furthermore, while laws and policies regulating freedom of assembly have become stricter during the reporting period, the Office's work with civil society organizations contributed to their increased aware-

ness about human rights standards and corresponding State obligations.

- *Legal frameworks, public policies and institutions are in place and functioning to combat all forms of human exploitation, including trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence (EA 1)*

In Chile, OHCHR provided inputs to the draft law on violence against women. In relation to the adoption of legislation decriminalizing abortion under specific circumstances, the Office cooperated with UNFPA and WHO to promote several meetings with national stakeholders, including civil society organizations, the NHRI, parliamentarians and government officials to discuss the contents of the law. In Uruguay, a new bill on human trafficking and exploitation is currently under discussion in the Parliament, which would provide comprehensive rights to victims, including specialized services. The draft legislation includes all of the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms and guiding principles on the protection of trafficked persons. The Regional Office collaborated with IOM in commenting on a preliminary draft of the law, in line with the recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms.

The Regional Office also promoted and supported the national adaptation of the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women. Brazil was the first country in the region to adapt the Model Protocol, following efforts led by UN Women and the Regional Office. OHCHR is supporting the adaptation of the Protocol in Argentina, jointly with UN Women, at the request of the Prosecutor's Office.

Regional Office for South America (Santiago, Chile): Expenditure in 2017

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	699,322	302,411
Activities and operating costs	176,384	122,611
Subtotal	875,707	425,022
Programme support costs	-	55,253
GRAND TOTAL	875,707	480,275

Human Rights Component in a UN Peace Mission

United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH)

Year established	2004 (as MINUSTAH; as MINUJUSTH since 2017)
Staff as of 31 December 2017	21

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

While Haiti improved its reporting to the human rights treaty bodies, no progress was achieved in the preparation of a national plan of action to implement the recommendations accepted by the Government following the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), in March 2017, and recommendations from the Independent Expert on Haiti and the human rights treaty bodies. The Human Rights Services (HRS) of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) provided technical assistance to State authorities and civil society organizations for the implementation of the recommendations emanating from the first cycle of the UPR, which primarily focused on strengthening the Haitian national police and reform of the justice system. At the same time, the HRS continued to advocate with national authorities for the development of an action plan.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

The Haitian Senate passed a draft law that discriminates lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in the work place and public offices and another draft law to prohibit advocacy for the rights of same sex couples. Neither of the two drafts were submitted to the Lower Chamber for ratification. The HRS consistently advocated for the approval of non-discriminatory laws and worked with national partners to this end.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *International community raises key rule of law-related human rights concerns in a cohesive fashion (EA 10)*

A wide range of human rights issues were brought to the attention of the diplomatic community by the HRS through regular meetings, including on human rights and elections, access to justice, the rights of migrants and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. In November 2017, the HRS briefed the diplomatic corps on the situation of the national human rights institution (NHRI), including on the appointment of the new Ombudsperson and the upcoming review by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *The ISF or UNDAF fully integrates human rights standards and principles (EA 11)*

In December 2017, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the Haitian Government signed the joint Action Plan for the period 2017-2021. The Action Plan integrated human rights concepts and approaches to a significant extent and established indicators to measure the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The HRS participated in regular meetings within the UNCT to ensure the integration of human rights standards into relevant planning documents and related activities. It also participated in regular Humanitarian Country Team meetings and activities, to ensure the mainstreaming of human rights into the Humanitarian Action Plan.

Widening the democratic space

- *Appointment of an independent and qualified Protector and establishment of a functional and independent "Protecteur du Citoyen" (EA 1)*

Following the termination of the Ombudsperson's seven-year mandate in October 2016, the Parliament launched a public call for candidates, in February, and a new Ombudsperson (the Protector) was appointed in October after a protracted and controversial process. The HRS supported the NHRI in order to contribute to a sustainable national protection framework, met with the new Protector and shared recommendations focused on maintaining the 'A' status of the NHRI. The review of the status of the NHRI by the Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions, initially scheduled for early 2018, was postponed to 2019 to have more time to assess the performance of the new leadership.

Human Rights Advisers in UN Country Teams

Dominican Republic⁸

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2017	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *By the end of the reporting period, the Dominican Republic has a National Human Rights Action Plan as well as a permanent, participatory and strengthened human rights mechanism within the Executive to effectively engage with international human rights mechanisms, including by fulfilling reporting obligations, as well as follow-up and implementation of their recommendations (EA 6)*

The dialogue between State institutions and civil society organizations regarding the development of the National Human Rights Action Plan has been stalled since December 2016. OHCHR provided assistance to facilitate the approval of the Plan and coordinated advocacy activities with civil society organizations. In terms of the follow-up to recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched a web-based tool to facilitate the monitoring of their implementation, representing the first tool of its kind in the Caribbean. The system was developed and implemented with the cooperation of the Government of Paraguay, which shared its expertise on the development of a similar tool (SI-MORE), and technical advice provided by OHCHR. The system will also facilitate the elaboration of periodic reports to the UN human rights mechanisms and allow civil society and human rights organizations to monitor the actions undertaken by the Government to comply with its international obligations.

- *Increased number of submissions by civil society organizations, NHRI and UN entities to international human rights mechanisms (EA 7)*

During the reporting period, the country's human rights performance was reviewed by different human rights treaty bodies, such as the Human Rights Committee (2017), the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2016), the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (2015), the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2015) and the

Universal Periodic Review (2014). Civil society organizations submitted alternative reports to some of these bodies, with technical support from OHCHR.

- *Recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms have been integrated by the UNCT into at least three of its programmes (EA 11)*
The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) roll-out process was used as an opportunity to integrate recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms into the new planning cycle 2018-2022. In particular, recommendations made by the CRC, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Human Rights Committee were fully integrated into the new UNDAF. OHCHR advocated for the integration of recommendations of the international human rights bodies into the UNDAF and other programmes and facilitated training for the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) on the human rights-based approach.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *Human rights standards and principles are increasingly integrated into CCAs/UNDAFs/CAPs and the work of UN agencies (EA 11)*

As co-leader of one of the UNDAF strategic areas (Institutional strengthening and human rights), OHCHR provided training and continuous advice and support to both the UNCT and the Government to ensure that a human rights-based approach is integrated into the UNDAF and other programmes. As a result, the UNDAF 2018-2022 is a rights-based document that is closely aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Widening the democratic space

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

The national human rights institution (NHRI) was created in 2001 but it was only formally established in 2013. OHCHR provided technical cooperation and capacity-building activities to increase the NHRI's capacity to promote and protect human rights, in compliance with the Paris Principles. For instance, an independent assessment was initiated in March 2017 and will be finalized in 2018 to analyse the gaps in the NHRI's structure, legal framework and working methods. During a workshop that was held to launch the assessment, a set of preliminary recommendations were shared and discussed with the NHRI. In addition, a number of positive changes have been noted, particularly in the areas of human rights protection and education. A second workshop was held, in December, which focused on the accreditation process with the Global Alliance of

⁸ Deployed through the UNDG Strategy for the Deployment of Human Rights Advisers.

National Human Rights Institutions. The NHRI is expected to submit a formal request for certification in 2018. In June 2017, a draft bill was presented to the Congress to revise the law that established the NHRI and it is anticipated that it will be discussed in 2018. OHCHR provided inputs to the draft.

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

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

The Law of the National Police was approved in 2016. As recommended by OHCHR, the Law includes provisions for the establishment of both internal and external oversight mechanisms to investigate allegations of abuse and human rights violations committed by members of the National Police.

Jamaica⁹

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2017	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

Limited progress has been achieved in terms of Jamaica's reporting as its ad hoc Inter-ministerial Committee on Human Rights, which was created in 2012 to report to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the Human Rights Committee, has not been converted into a standing entity. In 2017, OHCHR took steps to support the Government in establishing a database to monitor the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. Limited progress was also made in this respect.

- *Positive response to special procedures mandate-holders requests to visit the country (EA 6)*
Over the past four years, the Government failed to issue a standing invitation to the special procedures and decided to only accept visit requests from international experts on a case-by-case basis. Although Jamaica approved a visit of the Working Group on



Participants of a six month training course on international human rights standards, in Jamaica, receive their certificates.

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People of African Descent in 2016, no dates have been agreed upon.

Enhanced equality and countering discrimination

- *A human rights-based approach is incorporated into the National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS (EA 4)*
Jamaica's National Family Planning Board produced policy briefs on Recommendations to address discrimination based on health status with a particular focus on HIV and HIV-sensitive social protection, which will be used in their advocacy efforts with the Parliament and government entities. In 2016, OHCHR was asked by the National Family Planning Board to be a member of its Legal and Policy Review Committee and participated in the drafting and review of the two policy briefs. The Office provided substantive inputs on applicable human rights standards.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

Six Caribbean United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) agreed on a Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF), which was signed by Jamaica in 2016. The MSDF integrates a human rights perspective and a monitoring and evaluation framework with human rights indicators. In the case of Jamaica, an overview of recommendations that were issued by the UPR and the human rights treaty bodies under all four MSDF outcomes was also integrated. The MSDF was drafted during four regional UN working groups in accordance with the four outcome areas. OHCHR participated in each of the working groups by contributing human rights information and reviewing the different drafts of the document.

Widening the democratic space

- *The Government and the Office of the Public Defender, in consultation with civil society stakeholders, implement the road map for the establishment*

⁹ Deployed through the UNDG Strategy for the Deployment of Human Rights Advisers.

of a NHRI that is compliant with the Paris Principles (EA 1)

During the year, OHCHR supported the development of a proposed structure for the conversion of the Office of the Public Defender into a national human rights institution (NHRI), in full compliance with the Paris Principles. The proposal was shared with the Cabinet and the Ministry of Justice. OHCHR provided detailed information on the structures of various NHRIs and comparative analyses on related legislation. The Office also worked with civil society partners to strengthen their advocacy for the creation of a NHRI and assisted them in their submissions to the Public Defender and the Ministry.

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

► *National Strategic Action Plan for Ending Gender-Based Violence is implemented (EA 1)*

In December, the national Strategic Action Plan for Ending Gender-Based Violence was launched. The Action Plan integrates a human rights perspective into its narrative part and throughout its monitoring and evaluation framework. It also includes an annex of relevant recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR in relation to Jamaica. OHCHR, together with UNDP, provided assistance in reorganizing the monitoring and evaluation framework to reflect a results-oriented matrix that addresses the capacity gaps of duty-bearers and rights-holders in the prevention of gender-based violence and in the protection of victims, investigations, prosecutions, enforcement, data collection and co-ordination. Most of the indicators recommended by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women were integrated into the framework.

► *Commission of inquiry is established and functions in line with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

The West Kingston Commission of Inquiry was active between 2014 and 2016. In June 2016, it presented its report to the Governor General of Jamaica. The Commission was established following the recommendation of the Public Defender in his report on the 2010 events in Tivoli Gardens, a garrison neighbourhood in West Kingston, where more than 60 individuals were killed by security forces in an attempt to detain a known criminal gang leader for his extradition to the United States. The UN in Jamaica offered its support to the Government and the Commission on a wide range of matters, including logistics, but the Government only requested assistance and support in the funding of services for victims and the community of Tivoli Gardens, which UNDP implemented. OHCHR held several informal meetings with Commissioners to provide information about international legal standards related to transitional

justice and victim support as well as the experiences of similar commissions in investigating human rights violations and follow-up on recommendations. In parallel, OHCHR cooperated with the Independent Commission of Investigation on the organization of a Regional Use of Force Conference in 2017, which included the participation of police oversight entities from 12 Caribbean countries, and was aimed at developing a regional policy model on the use of force. In December, the Independent Commission prepared a draft that will be shared with the participating oversight entities for approval by relevant government entities.

Paraguay

Year established	2010
Staff as of 31 December 2017	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

► *Increased compliance and engagement of the State in the follow-up to international recommendations (EA 6)*

In 2014, the Government of Paraguay launched SIMORE, an online database for following up on the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. It is also accessible to the wider public, thereby contributing to increased transparency and accountability. Developed with the technical support of OHCHR, SIMORE has been used to facilitate the development of State reports to the international human rights mechanisms, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). In December 2017, a revised version of the tool (SIMORE Plus) was launched, which enables users to link and monitor the implementation of the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms with the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and Paraguay's achievement of those Goals.

► *Increased number of rights-holders and civil society actors acting on their behalf making use of the special procedures and the UPR (EA 7)*

With the technical support of OHCHR, civil society organizations submitted approximately 20 reports in anticipation of Paraguay's second cycle of the UPR. NGOs also submitted eight shadow reports to the human rights treaty bodies and 25 communications to the special procedures. During the reporting period, OHCHR trained NGOs on the reporting guidelines of the international human rights mechanisms



Workshop for the development of human rights indicators in relation to Paraguay's National Plan of Action on the Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities. © OHCHR/Paraguay

and promoted their engagement with the special rapporteurs on mission to Paraguay.

- ▶ *Enhanced systematic engagement by the UNCT with international human rights mechanisms (EA 11)* With OHCHR's technical assistance, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) submitted reports to the human rights treaty bodies, to the UPR and addressed the special procedures on several occasions. During the past four years, OHCHR undertook advocacy and provided assistance to the UNCT through trainings and the sharing of relevant documents and reports, which enhanced its capacity to promote human rights and integrate a human rights-based approach. Moreover, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2015-2019, which the UNCT designed with OHCHR's support, was structured in areas related to civil and political rights; economic, social and cultural rights; and environmental rights, all of which included relevant human rights indicators.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *Legislation and policies against all forms of discrimination increasingly comply with international standards, particularly in relation to women, LGBTI persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples (EA 4)*

In line with various recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies, the Congress adopted a comprehensive law protecting women against all forms of violence, including femicide, in 2016. OHCHR supported the development of the Law through a series of actions and activities, including the dissemination of the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women. Despite several recommendations is-

sued by the international human rights mechanisms, the Bill to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination, intended to regulate article 46 of the National Constitution (which establishes the principles of equality and non-discrimination), has not yet been approved. The discussions for a friendly settlement agreement between the Paraguayan State and the Ayoreo Tobitiegosode People began in February 2017, within the framework of their petition to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Specifically, the indigenous community is calling for their ancestral rights to be returned, for the establishment of health and education programmes and the protection and promotion of other human rights. In November, the Government initiated discussions on a draft agreement. OHCHR participated in this process as an observer and facilitator until November 2017.

- ▶ *Civil society supports participatory mechanisms to enhance equality and counter discrimination, particularly against indigenous peoples, women, persons with disabilities and LGBTI persons (EA 5)* Throughout the reporting cycle, OHCHR carried out various activities to strengthen the capacities of civil society actors and empower them to participate in public processes that affected their rights. For example, a series of workshops on rights-based communication were held to enhance the advocacy skills of organizations and ensure inclusive communication without discrimination. The capacity of persons with disabilities was also strengthened, through a series of trainings and workshops, leading to the development by NGOs of a draft law for the establishment of a National Independent Mechanism for the Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Furthermore, in 2016, OHCHR organized the first seminar for human rights defenders to strengthen the coordination and

protection capacities of more than 200 defenders from diverse sectors. The Office also promoted a human rights culture across the country through a number of campaigns, including art, film and photography contests.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *The national justice system, particularly the Supreme Court of Justice, increasingly applies international human rights norms and standards, especially in relation to torture and ill-treatment and the deprivation of liberty (EA 1)*

OHCHR provided trainings on the rights of persons with disabilities and the prevention of torture. As a result, the capacity of approximately 150 judges and staff of the judiciary to implement Paraguay's commitments in relation to the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms was improved. Their capacity to combat violence against women was also enhanced, particularly regarding the investigation of cases of gender-based violence, through targeted training and dissemination of the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women.

- *Functioning protection and accountability mechanisms to prevent and monitor the investigation of allegations of torture and ill-treatment and violations of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty (EA 3)*

In 2015, OHCHR worked with the National Preventive Mechanism to raise awareness about the follow-up to international recommendations related to the protection of victims of torture. This cooperation included the presentation of a joint publication on the realities of confinement in Paraguay, which provided an assessment on the abusive use of preventive detention.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *Development and poverty reduction policies increasingly promote and protect human rights, especially those relating to land, education, non-discrimination and gender equality (EA 1)*

With the technical support of OHCHR, the Secretariat for Social Action designed a set of human rights indicators related to poverty, economic, social and cultural rights and social protection, which were linked to the social programmes implemented by the Secretariat and included in a publication launched in October 2017. This represents the first national experience on the development of human rights indicators linked to the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the Office facilitated a training of trainers programme on human rights and poverty eradication strategies and developed a trainer's manual. In total, 28 staff members of the Secretariat followed this programme, who have in turn trained more than

Fighting for the rights of indigenous women in Paraguay

Faustina Alvarenga, known as Tina, is an indigenous woman from the Guaraní people and one of the founding members and leaders of the Articulation of Indigenous Women of Paraguay (MIPY). She is an expert in the indigenous issues of Paraguay, specifically in relation to a practice known as "criadazgo." Under this practice, poor families send their children to work as servants in the homes of families with more economic resources in exchange for taking charge of the child's basic needs, including their education.

At only 10 years old, Tina's parents sent her to live with a wealthy family in Asunción, the capital of Paraguay, about 800 kilometres from her family home, where she lived for eight years. Tina recalls that she "felt discriminated against, excluded, isolated and lonely in many moments. The uprooting was very strong in my case, because I was told I was going to be treated as a daughter, but they made me work as a maid, an unpaid one."

"Criadazgo" is considered one of the worst forms of child labour and a contemporary form of slavery. Accord-

ing to official figures, it is estimated that there are some 47,000 children and adolescents living in such situations in Paraguay.

In 1993, Tina was elected as a counsellor of the Central Department of Paraguay and in 2013 she ran for the Senate. She has been a teacher at the primary, secondary and university levels for more than 20 years and is currently a consultant for various UN bodies and other international organizations. She had an active role in the development of dialogues with indigenous women, which was an initiative of UN Human Rights and other UN agencies in Paraguay. The results of those dialogues were documented in a publication containing relevant proposals made by indigenous women on participation, citizenship and non-discrimination, land rights and prior, free and informed consultation and consent. These activities contributed to strengthening the dialogue between authorities and indigenous women and making their rights more visible.

400 public servants and families on poverty eradication strategies since 2015.

- *Increased participation of rights-holders in the design and monitoring of public policies, budgets and other initiatives in development and in the economic sphere (EA 5)*

The Network of Human Rights Organizations (CODEHUPY) continued to publish its annual reports on the human rights context in Paraguay, which included some sections on the situation of economic and social rights. The support provided by OHCHR during the reporting cycle enabled CODEHUPY and its member organizations to enhance their monitoring advocacy skills. Furthermore, due to the support received from OHCHR, the online database, SIMORE Plus, which links the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in relation to Paraguay with the Sustainable Development Goals has been made available to civil society organizations, which are also able to use this tool to monitor their implementation.

Widening the democratic space

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

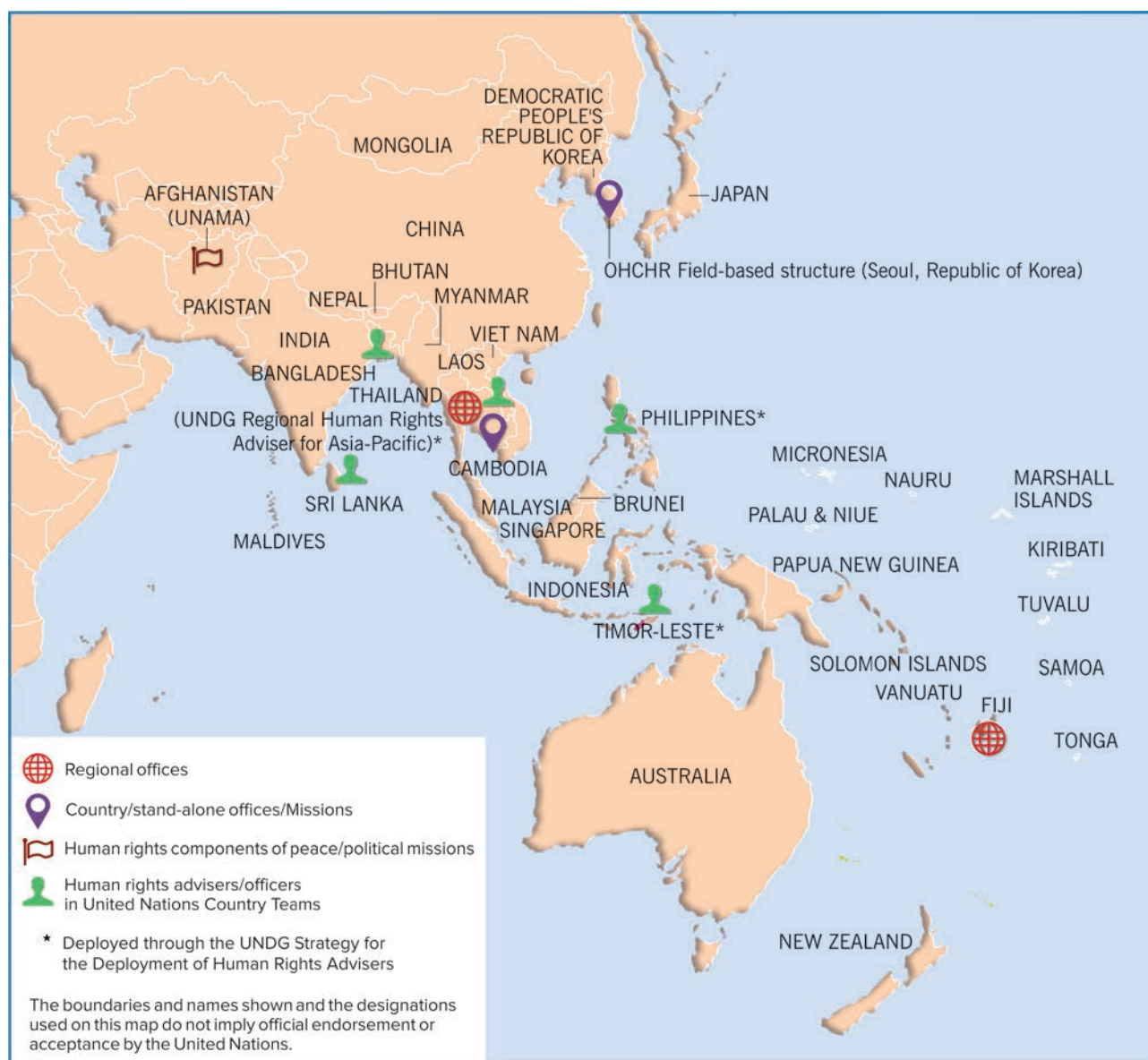
The National Action Plan on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, developed with the active participation of civil society and the technical support of OHCHR, was approved by the National Commis-

sion for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CONADIS), in 2015, and endorsed through a Presidential Decree, in 2016. Furthermore, based on OHCHR's methodology and with the active participation of civil society actors, a set of human rights indicators on persons with disabilities was developed, in October 2017, and linked to the Action Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals.

- *Increased participation in public life of discriminated groups, particularly women, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities (EA 5)*

A bill for the establishment of a National Independent Mechanism for the Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was developed by civil society organizations and CONADIS over a two-year process and supported by OHCHR, was submitted to Congress for review. Regarding indigenous populations, between 2014 and 2015, OHCHR facilitated a series of dialogues with leaders of 19 indigenous communities, enabling them to come up with proposals on land, prior consultation and participation, which were shared with relevant Government authorities. In addition, consultations with indigenous women were organized by OHCHR, in collaboration with the National Institute for Indigenous Issues, the Ministry of Women and a number of UN agencies, in order to document proposals from indigenous women on issues such as participation, citizenship and non-discrimination, land and free and informed consent. The outcomes of the consultations were included in a publication that was launched in December 2017 and handed to relevant authorities by indigenous women.

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 Nino. 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.

UN Human Rights in the field: Europe and Central Asia



Type of presence	Location
Special missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ukraine
Regional offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan) Europe (Brussels, Belgium)
Human rights component in UN Peace Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kosovo⁵ (UNMIK)
Human rights advisers/officers in United Nations Country Teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Republic of Moldova Russian Federation Serbia South Caucasus (based in Tbilisi, covering Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

OHCHR continued its engagement with the diverse region of Europe and Central Asia, which is composed of members of the European Union (EU) and its current and potential candidates, participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe (CoE) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), as well as a number of disputed territories under the effective control of de facto authorities. OHCHR maintained strong country engagement from Geneva and through field presences, including the Regional Offices for Europe (in Brussels) and for Central Asia (in Bishkek); human rights advisers in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the South Caucasus; human rights officers/staff in the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Serbia; the Human Rights Office in the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo; and the Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU).

OHCHR significantly increased its cooperation with United Nations Country Teams and agencies through regular dialogue and joint activities, including by providing regular contributions within the context of the Common Country Assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes. The Office also strengthened and deepened its cooperation with

¹² Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

regional organizations, with an emphasis on the Council of Europe and OSCE.

Through direct engagement and communications with Member States, remote monitoring and public advocacy, the Office identified early warning signs of potential human rights violations and crises and encouraged the development and implementation of recommendations to address such situations, particularly in relation to the United Nations Human Rights up Front Initiative. In 2017, OHCHR focused on the protection of migrants in vulnerable situations. In October 2017, the Office issued a public report, *In Search of Dignity: The human rights of migrants at Europe's borders*, which highlighted the main findings and trends observed in monitoring missions dispatched in 2016.

The Office also responded to frozen or protracted conflicts in Europe, including through the High Commissioner's report on cooperation with Georgia to the Human Rights Council, in September 2017, and participation in the Geneva International Discussions that were launched to address the consequences of the August 2008 hostilities in Georgia. The Office also drafted the High Commissioner's annual report on the Question of human rights in Cyprus, presenting it to the Human Rights Council in March 2017.

OHCHR supported the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, who presented his reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly. The findings of HRMMU were released through four quarterly reports, which were presented to the Human Rights Council in interactive dialogues. In addition, HRMMU issued a thematic report on conflict-related sexual violence in Ukraine covering the period from March 2014 to January 2017. The report formed the basis for the joint HRMMU-UN Women engagement with respect to Ukraine's strategy to prevent and address sexual and gender-based violence as part of its National Action Plan on the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325. Following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 71/205 on the human rights situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (hereinafter referred to as Crimea), OHCHR produced a report on the situation of human rights in the peninsula, covering the period from February 2014 to September 2017. In March 2017, OHCHR issued a report on the human rights situation in southeast Turkey, covering the period from July 2015 to December 2016.

In 2017, OHCHR supported visits undertaken by the High Commissioner to France, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom, Uzbekistan and to the Munich Security Conference (Germany) and a round-table/lecture at Lund University (Sweden); by the Deputy High Com-

missioner to Belgium; and by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights to Belgium, Ireland and the United Kingdom. Finally, the Office provided substantive inputs in anticipation of the Secretary-General's missions to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Special Mission

Ukraine

Year established	2014
Staff as of 31 December 2017	49
Expenditure in 2017	US\$4,514,017

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *A National Human Rights Action Plan, deriving from the 2014 Human Rights Strategy for Ukraine, integrates recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms (EA 6)*

During the reporting period, OHCHR's Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) supported the increased compliance of Ukraine with international human rights mechanisms, norms and standards, including through assistance following the results of the first year of implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan of Ukraine in 2016. In particular, HRMMU supported the National Human Rights Action Plan through technical cooperation and capacity-building activities, notably on the results of its first year of implementation, which entailed improvements to the judicial system. Throughout 2017, HRMMU worked with the Cabinet of Ministers to define concrete implementing authorities and measurable indicators for all activities by the Action Plan and establish a mechanism to monitor and evaluate progress in meeting the objectives of the human rights strategy that underpins the Action Plan.

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

The National Human Rights Action Plan reflects most of the recommendations provided by the United Nations Country Team. HRMMU supported the involvement of UN agencies in the development of the Action Plan by convening a United Nations human rights working group, made up of representatives from seven UN agencies, in order to ensure

a coordinated approach and the regular exchange of information. In addition, HRMMU led the drafting of joint contributions, which were sent by the UN Resident Coordinator to the Government of Ukraine and emphasized key thematic areas proposed to be covered by the Plan. The joint contributions stressed the need to adopt an institutionalized approach for the implementation of the country's international human rights commitments as well as the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

► *Anti-discrimination legislation is in line with international standards (EA 4)*

The Government of Ukraine took steps to combat discrimination affecting national minorities. For instance, the 2015 National Human Rights Action Plan contains planned activities aimed at addressing discrimination faced by sexual minorities. Specifically, the Action Plan calls for the harmonization of anti-discrimination legislation and provides for amendments to the Criminal Code, which would punish hate crimes, including those committed on the basis of sexual orientation. When supporting the implementation of the Plan in 2017, HRMMU advocated for targeted language to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity by recalling Ukraine's commitments to implement recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

► *Torture prevention and accountability mechanisms are in place and functioning (EA 3)*

Since 2014, the Government of Ukraine has been making efforts to strengthen democratic governance and build a society that is founded on the rule of law. In 2015, a human rights strategy was adopted to address challenges to human rights protection, including measures to strengthen accountability. In 2016, constitutional amendments related to the administration of justice removed a number of obstacles to the independence of the judiciary and ensured that the reappointment of judges would be undertaken through transparent and competitive procedures. Furthermore, discussions were being held at the end of 2017 regarding the creation of an anti-corruption court.

Since the onset of the conflict in eastern Ukraine, grave violations of international human rights and humanitarian laws have taken place, as documented by HRMMU, although little has been done to ensure accountability for the violations committed by both sides to the conflict. Since 2014, HRMMU has observed many gaps in the legal framework



OHCHR staff interviewing a person affected by the conflict in Luhansk. © OHCHR/Ukraine

of Ukraine, including the absence of an independent mechanism to investigate complaints of torture, ill-treatment and the excessive use of force by law enforcement, the absence of appropriate remedies and compensation mechanisms for victims and a lack of accountability for the human rights violations committed in areas where the Government does not exercise effective control.

HRMMU has formulated a number of recommendations to ensure that prompt, thorough and impartial investigations are undertaken into all allegations of human rights violations and abuses, perpetrators are held accountable and victims are provided with redress and rehabilitation. It also cooperated with the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) and supplied it with lists of alleged victims of mistreatment while in detention. This led to regular visits by the NPM to places of detention and strengthened the human rights protection for detainees. HRMMU was involved in raising awareness among its national counterparts regarding the Istanbul Protocol, which contains international guidelines on the investigation and documentation of torture. HRMMU conducted trainings on the Istanbul Protocol and its implementation for 400 newly recruited regional prosecutors and provided more than 1,000 copies of the Protocol in Ukrainian to the General Prosecutor's Office. Moreover, HRMMU enhanced the capacity of local NGOs to document human rights violations, including cases of torture and ill-treatment, by training them on the monitoring and documentation of these violations. Moreover, it supported two local NGOs in providing legal aid and psychological support to victims of human rights violations, particularly torture. As a result, over 400 victims were assisted in three and a half years. Finally, HRMMU teams documented over 700 cases related to the torture or ill-treatment

of people in detention and ensured that these cases were followed up through meetings, trial monitoring or advocacy letters. It is believed that HRMMU interventions contributed to the release of at least 19 people in detention who had been subjected to violations of their physical or mental integrity in Government-controlled territory and approximately 210 persons held in territory controlled by armed groups.

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

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

In February, the State Emergency Service announced that over 7,000 civilians, including 1,898 children, were effectively evacuated from endangered locations in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. HRMMU has been emphasizing protection issues and the need to evacuate civilians with State and non-State actors in the context of the conflict since 2014. By preparing an analysis of several pieces of legislation related to the movement of people and

goods between the territories that are and are not controlled by the Government, HRMMU has enabled the UN to “speak with one voice” on protection issues. In 2017, together with UNHCR and other partners, including from civil society, HRMMU developed an advocacy campaign focused on ensuring that all entitled citizens have access to pension payments. The campaign calls for delinking the right to receive pension benefits from residence registration or internal displacement, as this is an obstacle that hinders access to pensions, particularly for Ukrainians residing in territories controlled by armed groups. The campaign has resulted in a few legislative initiatives. In one example, draft legislation would reinstate the right of all citizens to receive their pension, regardless of their registration as an internally displaced person or the location of their residence.

In October 2017, HRMMU and UNHCR sent a joint advocacy letter to the Government regarding a new legislative framework introduced by the Parliament of Ukraine to re-establish control over certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Several key recommendations jointly made by HRMMU and UNHCR

Claiming housing rights in Ukraine

The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) has been monitoring the human rights situation in Ukraine since March 2014, notably through field presences located in conflict-affected eastern Ukraine.

In 2016, representatives of the HRMMU office in Kramatorsk (Donetsk region) visited several settlements located in the government-held territory close to the contact line. In one of the settlements, residents complained that servicemen from the Ukrainian Army had recently occupied several houses that were closer to the contact line, which led to a dramatic increase in life-threatening fire exchanges. One of the occupied properties belonged to Olha, a local resident who was forced to move into her brother-in-law's abandoned house.

Olha is now retired and represents the seventh generation of her family that has resided in the village. When she was younger, she moved to the city of Luhansk for work and periodically returned to her home in the countryside. Since 2014, Luhansk has been controlled by armed groups, which do not recognize Ukrainian sovereignty. In 2016, Olha was forced to flee from Luhansk, together with her bedridden mother, after her house was damaged by armed hostilities. She became an internally displaced person and her only refuge was her summer house, which was situated on government-controlled territory.

When she first arrived, Olha was shocked to discover that her house had been occupied and looted by Ukrainian

servicemen. She did not know about legal remedies to reclaim her property. When she presented her ownership documents, the servicemen refused to vacate the house. Together with her mother, Olha moved into the abandoned house of her brother-in-law that was opposite her own house. Her brother-in-law and his wife had passed away a few weeks before she returned.

Olha sought assistance from the local authorities to no avail. When the head of the local community tried to investigate the situation, he was chased away by the servicemen occupying Olha's house. HRMMU tried to intervene on her behalf and requested that the servicemen vacate her house. When these efforts failed to bear fruit, HRMMU wrote a letter of concern to a number of duty-bearers, including the Ministry of Defence, the Prosecutor General, the Deputy Military Commander, the Military Police, the Civil Military Cooperation Department and the local and regional authorities. In response, HRMMU received assurances from the Ministry of Defence that the house would be vacated by spring 2017.

Six months after its visit, HRMMU returned to the village and found Olha happily living in her home with her mother. The servicemen had left. Olha expressed her profound gratitude to HRMMU for its intervention, which enabled her to claim her rights and recover her dignity.

were integrated into the law, and HRMMU will continue to monitor how it is implemented when it enters into force in early 2018.

While in 2016, HRMMU was granted access to conflict-related prisoners in armed group custody on one occasion, this did not open the way for further access. The Office continued to interview detainees upon release and advocate for enhanced protection of people in detention, based on their accounts and descriptions of detainees and ongoing conditions of detention. Throughout 2017, HRMMU pressed for unhindered access to places of detention in territories that are controlled by armed groups.

Overall, HRMMU worked to improve the knowledge of State and non-State actors in order to address violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law in the context of the conflict. From 2014 to 2017, HRMMU issued 20 regular public reports and three thematic reports containing recommendations that are primarily related to human rights and humanitarian law challenges in conflict-affected eastern Ukraine and Crimea. Some of the recommendations touch upon issues of accountability, the administration of justice, respect for fundamental freedoms, the rights of women and of minorities, conflict-related sexual violence and economic and social rights. HRMMU also regularly carried out knowledge sharing with armed group representatives in Donetsk and Luhansk, disseminating international human rights standards and concrete recommendations.

- *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)*

HRMMU took steps to draw the attention of the international community to human rights and humanitarian law violations and used various platforms to share its findings. For instance, HRMMU submitted daily contributions to the United Nations Operations and Crisis Centre, enabling the wide dissemination of information relating to human rights developments in Ukraine. It also regularly attended United Nations Protection Cluster meetings, which enabled it to channel its findings and recommendations. Furthermore, HRMMU's presence in conflict-affected areas has contributed to shaping the humanitarian response to the protection needs of the affected population. Indeed, in March, HRMMU opened a new field office in Luhansk, extending its presence in armed group-controlled areas in eastern Ukraine. On the humanitarian front, HRMMU ensured the integration of human rights into Ukraine's 2016 and 2017 Humanitarian Response Plans and the 2017 Protection Strategy of the United Nations Humanitarian Country Team. Furthermore, HRMMU supported the development of the United Nations Partnership

Framework for Ukraine for the period of 2018-2022. In particular, HRMMU contributed to the country analysis by drafting a section on the human rights situation in Ukraine and reviewed other parts of the document to ensure the integration of a human rights-based approach.

Ukraine: Expenditure in 2017		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	3,145,324
Activities and operating costs	-	944,642
Subtotal	-	4,089,966
Programme support costs	-	424,051
GRAND TOTAL	-	4,514,017

Regional Offices

Regional Office for Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2017	11
Expenditure in 2017	US\$1,186,894

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Establishment and/or fully functioning participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting on/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in relation to Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (EA 6)*

Kyrgyzstan's national coordinating body on reporting and follow-up, the Coordination Council on Human Rights, was established by government decree in 2013. Its regulations were adopted in 2014. Since its establishment, OHCHR has consistently engaged with the Council and its Secretariat with a view to supporting its engagement with the international human rights mechanisms. In 2017, OHCHR provided guidance on good practices for the development of a national human rights action plan, which is due to

be finalized in 2018. The Office also provided guidance on the preparation of the State Party report to the Committee against Torture.

In Tajikistan, the Inter-Agency Commission on the Implementation of International Obligations in the Field of Human Rights has been operating as a co-ordinating mechanism for reporting and follow-up since 2002. During the reporting cycle, the Government of Tajikistan, with OHCHR's support, made considerable efforts to improve the functioning of the mechanism. In April 2017, the Government adopted new regulations in relation the Commission, which contributed to expanding the participation of civil society and promoting the increased coordination of relevant State bodies in the implementation of international human rights obligations. OHCHR facilitated consultations with civil society during the development of the regulations and, as proposed by the Office, the Ombudsperson and representatives of civil society will participate in the work of the Commission with consultative votes. OHCHR also provided technical support to the Commission for the creation of a website which includes information on the State's human rights obligations and the actions that are planned or in place to implement the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. In terms of recommendations emanating from the Universal Periodic Review, the President of Tajikistan adopted a National Action Plan, on 7 June 2017, to implement recommendations issued by this human rights mechanism. The Action Plan was developed through a consultative process.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

► *Criminal justice legislative and policy frameworks, including in relation to past human rights violations, significantly improve their compliance with international human rights standards in Kyrgyzstan (EA 1)*

OHCHR provided support to the judicial reform process in Kyrgyzstan, together with other international organizations, which resulted in the 2015 finalization of seven key draft laws in the area of administration of justice, namely, the Criminal Code, the Code on Misdemeanours, the Criminal Procedure Code, the Criminal Executive Code, the Civil Procedure Code and the Laws on enforcement proceedings and State guaranteed legal aid. While the draft Criminal Procedure Code contained a number of progressive provisions, OHCHR noted some shortcomings, including the excessive use of pre-trial detention. Based on OHCHR's recommendations and advocacy efforts, a number of changes were reflected in the draft Criminal Procedure Code to ensure that it was aligned with international human rights standards. The Criminal Procedure Code was adopted on 2 February 2017 and will be enacted in 2019.

► *National Preventive Mechanisms against torture as provided for under OP-CAT are fully functioning in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (EA 3)*

The National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) of Kyrgyzstan was established by law in 2012 and became operational in 2014. From the outset, OHCHR contributed to the functioning of the mechanism by providing ongoing technical support to increase the capacity of its staff and for the development of rel-

A regional platform for strengthening national human rights institutions in Central Asia



OHCHR and UNDP organized the second Regional Consultations of National Human Rights Institutions of Central Asia.

© OHCHR/Central Asia

Following two regional consultations of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) in Central Asia in 2016 (Istanbul) and 2017 (Almaty), five NHRIs from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan agreed to establish a Regional Platform. The objective was to enhance their cooperation for promoting and protecting human rights in the region, strive towards compliance with the Paris Principles and work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Through this Platform, NHRIs will undertake joint actions and conduct regular consultations to exchange lessons learned and good practices. This regional achievement is an excellent example of the active partnership between UN Human Rights, UNDP and the Global Alliance for NHRIs, which aims to leverage the respective mandates, expertise and operations of these organizations to support NHRIs around the world.

evant plans and programmes. In addition, the Office raised awareness about the NPM by producing and disseminating informational leaflets in the Russian, Kyrgyz, Uzbek and English languages and supporting presentations of its monitoring reports among decision-makers from State bodies. Nonetheless, the limited budget allocations to the NPM prevent it from fully exercising its mandate in accordance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT). In Tajikistan, despite numerous recommendations that were issued by the international human rights mechanisms, no progress has been made towards the ratification of OP-CAT. The role of monitoring of the NPM has been undertaken by the Pilot Monitoring Group, established in 2013, which is composed of representatives of the Office of the Ombudsperson and the civil society organization, Coalition Against Torture. The mechanism monitored approximately 30 closed and semi-closed institutions and OHCHR contributed to strengthening its visibility and its increased monitoring and documentation capacity, in line with international standards.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *Human rights standards and principles are increasingly integrated into CCAs/UNDAFs/CAPs and the work of UN agencies, particularly on housing, water, sanitation and land (EA11)*

As a result of OHCHR's advocacy and training provided to the region's United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) on the integration of international human rights standards into their plans and programmes, an increasing number of UNCTs adopted a human rights-based approach to the implementation of their development plans, including by integrating recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

Widening the democratic space

- *Strengthened and meaningful participation of rights-holders, in particular minorities, in selected processes, predominantly those related to housing, land and property rights in Kyrgyzstan (EA 5)*

As a result of capacity-building efforts and regular advocacy conducted by OHCHR, minorities were provided with more opportunities in Kyrgyzstan's civil service. After the Office supported the implementation of a pilot internship programme within State

bodies, the State's Personnel Agency showed interest in institutionalizing the programme and adopted relevant regulations. Moreover, OHCHR contributed to the institutionalization of a training programme on diversity, tolerance and non-discrimination in three major universities in southern regions as well as the Teacher Training's Institute, in Osh, through the development of a manual on multicultural education.

- *Civil society, in particular youth and women's organizations, increasingly advocate for their rights in Tajikistan (EA 5)*

The amendments to the Law on Public Associations, approved by Tajikistan's Parliament in 2015, had a negative impact on the financial independence of civil society organizations in the country. The amendments required, inter alia, that any foreign funding received by public associations must be declared to the Ministry of Justice and that such information must be provided before the start of any activity. Civil society organizations were not consulted during the development of the amendments. Nonetheless, OHCHR sought to support the advocacy efforts and work of civil society actors in Tajikistan, mainly through capacity-building activities on international human rights standards and the use of national and international human rights mechanisms. During the reporting period, the Office supported the visits of three special rapporteurs to Tajikistan and facilitated their meetings with NGO representatives. In 2017, following a meeting that the Office facilitated between authorities in Tajikistan and civil society actors, an agreement was reached to include civil society representatives in the governmental Working Group on Gender Legislation, Protection of Women's Rights and Prevention of Domestic Violence.

Regional Office for Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan): Expenditure in 2017

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	554,940	207,543
Activities and operating costs	127,582	238,804
Subtotal	682,522	446,347
Programme support costs	-	58,025
GRAND TOTAL	682,522	504,372

Regional Office for Europe (Brussels, Belgium)

Year established	2009
Staff as of 31 December 2017	8
Expenditure in 2017	US\$1,563,494

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

OHCHR supported the work of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants and advised civil society in various countries on the submission of complaints to this and other Special Procedures mandates. In an effort to promote the increased engagement of persons with disabilities and organizations representing them with the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), OHCHR organized trainings in 2015 and 2017 for rights-holders and civil society organizations. Focus was placed on enhancing their capacity to draft alternative reports and submit individual complaints. As a result, all civil society organizations that participated in the 2015 training submitted alternative reports to the CRPD (20 in total) and those who participated in the 2017 training are currently preparing their submissions.

The European Union's (EU) Agency for Fundamental Rights, based in Vienna, developed a comprehensive mechanism, through which it provides input to OHCHR for the reviews of all European member states under the Universal Periodic Review.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Comprehensive non-discrimination directive, which aims at protecting individuals from discrimination on the grounds of disability, age, religion and sexual orientation in education, health care, social protection and access to goods and services, including housing, moves closer to adoption. Roma inclusion policies in at least three States in the region comply with the recommendations issued by international human rights mechanisms (EA 4)*

Anti-discrimination legislation in the European Union covers a limited number of grounds of discrimination in a limited number of areas. Hence, the importance of a comprehensive EU anti-discrimination directive that would outlaw all forms of discrimination in all areas in all member States of the Union. Although 2017



The Regional Office for Europe discusses the human rights situation of Roma and Travellers in France, including with representatives of civil society organizations Voix des Roms and European Roma Grassroots Organizations Network (ERGO), as well as with 93-year-old Holocaust survivor Raymond Gurême. © OHCHR/Europe

did not see progress in this area, OHCHR continued its advocacy to keep the so-called Horizontal Directive alive. Encouraging statements by high-level EU officials presage that the European Commission might renew its efforts in this area in 2018.

Following the European Union's release of its mid-term review of national integration strategies for Roma, which showed improvement in school attendance but worsening segregation in education, OHCHR redoubled its advocacy for Roma inclusion, supported civil society initiatives and undertook field missions.

In 2017, the Council of the European Union took steps to promote and protect disability rights and adopted Council Conclusions on Enhancing Community-Based Support and Care for Independent Living. The Conclusions emphasize the need for EU member states to take action to accelerate the transition from institutional to community-based care in order to ensure that every citizen, including persons with disabilities, is able to enjoy their rights. OHCHR continued working with the European Commission and EU member states to promote the use of EU funds to facilitate the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities and children in alternative care. As a result of OHCHR advocacy, Portugal was the first EU member state in withdrawing its support for the drafting of the Protocol to the Oviedo Convention which, if adopted, would constitute a violation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

- *NHRIs and equality bodies take concrete measures to address discrimination issues; increase the direct participation of rights-holders from groups at risk (especially Roma and migrants) and involve civil society organizations representing these*

groups in their activities in at least two States in the region (EA 5)

During the reporting period, OHCHR undertook various advocacy activities, which contributed to the increased awareness of the human rights dimensions in preventing and countering violent extremism among a number of actors in Europe. For instance, OHCHR attended meetings of the United Nations-European Union High-Level Counter-Terrorism Political Dialogue that took place in Brussels, in October 2014 and March 2017. On both occasions, OHCHR raised the profile of human rights concerns in all aspects of counter-terrorism activities. A significant change was perceived between the first and second meetings, as human rights concerns were increasingly integrated into the discourses and programming. In the second half of 2017, OHCHR also started to engage the European institutions on the human rights of victims of terrorism, with a view to a fostering a comprehensive and coherent approach to supporting victims. In this context, preparations have started for a joint initiative between OHCHR and three Committees of the European Parliament, which will materialize in 2018.

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

Migration policy remained at the top of the agendas of the EU and its member states during the period under review, with the EU institutions issuing a variety of policy documents to address the increasing number of individuals arriving in Europe. OHCHR engaged with and briefed EU officials and member states on a number of occasions to highlight the human rights of migrants and advocate for the rights of those who do not qualify for asylum, yet still have protection needs. EU policies and practices regarding third countries remained problematic from a human rights perspective, such as policies relating to the Central Mediterranean and the adoption of informal readmission agreements. Yet, some progress was made as OHCHR strengthened its engagement with the Directorate-General for Home Affairs and Migration and with the European External Action Service to increase their awareness about the importance of a comprehensive, rights-based approach to poli-

cies on migration. OHCHR's engagement in this area also benefited from evidence that was gathered during five monitoring missions it undertook in 2016 to border and transit locations in Europe. This enabled the Office to directly engage with rights-holders and duty-bearers and identify recommendations that can help strengthen the protection of migrants' rights.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

In 2017, OHCHR continued to build the capacity of duty-bearers in the EU regarding a human rights-based approach to development, in particular the European Commission's Directorate-General for Development Cooperation. This occurred through regular exchanges with policy-makers, as well as through the provision of expertise and assistance regarding a human rights-based approach as part of the overall development agenda of the EU. The roll-out of the human rights-based approach toolkit to EU delegations proceeded throughout 2017.

Regional Office for Europe (Brussels, Belgium): Expenditure in 2017

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	728,235	112,972
Activities and operating costs	220,078	440,556
Subtotal	948,314	553,528
Programme support costs		61,653
GRAND TOTAL	948,314	615,180

Human Rights Section in UN Peace Mission

United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

Year established	Stand-alone office closed in 2015 and replaced by a Human Rights Section established within the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo. OHCHR retained a local project officer until March 2017.
Staff as of 31 December 2017	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Kosovo¹³ authorities increase their response rate to special procedures (EA 6)*

The Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment visited Kosovo* during the reporting period. A number of other special procedures mandate-holders also paid visits on official mission, including the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (2014), the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living and on the right to non-discrimination in this context (2015) and the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights (2016). The Human Rights Section (HRS) of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) provided full support to the mandate-holders before, during and after their visits through the preparation of the agenda, logistical support, arrangement of meetings with local actors and the dissemination of information.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

In 2017, the HRS continued to actively contribute to the process of clarifying the fate of those who went missing during the conflict in Kosovo* in 1999. Capitalizing on the results achieved in 2016, it organized a round table on missing persons in Geneva which

provided a unique occasion for representatives of family associations to gather and discuss the way towards clarifying the fate and whereabouts of missing persons, while benefitting from the presence of international experts. Concomitantly, the HRS supported the establishment of the multi-ethnic Missing Persons Resource Centre in Prishtinë/Priština, through UNMIK confidence-building measures projects. This endeavour was a direct result of a long-term commitment and regular engagement of the HRS in the facilitation of dialogue between the representatives of missing persons.

Widening the democratic space

- *Increased level of meaningful participation of women in selected public processes, notably those relating to sexual and gender-based violence (EA 5)*
- The United Nations Kosovo Team Joint Programme on Gender-Based Violence scaled up to four northern Kosovo* municipalities. In the field of prevention, numerous and diverse awareness-raising activities were organized with partner civil society organizations, including more than 30 panel discussions, round tables, focus groups, thematic radio and TV programmes. A regional gender-based violence coordination mechanism was established, comprising representatives from the police, municipalities, education and health care institutions and civil society organizations in four municipalities. Also, through partnership with local NGOs, the HRS established integrated psychosocial services for survivors of gender-based violence, including counselling and trauma therapy.

Human Rights Advisers/Officers in United Nations Country Teams

Republic of Moldova

Year established	2008
Staff as of 31 December 2017	2

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *The Republic of Moldova accedes to OP-ICESCR (EA 2)*
- OHCHR, jointly with other partners, consistently advocated with the Government for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on

¹³ Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.



Participants of a forum for community mediators, including from the Roma population, organized by the National Association of Community Mediators with the support of OHCHR, Republic of Moldova. © OHCHR/Republic of Moldova

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (OP-CRPD), including by sharing information and developing analyses on the impact of the ratification of both instruments. As a result, the Government launched internal procedures for ratifying the OP-CRPD, which is expected to take place in 2018.

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

Following efforts undertaken by the Office to engage with civil society actors, including persons with disabilities, youth, women and minorities, the number of submissions to the Universal Periodic Review and the human rights treaty bodies from civil society actors has tripled to a total of 90 documents during the period under review. In 2017, the Republic of Moldova was reviewed by five treaty bodies, including the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. In addition, with OHCHR's support, at least four individual complaints have been submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Moreover, a standing civil society mechanism for monitoring the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms was established with the support of OHCHR.

- *UNCT increasingly engages with international human rights mechanisms (EA 11)*

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) increased its engagement on human rights issues as a result of

OHCHR's support and advocacy. Specifically, OHCHR collaborated with UNDP, UNAIDS and UNODC to implement a Joint Action to Strengthen Human Rights in the Transnistrian Region of the Republic of Moldova, which deals specifically with persons with disabilities, issues of domestic and gender-based violence and the rights of persons living with HIV. Furthermore, with the technical support of OHCHR, the UNCT prepared submissions to a number of human rights treaty bodies and developed the new 2018-2022 United Nations Development Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development, which integrates, to a significant extent, a human rights-based approach. Moreover, further to technical advice from OHCHR, the Government announced the establishment of the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-Up and is currently developing its terms of reference.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Regulations and official scenarios (such as Pride events or segregated school districts) brought substantially into compliance with non-/anti-discrimination provisions and standards of international human rights law (EA 4)*

In 2017, the Republic of Moldova's National Human Rights Action Plan for 2018-2022 was developed and approved by the Government though it has not yet been adopted by the Parliament. The Action Plan includes recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms and provides for the establishment of a permanent Human Rights Secretariat, which will coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Action Plan. To support the drafting of the plan, OHCHR developed a matrix that lists all of the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in relation to the Republic of Moldova. The matrix will also facilitate the monitoring



On the occasion of the review of the Republic of Moldova's report by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, OHCHR organized the broadcasting of the treaty body session in Chisinau. The event was attended by authorities, persons with disabilities and other civil society actors. © OHCHR/Republic of Moldova

of the implementation of these recommendations and the Action Plan. As a result of OHCHR's capacity-building activities for government representatives, civil society and the UNCT on the human rights-based approach, human rights concepts were largely mainstreamed into the UN Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development 2018-2022 and the draft National Development Strategy.

The Republic of Moldova has made significant progress in improving the legal framework in relation to persons with disabilities. The new framework for disability determination, which is in compliance with international standards, was approved in 2017. OHCHR actively participated in the reform of the legislation.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Increased number of remedy decisions in discrimination cases in compliance with international law (EA 1)*

During the reporting period, lawyers and civil society actors filed more than 30 legal complaints while the Equality Council initiated the investigation of over 25 cases of discrimination. The Office contributed to these results thorough several capacity-building activities on international human rights standards on discrimination. Moreover, judges and prosecutors were trained in international human rights standards on discrimination, economic, social and cultural rights and gender-based sexual violence, among other themes. The enhanced capacity of these actors contributed to several groundbreaking investigations and rulings in cases, including in relation to sexual violence suffered by 16 women with disabilities who were living in a State residential institution and hate-motivated crimes against Roma people.

Russian Federation

Year established	2008, following the adoption of cooperation framework in August 2007.
Staff as of 31 December 2017	4

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Increased implementation of recommendations issued by human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and the Human Rights Council relating to human rights institutions, judicial reform, human rights*



OHCHR and the Ombudsman of the city of Moscow organized an international round table on "Promoting diversity and a discrimination free environment in host cities during and after the FIFA World Cup 2018," September 2017. © OHCHR/Russian Federation

training for law enforcement officials, the rights of children and the rights of women (EA 6)

OHCHR promoted the implementation of the standards included in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) among civil society organizations, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and relevant government officials. On an annual basis, OHCHR facilitated intensive training on the CRPD and its implementation in the Russian Federation for the students of the Human Rights Master Programme. In December 2017, jointly with the UN Information Centre, OHCHR organized a round table discussion dedicated to the International Day of Persons with Disabilities at the UN House premises. As per Article 8 of the CRPD, the discussion focused on the role of mass media and journalists in coverage of disability related issues and protecting rights of persons with disabilities, as well as interaction of organizations of persons with disabilities with the media community. Also on an annual basis, OHCHR supported a human rights orientation programme for civil servants from key ministries, the Constitutional and Supreme Courts, the General Prosecutor's Office, the Federal Penitentiary Service, the Federal Agency for Nationalities Affairs and the Federal Migration Service. This orientation programme enabled the participants to enhance their understanding of international human rights norms and standards and the role of the international human rights machinery. This programme has become a reference point for strengthening coordination efforts between government officials involved in the reporting process and improving their interaction with the human rights mechanisms.

- *Recommendations of human rights mechanisms are increasingly integrated into the planning and programming of UN agencies (EA 11)*

OHCHR regularly discussed human rights issues with the UN agencies and programmes that were working in the Russian Federation and, where possible, joint programming took place. For example, activi-

ties related to the promotion of disability rights were included in the annual plan of the UN Information Centre. OHCHR also led the work of the UN Gender Theme Group and advised on ways to promote the recommendation issued by CEDAW. In December, in cooperation with the Ombudsman in Moscow and “The Forum of Women of Moscow”, OHCHR organized the International Conference “Women against violence” in the Parliamentary Public Centre, within the framework of the campaign “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.” The conference aimed at strengthening the women’s movement for combatting domestic violence and improving legislation in this regard, and resulted in the adoption of a resolution. Based on the outcome of this event, the Ombudsperson in the city of Moscow sent an appeal to the Council of the Federation and the Duma to adopt as soon as possible the corresponding Federal Law on prevention of domestic violence.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *NHRI’s anti-discrimination programmes significantly improve compliance with international human rights standards (EA 4)*

In anticipation of the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia, OHCHR in cooperation with the Ombudsperson of the city of Moscow and other Moscow authorities, organized an international round table dedicated to promoting diversity and a discrimination free environment in host cities during the FIFA World Cup 2018. The event brought together international experts and representatives, including from the European Coalition of Cities against Racism, the FIFA Organizing Committee, UNESCO, representatives of fan clubs and Football Against Racism in Europe, as well as local partners representing the Moscow city Government, Federal governmental structures and Human Rights Commissioners from the cities hosting the World Cup. The round table provided a good opportunity to exchange views on how to counter racism and discrimination in football, with particular focus on good practices when conducting similar sport events. The participants paid particular attention to issues such as inclusion, diversity and discrimination-free environment, which are among the cornerstones of the next football World Cup.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *A multidisciplinary Human Rights Programme has been integrated into formal higher education and institutionalized in several regions (EA 1)*

At the end of the four-year cycle, nine full-fledged Human Rights Master Programmes were established in five regions of the Russian Federation. Since their launch, 115 students have graduated from the Master Programmes. OHCHR supported the establishment of the Programmes and offered technical advice

for the development of nine training modules and 12 textbooks. The Office also assisted in the establishment of four regional resource centres, which enable students to access additional human rights material. Since 2014, a number of Summer Schools have been in operation, bringing together students, experts, civil society practitioners and academics to discuss human rights issues and equip students with practical knowledge about the international human rights system. The participation of students in Summer Schools increased from 77 in 2014 to 177 in 2017. In 2017, the Consortium of Universities that organizes the Human Rights Master Programme launched a website (<http://www.humanrights.ru/>) that aimed at increasing the visibility of the Programme and awareness about human rights education.

Serbia

Year established	Office in 1996 and Human Rights Adviser in 2007. In 2017 it was replaced by a Human Rights Unit formed by national staff attached to the Resident Coordinator
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Staff as of 31 December 2017	2
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Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Fully functioning participatory standing national coordinating body is in place to report on/reply to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all international human rights mechanisms (EA 6)*

The National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF), established in December 2014, resumed its work in 2017 after delays in the reappointment of the Chair that began in October 2016. Throughout



OHCHR workshop on human rights for university students in Serbia.
© OHCHR/Serbia

the year, the NMRF held six sessions and five capacity-building trainings and enhanced its consultations with the national human rights institution and civil society. In 2017, OHCHR facilitated trainings for the members of the NMRF related to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and human rights indicators. Furthermore, the Office supported the NMRF's endeavours regarding reporting to the human rights treaty bodies and provided guidance throughout the national UPR consultations, including by organizing a public hearing regarding the draft State report.

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

In anticipation of the third cycle of the UPR for Serbia, a total of 30 reports were submitted by civil society organizations. This result followed continuous capacity-building and technical support provided by OHCHR. In 2017, the Office trained networks of Romani women and youth organizations for the upcoming review of Serbia by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Training was also provided for members of civil society and the NMRF on human rights indicators with a particular focus on follow-up to the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

Over the past four years, Serbia has undertaken significant efforts to bring its legal framework more closely in line with human rights standards and its international obligations and commitments. For instance, Serbia adopted a new Roma Inclusion Strategy for the period 2016-2025 covering issues such as housing, health, employment, education and social protection. OHCHR provided expert advice on human rights standards and worked consistently with civil society on the design of the Strategy. Important progress was also achieved in the inclusion of the Roma population with the adoption of the Law on Housing, which is in line with human rights standards and includes recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. In November 2016, the Parliament adopted a new Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence, which strengthens the protection of victims and provides for heightened accountability measures for civil servants and other officials who fail to act effectively. Furthermore, Serbia's new draft Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was published for consultation at the beginning of October and is awaiting submission to the Parliament. OHCHR supported the drafting process

to align the Strategy with recommendations issued by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). In addition, as a result of OHCHR's continued support for the integration of anti-discrimination norms into Serbian public procedures, the National Employment Service amended its guidelines in 2016 to ensure that all processes are developed using gender-neutral language. The new rules change the previous practice of using gender-specific terminology in job titles and other terminology.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *International human rights standards increasingly invoked in court proceedings (EA 1)*

Over the reporting period, some progress was noted in the application of international human rights standards in court proceedings. For instance, judges increasingly referred to anti-discrimination norms for the protection of individuals before the court. Some gaps remain, however, in the appropriate use of these norms in accordance with the law and ratified international treaties. Further efforts are also needed to build the capacity of the judiciary in this respect. In 2017, OHCHR undertook a study on the application of anti-discrimination laws in domestic court proceedings and piloted four training workshops on the application of international human rights standards, in partnership with the State Judicial Academy. The workshops were attended by almost 100 judges. A manual on the application of international human rights law was developed as a follow-up to the trainings.

In 2016, OHCHR supported the Resident Coordinator in Serbia in providing legal guidance to civil society organizations that petitioned the Constitutional Court to abolish Criminal Code article 179. This article establishes a lower standard of protection in cases of rape for persons with disabilities than article 178, which relates to other cases of rape. The issue was raised by the CRPD in its 2016 review of Serbia. OHCHR also provided legal advice to the Ministry of Justice regarding the review of the Criminal Code in order to remove discrimination against women with disabilities in cases of sexual crimes. Moreover, the Office supported the publication of guidelines for courts involved in proceedings related to the deprivation of legal capacity, representing the first such guidelines in the region. In 2015, OHCHR supported civil society actions to stop the forced evictions of Roma living in substandard slum settlements in Belgrade, in particular the Romani families from the Grmec settlement in Zemun. As a result of these efforts, Zemun authorities applied the right to adequate housing standards in accordance with article 11(1) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The first instance Zemun court adopted this approach and the eviction was halted.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *The UNDAF and half of UN programmes and projects fully conform to the human rights-based approach and incorporate recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms (EA 11)*
On 30 May, the United Nations Country Team and the Government of Serbia signed the Development Partnership Framework. The final document includes one outcome on human rights, led by OHCHR. Activities related to other outcomes, especially those on social protection, education and governance, reflect human rights concerns. Furthermore, the document includes references to the international human rights mechanisms and streamlines their recommendations in relation to Serbia. OHCHR provided technical support on human rights mainstreaming during the development of the document, advocated for the inclusion of a strong focus on stigmatized groups in a range of relevant areas and undertook a review of the joint workplans of all UN agencies working in the country to ensure the comprehensive application of a human rights-based approach.

South Caucasus (based in Tbilisi, covering Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia)

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2017	5

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Fully functioning participatory standing national coordinating bodies are in place for reporting on/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all international human rights mechanisms in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (EA 6)*
Progress has been achieved in Georgia, where OHCHR undertook trainings, advocacy and awareness-raising activities to support the National Human Rights Secretariat in the Governmental Administration as the key actor responsible for the coordination of the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan. In addition, the Office built the capacity of the Foreign Ministry to prepare and present national reports to the international human rights mechanisms and encouraged the parliamentary Legal Issues Committee to hold hearings on draft national reports prior to their submission and periodic hearings on the implementation of the recommendations issued by the mechanisms.



The OHCHR Human Rights Adviser to the South Caucasus speaks to the media on the occasion of Human Rights Day celebrations in Tbilisi, Georgia. © OHCHR/South Caucasus

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

In 2016, UN development frameworks in each of the three countries of the subregion were launched. Armenia's 2016-2020 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) contains a pillar on democratic governance with a focus on strengthening the protection of human rights, in particular for migrants and displaced persons, and reducing gender inequality. Another pillar highlights social services with projected outcomes to improve access to basic education, health and social protection services for all, especially groups in vulnerable situations. The UNDAF also makes direct references to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and enumerates a number of specific areas where the UN will contribute to the implementation of Armenia's National Human Rights Action Plan. The United Nations-Azerbaijan Partnership Framework for 2016-2020 includes an outcome referring to progress made by Azerbaijan in line with recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. The document contains direct references to CEDAW and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and stresses the role of civil society as an indispensable partner in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In Georgia, the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms have been substantively integrated into the United Nations Partnership for Sustainable Development, which was signed by the Prime Minister of Georgia and the Resident Coordinator. This document emphasizes democratic

governance, with outcomes related to public sector reform and accountability and increased access to the justice system for all, including children, minority groups, persons with disabilities, women in vulnerable situations, migrants and internally displaced persons. In all three countries, OHCHR provided the United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) with relevant recommendations from the international human rights mechanisms and supported the incorporation of these recommendations into the respective UN development frameworks. In addition, OHCHR is actively participating in the implementation phase of these documents in both Azerbaijan and Georgia. In Azerbaijan, OHCHR is leading the work of the UNCT Human Rights Thematic Group, which provides a platform for bringing together the mandates, technical expertise and resources of the UN agencies in Azerbaijan to ensure that human rights are mainstreamed into their programmes. In Georgia, OHCHR participated in the joint programme, “Human Rights for All,” which was implemented in collaboration with UNDP, UNICEF and ILO and supports the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

In Azerbaijan, OHCHR established a resource centre to ensure that civil society organizations and lawyers have access to international human rights instruments and human rights-related educational materials. At the centre, the Office provides free legal service to persons in vulnerable situations, including persons with disabilities. In 2017, a total of 121 applicants benefited from legal advice on issues such as social security, labour rights, property and housing rights and consumer rights. In Georgia, OHCHR contributed to the 2016 drafting of the anti-discrimination section of Georgia’s National Human Rights Action Plan by compiling relevant recommendations issued by the international and regional human rights mechanisms and discussing the recommended actions with the National Human Rights Secretariat. In addition, two years after the adoption of the Action Plan, OHCHR commissioned an evaluation of its implementation. The results were shared with the National Human Rights Secretariat to contribute to the drafting of the Action Plan for 2018-2020.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

Evidence gathered by a local NGO in Georgia showed that the performance of judges in combat-

ing torture and inhuman treatment has improved in recent years. According to the NGO’s extensive monitoring of criminal cases since 2015, judges failed to inform defendants that filing a complaint for alleged ill-treatment would not hinder the possibility of securing a plea bargain in only 3.5 per cent of relevant cases. In previous assessments, the corresponding percentage was closer to 20 per cent. As of the end of 2016, the failure rate of judges to explain to defendants that they had a right to file a complaint for allegations of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment had fallen to 5 per cent from 28 per cent in 2011. In a number of cases, judges initiated investigations of ill-treatment based on their own initiative; an action that was not taken in previous years. OHCHR contributed to this result by developing curricula on combating and preventing torture for the High School of Justice and the Georgian Bar Association and supporting regular trainings in these institutions. Questions regarding the role of judges in the prevention of torture have been included in exams for incoming judges at the High School of Justice. The Georgian Bar Association requires that its members understand the role of defence lawyers in preventing and combating torture.

OHCHR proposed draft amendments to the Criminal Code of Georgia in relation to the legal definition of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment. It also assisted the Parliament in introducing appropriate amendments into existing legislation, including severe punishment for crimes of torture or inhuman treatment, repealing the statute of limitation for these crimes, specifying procedural guarantees for detained individuals and highlighting gaps in legislation and bylaws that enable law enforcement agencies to act arbitrarily, potentially increasing the risk of ill-treatment.

Following two lawsuits that were filed by the Public Defender’s Office and a group of civil society organizations in the context of the “This Affects You” campaign against illegal surveillance, Georgia’s Constitutional Court ruled in 2016 that legislation allowing security agencies to have direct, unrestricted access to the networks of telecom operators to monitor communications is unconstitutional. The Court ordered that this long-standing practice should end and ruled that existing surveillance regulations should be replaced with a new one by March 2017. The campaign highlighted the draft Law on Secret Surveillance Systems, jointly developed by OHCHR and the Open Society Georgia Foundation, in its advocacy efforts with all political actors. The legislative review was suspended until the new Parliament was elected and was reactivated at the end of 2017. After intensive consultations in the last quarter of 2017, a meeting was called for 2018 that would include the participation of members of security agencies, the

Parliament, the Supreme Court and the Office of the Personal Data Protection Inspector in order to discuss the relevant legislative framework and to bring it in line with international standards.

Widening the democratic space

- *Training programmes on human rights institutionalized in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (EA 1)*
Significant results have been achieved with regard to the institutionalization of human rights training in Georgia. For instance, curricula on freedom of expression, prevention of torture and the prohibition of discrimination, including on the basis of gender, were developed by OHCHR and are being fully used by the Georgian Bar Association and the High School of Justice. In addition, OHCHR was instrumental in the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Personal Data Protection Inspector and the High School of Justice to ensure that the right to privacy is being taught to incoming judges. OHCHR participated in a number of pilot trainings that aimed to develop a regular curriculum for judges on this topic. The Office also conducted trainings at the police academy on the prohibition of discrimination and the right to freedom of peaceful assembly. Discussions are underway to develop a full-fledged curricula for the police academy on these topics. In co-operation with the National Human Rights Secretariat at the Office of the Prime Minister of Georgia, OHCHR conducted human rights training sessions in seven regions of Georgia aimed at raising the awareness of civil servants on issues such as the prohibition of discrimination, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, the right to liberty and security of the person and social and economic rights. As a next step, OHCHR will provide assistance to the National Human Rights Secretariat to develop a component on human rights for the mandatory test that civil servants will have to take as of 2018. OHCHR continued its collaboration with the National Human Rights Centre of the Free University, the highest-ranked institution of higher learning in Georgia, participated in a number of panel discussions and contributed to the preparation of the annual Jean Pictet International Competition on International Humanitarian Law.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Year established	2007
Staff as of 31 December 2017	1

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *An increasing number of diverse national CSOs participate in State reporting and implementation of recommendations and make submissions to the international human rights mechanisms (EA 7)*
Civil society organizations have significantly increased their skills for reporting and follow-up to the international human rights mechanisms and, over the reporting period, developed 30 submissions addressed to the human rights treaty bodies and the special procedures. As of March, quarterly meetings between civil society and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) were held to promote their engagement with the international human rights mechanisms and provide a forum for substantive discussion, coordination and capacity-building. As a result, over 20 civil society organizations are coordinating their submissions in anticipation of the 2018 reviews of the national reports of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). OHCHR trained civil society organizations and staff from the Ombudsperson's Office on the engagement with the international human rights mechanisms and provided secretariat support for the quarterly meetings.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *The new UNDAF and respective UN programmes incorporate and support the implementation of recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms (EA 11)*
The Partnership for Sustainable Development: United Nations Strategy 2016-2020, which was developed with the participation of all stakeholders and was agreed upon by the Government and the UNCT in 2016, makes specific reference to the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in four priority areas (employment, social exclusion, governance and improved protection against discrimination, including gender-based violence), and also promotes a participatory and rights-based implementation of the actions included in the Strategy. In addition, the development of the Common Country Assessment

was based on available assessments and guidance provided by the international human rights mechanisms. This contributed to the robust mainstreaming of human rights and gender perspectives throughout the Strategy. The UN Regional Programme Support Group assessed that the rights-based approach was well represented in the Strategy and the UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia noted the robust inclusion of gender-specific outcomes in the document. Since the Strategy entered into force, UN agencies have been more systematically using the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in the design of their respective programmes. For example, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women developed a joint project aimed at ensuring that

persons with disabilities can realize their right to live independently. The project follows up on specific recommendations issued by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, CEDAW and the Universal Periodic Review. To contribute to these results, OHCHR facilitated workshops on the human rights-based approach to programming for UN staff engaged in the development of the Strategy, prepared guidance notes on relevant human rights issues and recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, ensured that these notes were updated with the most recent recommendations during the development of the Strategy and promoted the inclusion of two outcome level human rights indicators in the areas of social inclusion and gender equality.

UN Human Rights in the field: Middle East and North Africa



Type of presence	Location
Country offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mauritania ● State of Palestine⁷ ● Tunisia ● Yemen
Regional offices and centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Middle East and North Africa (Beirut, Lebanon) ● UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha, Qatar)
Human rights components in UN political missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Iraq (UNAMI) ● Libya (UNSMIL)

Across the Middle East and North Africa region, the work of OHCHR covers 20 countries. During 2017, OHCHR strengthened its country engagement from Geneva and through field presences, including two regional offices/centres (for the Middle East and North Africa, in Lebanon, and at the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region, in Doha); four country offices (Mauritania, the State of Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen); and two human rights components within UN political missions (Iraq and Libya). OHCHR also supported two country specific special procedures man-

date-holders: the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967; and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. It also served as the Secretariat to the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, which was mandated by the General Assembly.

Iraq, Libya, State of Palestine, Syria and Yemen continued to experience conflict-related violence and violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. On the other hand, several countries undertook positive steps towards the realization of their international human rights obligations, and cooperated with and reported to the international human rights mechanisms. In 2017, there was a regional dimension to various trends and concerns, for example, in relation to the impact of cross-border movements of fighters and weapons; the impact on regional dynamics and tensions across the region; the movement of people fleeing conflict to neighbouring countries and beyond and the activities of non-State armed groups, including proponents of violent extremism.

¹⁴ Reference to Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19

UN Human Rights work on Syria

An important focus of the advocacy and reporting work undertaken by UN Human Rights during 2017 was the evolving human rights and humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. UN Human Rights ensured that evidence-based human rights information and analysis was integrated into the Secretary-General's monthly reports to the Security Council pursuant to Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015) and 2332 (2016).

UN Human Rights disseminated monthly Human Rights Digests to partners involved in the political and humanitarian response in order to provide them with early warning analysis tools aimed at strengthening prevention and to highlight current and possible future human rights concerns in Syria. The Office produced a series of legal notes to guide the UN's analysis and response in Syria, including on a variety of topics, such as the transfer of civilian populations, siege warfare, persons hors de combat in non-international armed conflicts, belligerent occupation and the duties and obligations of occupying powers and child recruitment and use in hostilities under international law.

The advocacy efforts of the High Commissioner were increased and included the formulation of a number of recommendations targeting parties to the conflict, Member States and UN partners involved in both the political and humanitarian response with a view to enhancing human rights protection in Syria. At the operational level, the Office used its high-level advocacy opportunities to discuss concerns regarding the protection of civilians in the context of military escalation, including in Raqqa and Deir Ezzor in the autumn of 2017.

Three human rights advisers based in Beirut (pending deployment to Damascus), Amman and Gaziantep, respectively, continued to support the humanitarian leadership for the Syrian crisis. Their engagement resulted in increased advocacy around violations of international law and strengthened the overall protection policy and operational response. UN Human Rights also encouraged the integration of human rights into strategic and operational humanitarian decision-making fora and Humanitarian Response Plans for 2017 and 2018.

UN Human Rights maintained regular contact with the Office of the Special Envoy as well as Member States in

order to provide human rights analysis and early warning input into the political process. It was actively involved in developing the United Nations plan in support of the post-agreement transition phase in Syria, which was aimed at coordinating activities to reinforce transitional arrangements following the conclusion of a peace agreement. The planning process was endorsed by the UN Syria Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) in March 2017. UN Human Rights provided its input to the analysis and scoped out the range of potential human rights activities to be implemented in the immediate post-agreement context.

The Office has also been involved in supporting the engagement of various actors with international human rights mechanisms and the work of the Human Rights Council, including its special sessions on the deteriorating situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic. In March 2017, the Council convened a high-level panel to increase the visibility of violations and abuses of international human rights law and international humanitarian law committed by all parties to the conflict in Syria with a particular focus on arbitrary detention, ill-treatment and torture in detention and enforced disappearances since 2011. The panel formulated recommendations, notably on the need to hold alleged perpetrators to account for crimes committed. In addition, the Office sustained its engagement with different special procedures of the Human Rights Council, including the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

In 2017, UN Human Rights stepped up its role as facilitator and convenor of consultations with civil society to explore options for transitional justice and dealing with past atrocities in the Syrian context. Moreover, the Office participated in discussions related to enforced disappearances and the missing in Syria through round-tables with partners with strong expertise and experience in this area.

UN Human Rights supported the establishment of the "International, impartial and independent mechanism" as foreseen by General Assembly resolution A/71/L.48 to assist in the investigation and prosecution of those responsible for the most serious crimes under international law committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011." It also carried out its activities in cooperation with the International Commission of Inquiry on Syria.

In close coordination with relevant national, regional and international stakeholders, OHCHR sought to address the needs emanating from social, economic, civil and political upheavals and the emerging and ongoing armed conflicts across the region. In Iraq, Syria and Yemen, OHCHR took steps to strengthen its field presences and existing mechanisms to ensure improved monitoring and reporting.

OHCHR supported the follow-up to Human Rights Council resolutions, including a request that the High Commissioner appoint and establish a group of eminent international and regional experts on Yemen. In addition, OHCHR produced a report on the progress made to establish a database of companies engaged in certain business activities in illegal settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory. With regard to the State of Palestine, OHCHR and the Graduate Institute in Geneva co-hosted an event on accountability to coincide with 50 years of occupation. The Office provided small grants to 11 NGOs in eight countries to support their work, including raising human rights awareness, promoting the rights of women and persons with disabilities and training of human rights defenders.

The Office called for the protection of human rights across the region and an end to the escalation of violence through press releases and briefings to the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council. The High Commissioner also voiced concerns about the human rights situation of migrants crossings in the Mediterranean. Moreover, OHCHR contributed to the Secretary-General's report on reprisals as part of efforts to protect human rights defenders at risk of reprisals across the region.

The High Commissioner strongly advocated for accountability and the protection of civilians in the region. He visited Libya and held a series of discussions with ministers, officials, civil society and women human rights defenders. He also visited Kuwait and Oman to engage with ministers, senior officials and members of civil society on key human rights issues of concern. Furthermore, OHCHR organized a regional conference on the promotion and protection of human rights in conflict, held in Qatar, which was attended by the Deputy High Commissioner and facilitated the first visit of the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Trust Fund for Technical Cooperation to Lebanon and the State of Palestine. OHCHR further organized a number of events in the region in 2017 to combat hate speech, violent extremism and to enhance the role of the courts in protecting freedom of expression and deterring the incitement to hatred.

OHCHR supported specific technical assistance initiatives in Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia,

Tunisia and Yemen and organized several capacity-building activities for government officials, and representatives of regional and international organizations and civil society actors. In 2017, three trainings were organized, in Geneva, for 57 diplomats. Another training was held for 13 members of national human rights institutions. Finally, OHCHR provided technical cooperation to government officials in Egypt in relation to its cooperation with the human rights treaty bodies.

Country Offices

Mauritania

Year established	2010
Staff as of 31 December 2017	7
Expenditure in 2017	US\$850,415

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *By 2017, all ratified conventions are published in the public journal; outstanding conventions will have been signed and ratified (EA 2)*

In 2017, the Government of Mauritania published all ratified conventions in the public journal following OHCHR's financial and technical support in publishing all slavery-related standards in a special issue. The Government has yet to ratify international human rights instruments that would enable individuals to submit petitions to the mechanisms.

- *All generic reservations will be removed or replaced by specific reservations (EA 2)*

The Government of Mauritania has yet to submit specific reservations in 2017 to replace their generic reservations to various international human rights treaties.

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

In 2017, Mauritania submitted its periodic reports to the Committee against Torture, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Human Rights Committee. Mauritania also submitted its initial report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. OHCHR continued building the capacity of the Interministerial Committee with a seminar on

the submission of initial and periodic reports to the Committee for Enforced Disappearances. Over the past two years, the Interministerial Committee delivered a series of trainings on Mauritania's reporting obligations.

- *UPR recommendations (second cycle) are part of UNCT joint planning efforts and the implementation of the UNDAF 2012-2016 (EA 11)*

The National Action Plan on the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms is due to be finalized in 2018. In the meantime, OHCHR took steps to integrate the recommendations related to Mauritania into every training, capacity-building activity and policy discussion with relevant stakeholders. OHCHR prepared various compilations and matrixes of these recommendations, which were also developed and distributed to the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in the context of the development of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2018-2022.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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



The OHCHR Representative in Mauritania addresses students at a school. © OHCHR/Mauritania

The Office supported the implementation of the road map on slavery through its observer status with the technical commission that is responsible for its implementation. Following the April 2017 visit of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery to participate in a two-day OHCHR workshop with Government representatives, civil society organizations and UN agencies on the implementation of the road map, the Government agreed to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the implementation of the road map based on a set of measurable indicators,

A migrant's fight to access justice in Mauritania

On 30 August 2017, Mohammad Sall, a Senegalese migrant, set himself on fire in front of the Embassy of Senegal in Nouakchott. He was rescued by paramedics only hours after the self-immolation. Mr. Sall was born in Dakar and is married with four children. His eldest child is 27 years old.

UN Human Rights interviewed Mohammad while he was still in the hospital recovering from his second-degree burns. As he explained, he had been jailed for three years for his inability to pay for a container that he was assigned to ship. The container was filled with flour that was to be shipped to Denmark. The container had a value of 127 million ouguiyas and Mohammed was required to pay 4.468.126 ouguiyas for customs charges. Despite making a payment, the container has been stuck at the port since 2014 due to additional fees he could not afford to pay.

Mohammad told UN Human Rights that he had gone into debt due to his inability to pay some of the additional charges and following a conviction, he served three years in prison. As a migrant worker, he had no access to a lawyer or legal aid. Upon his release from prison, Mohammad continued to claim his rights and demanded the recovery of the customs charges. He asserted that he knocked on

the doors of every relevant entity, including the Minister of Economic Affairs and Development. He also requested a receipt from the Customs Office, which was refused.

Feeling desperate and without knowing what to do, he turned to the Embassy of Senegal in Nouakchott. No response was received for several months. On the eve of his desperate act, Mohammad attempted to immolate himself in front of the Embassy, but people who were passing by stopped him.

One week after being burned, Mohammed had to leave the hospital because of his inability to pay for his medical bills. The hospital administration said they could not keep him even though his wounds were still open and susceptible to infection.

After interviewing him, UN Human Rights referred his case to the International Organization for Migration. The organization took care of paying for his medical fees and legal aid. Mohammad was finally able to recover and he is now living with his family in Dakar. His case dramatically reflects the multiple challenges of securing access to justice for migrant workers.

which were developed during a seminar facilitated by OHCHR, and are pending formal agreement by the Government.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

Established in April 2016, the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture (NPM) completed its first year of operation in 2017. OHCHR and the Association for the Prevention of Torture provided trainings and assessments to facilitate the full implementation of its mandate and strategic plan. OHCHR advocated for an appropriate budget to be allocated to the NPM that would enable it to carry out its mandate in an independent and effective manner.

- ▶ *Access to justice and judicial assistance secured for women, migrants, victims of slavery and other vulnerable groups in a number of selected pre-emptive cases (EA 5)*

To facilitate access to justice for individuals and groups in vulnerable situations, OHCHR gathered information on the barriers to access to justice that are often faced by vulnerable populations. It also advocated for the implementation of the Law on Legal Aid, which was adopted by the National Assembly in 2015. The first decree required for its implementation was passed in February and focuses on the establishment of regional offices. The second decree, which establishes the rates for lawyers and experts, was adopted in November.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *The National Action Plan on human rights education is adopted; human rights successively integrated into school and university curricula (EA 1)*

In 2017, the Office cooperated with the Ministry for National Education to finalize six modules on human rights education for primary and secondary schools. During the past two years, the modules were developed through consultations with teachers, professors and education officials and will be used as a basis for the training of teachers. It is anticipated that they will be implemented in a number of pilot schools in 2018.

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

- ▶ *Human rights protection concerns are integrated into subsequent Humanitarian Needs Overviews and other operational humanitarian plans, including a disaster preparedness plan for Nouakchott (EA 11)*

OHCHR contributed to the inclusion of human rights protection provisions in humanitarian plans, includ-

ing in the context of the UNDAF 2018-2022. In May 2017, as coordinator of the protection sector in Mauritania, OHCHR convened members of the sector to identify the most critical protection challenges, threats and risks. The meeting resulted in the preparation of a paper, which was submitted to the UNCT to feed the joint planning process.

- ▶ *Increased responsiveness and the integration of human rights concerns into the response of the international community to potential, emerging or existing situations of conflict, violence and insecurity (EA 11)*

Based on its monitoring work in the villages of Bassikounou, OHCHR identified villages with the highest risk of conflict between members of the village population and/or with incoming refugees. As a result, 36 village committees were created and trained in conflict prevention approaches. Communication was consequently enhanced between the village committees and local and regional authorities and international aid agencies. Several conflict situations were reported to have been resolved through dialogue.

Mauritania: Expenditure in 2017		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	479,591
Activities and operating costs	-	275,603
Subtotal	-	755,194
Programme support costs	-	95,221
GRAND TOTAL	-	850,415

State of Palestine¹⁵

Year established	1996
Staff as of 31 December 2017	29
Expenditure in 2017	US\$4,080,797

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Accession by the State of Palestine to ICCPR and ICESCR (EA 2)*

Since 2014, the State of Palestine has become a State Party to seven of the core human rights instruments and three additional optional protocols (two under the Convention on the Rights of the Child

¹⁵ Reference to Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.

and one under the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment). Over the course of the reporting cycle, OHCHR undertook numerous activities aimed at raising the awareness of relevant duty-bearers about the State of Palestine's human rights treaty obligations.

- *Mechanism to monitor and report on implementation of international treaty commitments has been strengthened and structures for sustained monitoring and reporting on international commitments have been created (EA 6)*

In the wake of its first ratifications in 2014, the State of Palestine created a high-level inter-ministerial committee charged with coordinating the implementation of its international human rights obligations. A technical-level committee was also created to prepare the State of Palestine's initial reports under the seven human rights treaties to which it is a Party. OHCHR's capacity-building efforts focused inter alia on providing assistance to ministry officials, members of the technical committee, in drafting of the initial treaty body reports; boosting the capacity of the members of the Committee which was created to harmonize Palestine's domestic legislation and policies with its international human rights obligations; and supporting the Palestinian Central Bureau for Statistics in establishing a set of human rights indicators against which the Government can monitor progress made in the implementation of recommendations.

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

OHCHR contributed to ensuring that Palestinian civil society was fully informed and able to both engage with the international human rights mechanisms and hold duty-bearers accountable for human rights violations. Specifically, OHCHR offered a range of training and awareness-raising activities targeting civil society organizations and the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR). The objective was to sensitize them regarding the mechanisms that are available for lodging complaints about alleged human rights violations and improve their capacity for monitoring and documenting the implementation of human rights treaty obligations and human rights violations. In addition, the ICHR facilitated national consultations on the initial Palestinian report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

During the reporting period, courts in Gaza handed down approximately 65 death sentences against civilians who had been convicted of a variety of offences and nine executions were carried out. In violation of international law, many of the sentences were handed down by military courts. OHCHR consistently engaged with Gaza's relevant duty-bearers, including security officers, the Attorney General, representatives of the Military Justice System, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to advocate for a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition. OHCHR urged them to halt executions and uphold their obligations under international law to respect the right to life and the right to a fair trial. OHCHR conducted activities with Palestinian human rights organizations, such as joint outreach activities, to advocate for the abolition of the death penalty. In November 2017, the Office issued an op-ed in which it asked the President to adopt a formal moratorium. This was followed up with a letter to the President.

- *Detention conditions and practices more in conformity with international human rights standards and reduced number of cases of arbitrary detention (EA 1)*

During the reporting period, OHCHR has monitored detention conditions and practices by all duty bearers throughout the State of Palestine. The monitoring team also conducted visits to places of detention that are run by the Palestinian General Intelligence Services, the Palestinian Preventive Security, the Palestinian police and the prison services under the de facto authorities. Overall, poor detention conditions remain an area of concern and the situation regarding arbitrary detention, ill-treatment and torture by Israel, the Palestinian Authority and the de facto authorities in Gaza has not improved across the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt). Moreover, the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation in the oPt, which was presented to the Human Rights Council in March 2018, focuses on the issue of arbitrary detention and provides recommendations to all duty-bearers to comply with related obligations under international law.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2022, the Common Country Assessment

(CCA) as well as a number of joint strategies of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) strongly incorporate human rights issues and standards. OHCHR encouraged the use of a human rights-based approach in the CCA/UNDAF by taking a leading role in the relevant UNCT working groups and providing written inputs for these policy documents. Moreover, OHCHR provided training to UNCT members on a human rights-based approach to development.

Widening the democratic space

- *Increased compliance of targeted duty-bearers with international human rights standards in the areas of freedoms of association, assembly and expression (EA 1)*

OHCHR carried out a series of awareness-raising activities, including workshops, trainings, conferences and seminars, on issues of freedom of expression among national human rights organizations, journalists, media workers and community leaders in Gaza and the West Bank. In 2017, these activities included two trainings on provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights relating to the freedoms of expression, association and assembly, to develop the skills of social media activists and journalists in the West Bank and Gaza to report on human rights. The Office also continued to monitor, document and report on violations by all duty-bearers, including Israel, related to freedoms of expression, association and assembly, including in cases of harassment, arrest and the ill-treatment of journalists, as well as the violent dispersal of demonstrations and public events, which were documented and later used in advocacy activities.



On the occasion of Human Rights Day, OHCHR together with the Human Rights and Democracy Media Center “SHAMS” organized a demonstration for human rights under the slogan “Everyone is a Human Rights Defender.” © OHCHR/Palestine

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

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

OHCHR significantly contributed to an increased understanding of the humanitarian and human rights situation in the State of Palestine by the international community. The Office’s legal advice, analysis, monitoring and reporting initiatives have fed into advocacy strategies to address key human rights concerns. OHCHR’s reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly ensured that the situation in the oPt remained at the top of the international community’s agenda. As an example, the Office produced the seminal Secretary-General’s Report on the Human Rights Situation in the oPt, which was presented to the thirty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council. The report outlined and critiqued the applicable legal framework and provided an analy-

Atta and Samara: Mutual mentorship

Samara is a youth volunteer with Defence for Children International in the State of Palestine. Through his work in an education programme in Ramallah that was implemented by Defence for Children International, UN Human Rights and Education Above All, Samara met Atta. Several years ago, at the age of 12, Israeli soldiers shot Atta in front of his school. The injuries resulted in paralysis and a period of isolation, largely because of the daily challenges he encountered due to being in a wheelchair. Atta was unable to leave his house without help and was unable to attend school because it was not equipped to accommodate persons with his disability.

Atta is now the Deputy Secretary of the protection team of Defence for Children International in Ramallah. After meeting him, Samara spoke of Atta as “a success story” and someone through whom he has learned about himself, including how to be more efficient in his advocacy. He also learned about the meaning of limits. In moments

when he thought he could not go on and felt compelled to quit, he would think of Atta and the challenges he faces and was instead inspired to continue.

Atta joined Defence for Children International with the belief that the organization could amplify his voice and help him send a message to the world to assist children in Palestine. His message, which arises out of his personal story, focuses on the right to education and the rights of children with disabilities and the connection between these two rights. He wants the world to hear about what happened to him and, more importantly, to take notice of Palestinian children who, like all children, have a right to education. He also wants to raise the visibility of disabilities in the context of education and notes that “many schools are far away and kids [with disabilities] cannot attend so they don’t go to school. The schools are not ready for kids with disabilities.”

sis of the primary violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law taking place in the oPt.

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

In its capacity as the Protection Cluster Lead, OHCHR has been central to the development of successive Humanitarian Needs Overviews and Response Plans with a human rights focus during the reporting period. Indeed, as reflected in the 2018-2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan for the State of Palestine, protection concerns and enhanced respect for international humanitarian and human rights law are at the core of the UN's humanitarian engagement in the country. The first of three objectives of the Humanitarian Plan puts a clear emphasis on the accountability of relevant duty-bearers in line with international human rights and humanitarian law standards. The Office further contributed to the formulation of the Inter-Agency Contingency Plan for Gaza in 2016-2017 by specifically supporting protection mainstreaming in emergency preparedness.

Through the Protection Cluster, OHCHR engaged with other UN agencies and stakeholders on a number of key protection and human rights concerns in the context of the occupation. For instance, with UNHCR, the Office advocated for better protection, communication and accountability for the "refugees from the region" who are being supported by partners in Gaza. In 2017, this resulted in the provision of rental assistance and shelter upgrades for refugees. With the Legal Task Force and its partners, the Office advocated for the continued support of Bedouin communities, particularly in the context of gaps in legal aid provision for the communities that are most at risk. OHCHR also engaged with various partners to respond to attacks on human rights defenders who were identified by the Protection Cluster, for the first time in 2016, as a priority issue of concern.

State of Palestine: Expenditure in 2017

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	1,610,510	1,404,842
Activities and operating costs	428,610	414,543
Subtotal	2,039,120	1,819,385
Programme support costs	-	222,291
GRAND TOTAL	2,039,120	2,041,677

Tunisia

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2017	12
Expenditure in 2017	US\$1,338,642

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Reservations to at least one treaty (CEDAW, CRC or OP-CRC) are withdrawn (EA 2)*

All four reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) were withdrawn by Tunisia. OHCHR has consistently advocated for the withdrawal of the reservations since 2012, including by organizing a briefing for Members of Parliament in 2014.

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

In 2015, the Government submitted its reports to the Committee against Torture and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances. In 2016, after several years of delay, Tunisia submitted its third periodic report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Office supported the drafting process and provided comments on the methodology and content of the reports.

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

The National Commission for the Coordination, Elaboration and Presentation of the Reports and Follow-up of Recommendations in the Field of Human Rights, the Tunisian National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF), was established in 2015. The NMRF is composed of the human rights focal points of line ministries and its Secretariat is managed by the Ministry for Relations with Constitutional Bodies, Civil Society, and Human Rights. Since its establishment, the NMRF has met regularly and achieved substantial results, including the updating of the common core document, which has been pending since 1994, the drafting of several overdue reports to the human rights treaty bodies and the preparation of Tunisia's report for the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Supported by OHCHR, the NMRF enhanced its capacity to ensure the meaningful participation of civil society in the process of drafting reports, including through the organization of wide consultations across the country. With regards to follow-up, the NMRF developed an action plan for the implementation of recommendations issued in relation to Tunisia by the Committee against Torture. It identifies



OHCHR staff member sharing information on the international human rights mechanisms and OHCHR's mandate with students of a Master's degree in Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, in Tunisia. © OHCHR/Tunisia

the primary and secondary actors responsible for the implementation of each recommendation, as well as the actions to be undertaken with relevant indicators and timelines. These achievements were made possible by the strong efforts of the Office during the reporting cycle to build the capacity of the members of the NMRF. Training sessions facilitated by OHCHR addressed issues such as the drafting of reports, the use of human rights indicators, data collection, information management and the development of action plans for the implementation of recommendations.

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

Over the four-year cycle, civil society organizations submitted almost 30 shadow reports to the human rights treaty bodies and nearly 50 organizations submitted jointly or individually 23 alternative reports to the UPR. OHCHR contributed to this result by strengthening the awareness of the organizations through training sessions and workshops for organizations from across Tunisia on the role and mandates of the international human rights mechanisms and their ability to engage with them.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

Following the withdrawal of its reservations to CEDAW, in 2014, the Government of Tunisia took steps to align its legislative framework governing women's rights with both the Constitution and the Convention. To this end, the Ministry of Women, Children and Family Affairs began drafting a general law on violence against women and girls. The Office pro-

vided technical support to the drafting committee as well as logistical and financial support in organizing consultations with national civil society organizations and international partners. The legislation was adopted in July 2017 and is in full compliance with international human rights standards. Regarding racial discrimination, the Office has supported the efforts of the technical committee established by the Government, in 2016, to develop a draft law on racial discrimination. With OHCHR's assistance, national consultations were organized with civil society to gather recommendations on the text. The draft was finalized in 2017 and was adopted by the Cabinet in 2018. In July 2017, the Ministry of Social Affairs presented a National Strategy on Migration, developed with the technical assistance of OHCHR. The Office, jointly with UNDP and UNICEF, supported the creation of a civil society coalition on the rights of persons with disabilities. Following advocacy by the coalition, the Tunisian Parliament passed a bill, in May 2016, amending the framework law on the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities. These amendments provide for better accessibility in the workplace as well as a requirement to double the employment quota of persons with disabilities from 1 to 2 per cent in the public and private sectors.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

► *Legislation regarding deprivation of liberty, including pre-trial detention, is revised to reduce prison crowding; security sector reform leads to the adoption of policies, guidelines and codes of conduct for law enforcement officials in conformity with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

Following the publication and dissemination of a 2014 OHCHR report on the situation of prisons in Tunisia, a working group was established by the Ministry of Justice and the Directorate General for Prisons and Rehabilitation to implement the recommendations of the report. In 2015, the Ministry adopted a national strategy and committed to reforming the Criminal Code as part of its efforts to reduce overcrowding in prisons. The 2017 abolition of the mandatory minimum sentence of one year for drug crimes was a welcome development. Also during the reporting cycle, OHCHR conducted over 80 prison monitoring visits. This enabled the Office to collect data that informed the drafting of a second report that further identifies the main challenges faced by the prison administration and advances recommendations on the improvement of prison conditions, including on the prevention of violent extremism in prison. Both the assessment and the recommendations were formulated in close consultation with the Ministry of Justice and the Directorate General for Prisons and Rehabilitation. In this context, 2,600

officers enhanced their capacities through training sessions delivered by the Office and 50 high level officials benefitted from a training of trainers session. To support the increased compliance of Tunisian legislation and security sector policies with international human rights standards, OHCHR focused on ensuring that law enforcement officers made use of relevant tools and competencies to carry out their duties in compliance with these standards. A module on human rights was included in the curricula of the National Police School and is now part of the compulsory training for officials at all levels. The capacity of 3,600 law enforcement officers from the police, national guard and civil protection service were strengthened through training sessions on human rights in policing that were organized at the National Police School. The Office also supported the drafting of the Tunisian National Strategy on Counter Terrorism and strengthened the capacities of the National Counter Terrorism Commission. As part of its training programme for judges, which reached over 1,000 judges, trainings were delivered by the Office on the role of judges in preventing and combatting torture.

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

Following the 2013 national consultations on the reform of the justice sector, the Ministry of Justice developed a Justice Sector Reform Strategy, in 2014, in cooperation with OHCHR, UNDP and other partners. Furthermore, in 2015, the Ministry of Justice and the Provisional Judicial Body adopted an action plan on the reform of the judicial and prison sectors. The Office and UNDP supported the development of the action plan by providing technical assistance and facilitating stakeholder meetings to discuss the plan. In addition, the Law on the Constitutional Court and the Law on the Supreme Judicial Council were adopted in 2015 and 2016, respectively. The process was supported by the Office and UNDP through the organization of consultations with relevant stakeholders and advocacy activities that were undertaken during parliamentary discussions on the drafts. The Supreme Judicial Council is not yet fully operational due to delays in the appointment of its members. Another positive development was the adoption of a law revising the Criminal Procedure Code, in 2016, which reduced the duration of police custody to 48 hours and guaranteed access to a lawyer immediately following an arrest and for the duration of time that a person is in police custody. OHCHR provided technical assistance to the committee in charge of the revision of the Criminal Procedure Code.

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



OHCHR staff member discussing with students in Tunisia the contents of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
© OHCHR/Tunisia

In 2013, Law 53-2013 on transitional justice was adopted. The drafting was supported by the Office and in 2014, the Truth and Dignity Commission was established and started its operations. A number of Sub-Commissions were established, including on vetting and institutional reforms; arbitration and reconciliation; research and investigation; reparations and rehabilitation; safeguarding national memory; and women and vulnerable groups. Supported by the Office and UNDP, the Sub-Commissions established their respective rules and developed action plans. Furthermore, the Office and UNDP supported the Truth and Dignity Commission as it opened four regional offices and established mobile units to reach victims in some of the most remote and marginalized areas of the country, as prescribed by the Transitional Justice Law. The process of submitting complaints in relation to alleged human rights violations committed in the past was closed in 2016. The Commission registered more than 62,000 cases. In 2016 and 2017, the Commission's first 10 public hearings were held on a variety of thematic issues. The Commission received support from the Office and UNDP in developing the methodology to conduct the hearings, especially with regards to the provision of adequate services to protect victims and witnesses. Moreover, they also contributed to strengthening the capacities of the commissioners and over 300 staff members through the provision of specialized capacity-building activities on international standards relating to transitional justice, monitoring, fact-finding and the investigation of human rights violations. The Office also supported the Truth and Dignity Commission in the development of an investigation and prosecution strategy, as well as a National Global Reparation Plan. The Office and UNDP further supported the creation of civil society platforms across the country to ensure that victims from marginalized regions had access to information and were accom-

panied when engaging with the transitional justice process. The Office supported the establishment of the Specialised Chambers to adjudicate on cases relating to gross human rights violations and contributed to strengthening the capacities of over 500 judges, prosecutors and lawyers on applicable laws and procedures and international human rights and criminal law.

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

Although the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) was formally established by legislation in 2013, the Parliament only elected its 16 members in 2016. The Office actively contributed to the drafting of the legislation and advocated with national authorities for the operationalization and selection of the members of the NPM. OHCHR provided technical support that led to the adoption of the NPM's rules of procedure and 2017-2021 plan of action, the strengthening of the capacities of its members on international human rights standards relating to the prevention of torture and the development of a communication strategy. The NPM was further supported in organizing a series of outreach activities across the country that were aimed at engaging with civil society organizations to ensure they understood and disseminated information on the role of the NPM.

- ▶ *Increased number of strategic litigation cases on economic, social and cultural rights brought before the courts (EA 5)*

In December, a practical guide was launched on the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights in Tunisia, developed with the support of OHCHR and the Human Rights Institute of the International Bar Association. The guide addresses the possible modalities of litigation of these rights in Tunisia, with concrete examples from some Tunisian cases as well as information on relevant international standards on the subject. Training workshops to disseminate the guide are planned for 2018 and beyond.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Increased number of budgets and development policies are designed using a rights-based approach (EA 1)*

Following the 2016 launch of an OHCHR study on the Working Conditions of Women in Rural Areas and their Access to Social Security, which was jointly conducted with UN Women and the Ministry for Women, Family and Children Affairs, the 2017-2020 Action Plan on Socioeconomic Empowerment of Women and Girls in Rural Areas was drafted. The Office provided technical support to the Ministry for Women in developing the Action Plan, which was adopted in August 2017.

- ▶ *Increased number of civil society organizations monitoring and being engaged in the preparation of selected budgets and/or development policies (EA 5)*

Tunisian civil society organizations provided inputs to the draft law on the right to water during public consultations that took place in 2015. The Office provided training to 14 NGOs working in the field of economic and social rights, including on issues relating to water and agriculture. It also organized a workshop on the right to water and sanitation, in 2015, which provided support for the advocacy work of civil society organizations with regards to the draft law.

- ▶ *The UNDAF 2015-2019 integrates a human rights-based approach (EA 11)*

Through its active participation in the process leading to the development and adoption of the 2015-2019 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), the Office ensured the full integration of human rights in all three pillars of the document, namely democratic governance, an inclusive, sustainable and resilient economic model and social protection and equitable access to quality social services. The document was signed by the Government and the United Nations Country Team on March 2014. The Office ensured that all reports on the progress in the implementation of the UNDAF reflected the efforts made towards the increased protection and promotion of human rights.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Tunisian NHRI established and functioning in accordance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)*

The New Tunisian Constitution, adopted in 2014, provides for the establishment of a national human rights institution (NHRI). During the reporting period, the Office consistently provided technical assistance for the development of a draft law establishing an NHRI in compliance with the Paris Principles. An initial draft was approved by the Council of Ministers, in 2014, and submitted to the Parliament for adoption. The draft was later withdrawn, however, as the Government decided to continue working on the draft. In order to address its gaps and ensure the inclusion of inputs from civil society, the Office supported the Ministry for Relations with Constitutional Bodies, Civil Society and Human Rights in launching a series of nationwide consultations, in 2016, which gathered together approximately 600 participants from civil society. The participants prepared a set of recommendations that were submitted to the drafting committee. The revised draft was introduced to the Parliament in 2017 and it is under consideration by Parliament. In parallel to efforts taking place to establish a new NHRI, the Office continued to support the institution that is currently in place, the High

Committee for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Among other capacity-building activities undertaken by OHCHR, members of the High Committee were sensitized on the Paris Principles and trained on the drafting of reports to the international human rights mechanisms.

- *The Constitution and other policies that may constrain freedom of expression are brought into compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

Judges increasingly used Decree 2011-115, which strictly regulates press offences and thus increases protection of journalists prosecuted for acts committed in the exercise of their profession, instead of the Criminal Code, resulting in enhanced protection of the freedom of expression. OHCHR undertook a study on the provisions of Decree 2011-115 and its implementation by the judiciary, which was shared with journalists, prosecutors, judges and the Ministry of Justice and used by the Office to advocate for the exclusive use of the Decree rather than the Criminal, Military or Telecommunication Code. The Office also implemented a training programme for judges on their role in protecting freedom of expression and combating hate speech, which was attended by over 200 judges. Furthermore, a training manual was jointly developed with NGO Article 19 and tested with 25 judges, who became certified trainers.

The Tunisian Parliament adopted the Law on Access to Information, in 2016, which requested the creation of an Independent Authority on Access to Information. The Independent Authority was established in August 2017 and the Tunisian Parliament elected its president, vice-president and board members. The Office provided technical support and facilitated the participation of civil society in the drafting process.

- *Oversight and accountability in the media are in line with international standards (EA 1)*

During the reporting period, the High Authority for Audio-visual Communication enhanced its capacity to monitor hate speech in audiovisual media. With the support of the Office, the High Authority created a Monitoring Unit that is charged with monitoring and analysing the phenomenon of hate speech in the media. Using a monitoring methodology that was based on the Principles of the Rabat Plan of Action, the Unit produced periodic and thematic reports to share its findings. The Office further strengthened the capacity of the National Syndicate of Tunisian Journalists (SNJT) to protect and support journalists against harassment and attacks. With technical support from OHCHR and UNESCO, the Monitoring Unit on the Safety of Journalists was established by the SNJT, in March, and is tasked with monitoring and

documenting violations of the safety of journalists and following up on individual cases. Since its establishment, the Monitoring Unit has published monthly reports with figures and statistics regarding attacks on journalists.

- *Effective human rights education programmes, particularly for youth, established or strengthened (EA 1)*

Through the Task Force on Human Rights and Citizenship Education, a joint initiative of OHCHR, UN-ESCO, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR and the Arab Institute for Human Rights, the Office advocated for the formal inclusion of citizenship and human rights education in curricula and provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Education to achieve this goal. The Task Force also supported the institutionalization of the “Clubs on citizenship and human rights education.” Through this pilot project, 30 clubs were created across the country and the capacities of approximately 230 students and teachers in primary schools were strengthened to conduct human rights education activities. Finally, a practical manual on human rights education for primary schools was produced and widely disseminated by the Office.

- *The international community increasingly coordinates its support and interventions on freedom of expression and the media (EA 10)*

The Office created and coordinated the Freedom of Expression Group, which provided a platform for members of the international community in Tunis to exchange information and adopt a unified advocacy strategy relating to freedom of expression in Tunisia. An advocacy paper was developed and updated on a regular basis, reflecting priorities and concerns in the area of freedom of expression and the protection of journalists. It also fed into the recommendations provided by some Member States during Tunisia’s third cycle of the UPR, in May 2017. This approach contributed to a large number of relevant recommendations, which were adopted by Tunisia.

Tunisia: Expenditure in 2017

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	880,668
Activities and operating costs	-	303,927
Subtotal	-	1,184,595
Programme support costs	-	154,048
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,338,642

Yemen

Year established	2012
Staff as of 31 December 2017	9
Expenditure in 2017	US\$3,828,538

Results

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Constitution and legislative framework is aligned with international human rights standards (EA 1)*
Due to the political stalemate and the weak rule of law, not much progress could be achieved on a number of reform initiatives, including the drafting of the Constitution.

- *Establishment and/or improved functioning, in compliance with human rights standards, of victim-centred transitional justice mechanisms, including the Commission of Inquiry, Truth and Reconciliation, Land and Dismissals Commissions (EA 3)*

Over the past year, the National Commission of Inquiry issued two interim reports and some monthly reports. In addition, of the more than 17,000 human rights violations reportedly documented, the Commission notes that it completed investigations of more than 10,000 allegations. As a result of political constraints, however, the perceived partiality of the National Commission and its limited access have prevented it from comprehensively executing its mandate. In April 2017, OHCHR deployed five additional staff members to provide the National Commission with technical assistance and advice and to support its investigations. Moreover, OHCHR conducted a variety of technical cooperation activities. For instance, in February, a workshop was held for members of the Commission in Doha, where information on good practices of commissions of inquiry was presented. In May, a working visit to the National Commission was undertaken in Aden to provide technical expertise on information management, protection protocols and archiving. Two additional workshops were held in Kuala Lumpur for field monitors and investigators from the National Commission working in 20 Yemeni governorates, to build their capacities on monitoring and documenting human rights violations.



OHCHR staff members monitoring a neighbourhood in Sana'a affected by the on-going conflict in Yemen. © OHCHR/Yemen

information on good practices of commissions of inquiry was presented. In May, a working visit to the National Commission was undertaken in Aden to provide technical expertise on information management, protection protocols and archiving. Two additional workshops were held in Kuala Lumpur for field monitors and investigators from the National Commission working in 20 Yemeni governorates, to build their capacities on monitoring and documenting human rights violations.

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

- *Systems and procedures put in place by OHCHR contribute to protection from human rights violations (EA 3)*

OHCHR established a monitoring, documentation and investigation mechanism through the deployment of field monitors to conflict-affected areas, including in Sana'a governorate, Amanat Al-Asimah, Aden, Abyan, Al Hudaydah, Al Mahwit, Hajjah, Hadramout, Al Jawf, Amran, Taizz, Al-Dhale'e, Lahj, Ibb, Sa'ada, Shabwah and Marib. During 2017, the Office organized four meetings with field monitors to enhance their monitoring and reporting skills and increase their coordination. Based on the findings reported by the monitors and OHCHR's monitoring, the Office drafted 12 monthly updates on the human rights situation in Yemen, which were shared with the United Nations Country Team, the Humanitarian Country Team, the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to Yemen and other international stakeholders. In addition, OHCHR human rights monitors conducted more than 100 field visits to prisons and detention facilities, documented human rights violations and advocated with prison authorities for the necessary corrective measures. Moreover, in October, OHCHR met with the Director of the Rehabilitation and Correction Authority to raise



OHCHR workshop on human rights in the context of conflict and humanitarian emergencies for Yemeni civil society actors. © OHCHR/Yemen

concerns about the detention conditions in prisons, including overcrowding and a lack of basic services.

Yemen: Expenditure in 2017		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	1,850,877
Activities and operating costs	-	1,537,202
Subtotal	-	3,388,078
Programme support costs	-	440,460
GRAND TOTAL	-	3,828,538

Regional Offices and Centres

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

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2017	26
Expenditure in 2017	US\$2,108,008

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Increased ratification of international human rights treaties by countries in the region (EA 2)*
While some positive steps were undertaken by a number of countries in the region to ratify international human rights instruments, none of these instruments were ratified by the targeted countries during the period under review.
- *Increased compliance and engagement of Member States with international human rights mechanisms, including through the establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting on/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms (EA 6)*
Following support received from the Office, Lebanon submitted most of its delayed reports to the human rights treaty bodies in 2016 and 2017. In Saudi Arabia, OHCHR provided technical support to the Permanent Committee for reporting to the interna-

tional human rights mechanisms through three training workshops. Discussions also progressed on the development of an action plan for the implementation of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations.

- *Increased number of submissions to the human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and Universal Periodic Review from civil society actors (EA 7)*
Partly as a result of OHCHR's technical support and training, Jordanian civil society submitted more than 20 alternative reports to the human rights treaty bodies during the reporting cycle. In Lebanon, OHCHR maintained its good relationship with civil society organizations and supported them in reporting to the international human rights mechanisms and in the implementation of UPR recommendations.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Legislation, policies and practices increasingly comply with anti-discrimination and equality standards in relation to the rights of women and of migrants (EA 4)*
In 2014, a law was adopted in Lebanon on the protection of women and family members from domestic violence, in compliance with international standards. In 2017, the Moroccan Parliament adopted legislation establishing a National Authority to combat discrimination and enhance equality, while a law to combat violence against women was adopted in early 2018.



OHCHR staff member briefs civil servants from the Middle East region on the human rights treaty bodies. © OHCHR/Middle East

OHCHR closely followed the development of these laws and advocated with relevant duty-bearers in both countries for their approval.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Establishment and functioning of accountability mechanisms in accordance with international standards to monitor, investigate and redress acts of torture and ill-treatment (EA 3)*

In 2016, the Lebanese Parliament adopted a law creating the National Commission for Human Rights. The legislation includes a National Preventive Mechanism mandated to visit places of detention as required by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, to which Lebanon has been a Party since 2008. The law was adopted following several recommendations that were issued by the UN human rights mechanisms. OHCHR provided technical inputs to the draft.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *At least two countries have mainstreamed human rights into their policies (EA 1)*

OHCHR advocated for a stronger linkage between the Sustainable Development Goals and human rights in relevant planning documents and provided guidance to stakeholders when needed. As a result, Lebanon adopted a human rights plan of action and it is currently developing a plan of implementation

for the Sustainable Development Goals. Jordan adopted similar plans of action.

Widening the democratic space

- *Constitutions, laws, administrative measures and policies are adopted to promote respect for freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association (EA 1)*

OHCHR liaised with duty-bearers in the region to advocate against laws that restrict freedom of expression and worked closely with the media, civil society actors, human rights defenders, the judiciary, religious scholars and other stakeholders to promote respect for freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association. As an example, the Office advocated with the Government of Jordan against a proposed amendment to the Law on the right of freedom of expression and right to association, which would have imposed restrictive criteria related to the establishment of associations. A number of activities were also carried out during the reporting cycle to support Member States in their implementation of the recommendations outlined in the Rabat Plan of Action. For instance, OHCHR has organized 10 events since 2013 in order to operationalize the Rabat Plan of Action, including a two-day regional workshop in Tunis on the role of civil society and media in promoting tolerance and diversity in the Middle East and North African region. Following the workshop, participants established the modalities for the establishment of a regional coalition to combat hate speech. In 2015, OHCHR organized an

Promoting the right to education in Egypt

In Nasr City, a suburb of greater Cairo, two girls relayed their experiences as participants in the right to education programme implemented by Defence for Children International, thanks to a grant that was provided by UN Human Rights and Education Above All. As part of the programme, the participants were asked to become members of a committee on the rights of the child where they could discuss their rights and duties as students at the school. The girls spoke about some of the human rights content that they had learned through the training programme, however, they focused on the ways that the programme had helped them to feel more comfortable and confident in expressing themselves at school.

One of the girls, Raghed, said, "I am happy to be a part of this programme because things inside me came out which I didn't know were there." "I can speak more freely about problems at the school," she added.

Another girl, Zahra, talked about a different aspect of the programme, specifically, the lines of communication that

were opened between students and teachers and between the students themselves. "In the beginning, people didn't talk to each other but now the students talk to each other. The teachers and students are now open to discuss about issues," she said. Zahra also connected the implementation of the programme with a reduction in violence at the school. "The programme changed things a lot! There is no longer any hitting. Life became more beautiful," she noted.

An important element of the students' participation in this programme was the opportunity to express their thoughts through drawing. They were encouraged to draw their thoughts and feelings about issues that were important to them and included their personal recommendations on how to resolve any problems they saw. They then discussed their drawings with fellow students, which often resulted in a lively debate on their rights and duties as students.

Expert Group Meeting, in Beirut, on the role of the judiciary in the implementation of the Rabat Plan of Action. In 2017, the Office organized a seminar, in Amman, for academics to explore practical ways in which the courts can protect the freedom of expression and combat incitement to hatred. OHCHR used the outcomes of the seminar to develop a training manual for judges on these subjects.

- *Establishment or strengthening of NHRIs that are compliant with international standards (Paris Principles), including in Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (EA 1)*
In 2016, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) were established in Kuwait and Lebanon. The Lebanese NHRI is largely operating in compliance with the Paris Principles, however, the law that created the NHRI in Kuwait falls short of international standards. OHCHR undertook a number of advocacy initiatives and provided support to duty-bearers in both countries for the establishment of the NHRIs. In Saudi Arabia, the Office continued its technical cooperation programme to enhance the capacity of the Saudi Human Rights Commission through, for instance, a series of trainings on the Paris Principles and the development of manuals on human rights issues. Discussions also took place with the Saudi Human Rights Commission to develop a strategy for human rights education.

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

- *Support is provided to non-UN security forces and UN security policies and programmes in compliance with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (EA 11)*

Efforts to mainstream human rights into UN programmes in Jordan and Lebanon resulted in the adoption of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) in both countries, in 2017, with guidance and support from OHCHR. OHCHR co-led the drafting of the HRDDP implementation plan in Lebanon with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and other UN entities.

Regional Office for Middle East (Beirut, Lebanon): Expenditure in 2017

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	99,275	1,199,183
Activities and operating costs	16,791	579,700
Subtotal	116,066	1,778,883
Programme support costs	-	213,059
GRAND TOTAL	116,066	1,991,942

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

Year established	2009
Staff as of 31 December 2017	6
Expenditure in 2017	US\$1,264,367

Results

Strengthening international human rights

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

During the reporting period, OHCHR strengthened the capacity of diplomats from the region to interact with the regional and international human rights mechanisms. This was achieved through four annual trainings that gathered together more than 100 diplomats, including 40 women.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Legislation, policies and practices related to migrants, minorities and trafficked persons increasingly comply with anti-discrimination and equality standards (EA 4)*

Some positive legislative changes took place in the region to counter discrimination and promote the rights of minorities, in particular victims of human trafficking. This was due in part to OHCHR's advocacy and capacity-building activities including a workshop on combating human rights trafficking for Saudi Arabia officials, a regional training on the right to effective remedy for victims of trafficking in persons, a seminar on bridging the gap between national legislation and international law on combatting trafficking in persons in the Arab region, and a workshop on the role of national human rights institutions in combating trafficking in the Arab region. As result of all these efforts, national laws in Morocco, Qatar, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates were amended between 2014 and 2016 to criminalize trafficking in persons. More recently, in November 2017, Saudi Arabia initiated discussions on a draft law on anti-discrimination and hate speech.

Widening the democratic space

- *National human rights institutions function in accordance with international standards regarding their interaction with international human rights mechanisms and civil society (EA 1)*

Within the large geographic area that is covered by the United Nations Training and Documenta-

tion Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region, there are 14 national human rights institutions (NHRIs). Seven of these have been accredited with 'A' status. OHCHR worked closely with the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions and the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions to enhance the skills and capacities of NHRIs in the region. This was done through the organization of various activities, including five training events on the drafting of reports for the Universal Periodic Review and the implementation of and follow-up to recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

► *Civil society, youth and journalists increasingly advocate for and claim their rights (EA 5)*

As a result of a number of activities implemented by OHCHR during the reporting period, approximately 400 human rights activists, including women human rights defenders, youth and journalists, increased their awareness about international and regional human rights standards, international humanitarian law, combating violent extremism, hate speech and promoting human rights culture and principles. These activities included two seminars on the role of media in promoting peaceful communities, in 2015 and 2017, and a 2017 training for women human rights defenders from 12 different Arab countries on engagement with the international and regional human rights mechanisms.

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

► *States adopt policies to ensure protection of the right to education in situations of conflict (EA 1)*

From 2014 to 2016, OHCHR collaborated with Education Above All to carry out a project on the "Protection of the Right to Education during Insecurity and Armed Conflict in the MENA region." The project provided grants to two civil society organizations in the region to enhance the role of civil society in ensuring that the right to education is protected in conflict-affected countries. One of the grantees, Defence for Children International, implemented a regional project to enhance protection mechanisms to ensure that children can enjoy their right to education in Iraq, Libya, State of Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen, which benefited 306 children. The other grantee, the Teachers Creativity Centre, implemented a project in the State of Palestine where 30 teachers and 30 youth activists were trained on using human rights legal tools and mechanisms to promote the protection of their right to education and document violations. In total, the trainers delivered 118 educational sessions in their respective schools to a total of 1,050 students. Following the sessions, the students documented and submitted 56 complaints to relevant authorities in relation to violations of their right to education.

UN Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha, Qatar): Expenditure in 2017

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	769,255	162,653
Activities and operating costs	145,895	146,388
Subtotal	915,150	309,042
Programme support costs	-	40,175
GRAND TOTAL	915,150	349,217

Human Rights Components in UN Political Missions

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

Year established	2004
Staff as of 31 December 2017	42

Results

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

► *Improved legislative framework to combat discrimination against women, minorities and persons with disabilities, including a new Family Protection Law and an amended Law on Persons with Disabilities (EA 4)*

In April, the Iraqi Council of Representatives' Human Rights Committee organized a public hearing that discussed potential amendments to the draft Law on the Protection of Diversity and the Prevention of Discrimination. Members of Parliament, representatives of civil society, judges from the Shura Council and the Parliamentary Human Rights and Legal Committee provided suggestions for the consideration of the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee, which is tasked with making recommendations for amendments to the draft. The Human Rights Office (HRO) of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) advocated with the Council of Representatives for the incorporation of the views submitted by various actors, including the HRO and civil society actors, in the revised final text. While the HRO also advocated for the adoption of the draft Family Pro-



Training workshop for civil society actors, human rights defenders and journalists in Iraq on the protection of civilians and transitional justice.
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tection Law, the draft has been awaiting consideration by the Council of Representatives for more than four years. Moreover, many provisions in the draft must be amended to ensure its compliance with international standards. In this regard, following consultations with women's rights groups and civil society organizations in late 2016, the HRO submitted written comments on the draft to the Council of Representatives.

The HRO continued to monitor the situation of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community and engaged with the Government of Iraq to promote the protection of LGBTI rights and investigate incidents of violence against the community. As a member of the Government Committee on LGBTI issues, the HRO submitted comments on a draft report, which examined the current state of the LGBTI community in Iraq. In September, HRO's comments were reviewed in a meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Committee, however, the report has yet to be finalized.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Amendment of Anti-Terrorism Law No. 13 of 2005 and Iraqi Criminal Procedure Code No. 21 of 1971 in compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

The Anti-Terrorism Law No. 13 of 2005 does not include due process or fair trial guarantees and its application remains of particular concern. The HRO used its public reports to advocate for the reform of the Law so that it reflects international standards on the right to a fair trial and due process.

- *Restriction of the death penalty to the most serious crimes and establishment of a moratorium on the implementation of all death sentences (EA 1)*

While the HRO consistently called for the abolition of the death penalty and a moratorium on its use until abolished, death sentences continued to be handed down by the judiciary in Iraq, based primarily on

the Anti-Terrorism Law No. 13. The Central Criminal Court in Baghdad sentenced 25 people to death for their role in the Camp Speicher mass killing of June 2014. The appeals will be heard by the Federal Supreme Court of Iraq. On 24 September, the Ministry of Justice announced that 42 people convicted of terrorism-related crimes had been executed earlier that day. On 27 September, the High Commissioner for Human Rights declared that he was appalled to learn of the executions and expressed doubt that the necessary strict due process and fair trial guarantees had been met in each of the 42 cases.

- *Implementation of a grassroots-driven transitional justice policy aimed at ending impunity and promoting community-based reconciliation (EA 3)*

Following extensive consultations with a range of stakeholders, including judges, prosecutors and civil society actors, on formal and informal justice mechanisms for ensuring accountability for crimes committed in relation to the ongoing armed conflict in Iraq, it was decided that the HRO would collaborate with other UNAMI units to support a proposed Iraqi-led process to ensure accountability for international crimes. Specifically, the HRO advised on the legislative changes needed to prosecute international crimes and helped to establish the Task Force on Accountability and Justice, composed of Iraqi jurists in Baghdad and Erbil. Furthermore, two expert discussions were held in Baghdad and Erbil, which resulted in a draft law for the creation of a specialized court for the most serious crimes, in full compliance with international principles. The draft has been finalized and disseminated for consideration.

Widening the democratic space

- *The Independent High Commission is fully functioning in accordance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)*
The Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights (IHCHR) was established by Law No. 15 of 2012 in full

compliance with the Paris Principles. In 2017, the HRO provided technical support to the Committee of Experts. The Committee is responsible for the selection of a new batch of commissioners and the recently formed Parliamentary Committee and is tasked with re-organizing the IHCHR Secretariat. In January 2017, a consultant was hired to determine what changes could be made to increase the capacity of the IHCHR. A total of 36 meetings were held with staff members and other interlocutors to collect information on the structure of the IHCHR and the roles, responsibilities and skills of its staff. The final report will be presented to the Parliamentary Committee for its consideration in 2018.

United Nations Support Mission in Libya

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2017	15

Results

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *The legislative and policy framework incorporate international standards against discrimination, especially in relation to minorities, migrants and women (EA 4)*

Due to the political stalemate that has gripped the country since 2014, there was no possibility of amending Libyan legislation to better protect vulnerable groups against discrimination. The Human Rights, Transitional Justice and Rule of Law Division (HRD) of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) prioritized the monitoring and advocacy work relevant to discrimination against women, minorities and migrants. With respect to migrants, the HRD continued to monitor detention facilities controlled by Libyan authorities and advocated with their Libyan counterparts to end arbitrary detention, torture, unlawful killings and other egregious violations against migrants in detention. It also actively encouraged the international community to take a stronger position on the situation of migrants in Libya.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Constitution, penal code, code of criminal procedure and legislation on torture increase its compliance with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

Adoption of the draft Constitution has been pending since 2016. The HRD participated in the drafting process to ensure that the draft was in compliance with international standards. Many of the HRD's inputs were taken into account in the draft. Given the

paralysis of the legislature in Libya, no new laws or amendments were adopted.

- *Reduction in the scope of the application of the death penalty, improved safeguards and enhanced mechanisms for clemency (EA 1)*

While the courts continued to sentence a number of defendants to death, the de facto moratorium has been maintained and the death penalty has not been carried out in Libya.

- *An increasingly functioning judiciary applies due process standards in a safer environment (EA 1)*

Between 2014 and 2017, the HRD continued to monitor the trial of former Gaddafi regime officials. On 21 February, OHCHR released a report that analyses key aspects of that trial in light of international standards and national law. The report concludes that while the trial demonstrated a major effort by the Libyan judiciary to hold people accountable for crimes committed during the 2011 revolution, including grave human rights violations, it failed to meet international fair trial standards. Serious violations of due process were identified, including prolonged periods of incommunicado detention for defendants and allegations of torture that were not properly investigated. In addition, no prosecution witnesses were called to testify in court and the court restricted the number of witnesses for each defendant to two. The report outlined a series of recommendations to address gaps in Libya's criminal justice system that were highlighted by the trial.

- *Detention centres are fully under the control of State-trained judicial police officers and have improved security and effective safeguards against torture (EA 1)*

Although the Libyan Political Agreement, signed in 2015, stipulated the transfer of detention facilities from armed groups to State control, progress in implementing this provision has been slow. By the end of 2017, only three detention centres in Tripoli were



Migrants sleep alongside one another in a detention facility in Tripoli, Libya. © UNHCR

under the full control of the Judicial Police, while four others were being operated by armed groups. The HRD has nevertheless made some progress in preparing State forces to take over additional detention facilities, including through capacity-building and raising awareness regarding the management of prisons and the treatment of detainees from a human rights perspective. The HRD has been working with the Ministry of Justice to create a timeline for the transfer of all detainees to prisons that are being operated by the Judicial Police. Finally, technical assistance has been provided to prison officials to promote the investigation of allegations of human rights violations and the adoption of preventive measures to counter the existing practice of torture in prisons.

- *Transitional mechanisms are in place and functioning in compliance with human rights standards, including a transitional justice law, an active and impartial truth commission, a missing persons commission, a reparations programme and vetting processes. A number of fair trials of former regime members and brigade perpetrators have been carried out (EA 3)*

To date, no general transitional justice mechanism has been established. In relation to the Tawergha-Misrata transitional justice process, following the 2011 conflict when approximately 40,000 Tawerghans were forcibly displaced from their native city by Misratan armed revolutionary groups, a milestone was reached when an agreement was signed between the Tawergha and Misrata communities, in 2016, addressing issues of truth-seeking, justice, reparations and reconciliation. In 2017, the HRD and UNDP co-organized the fifteenth meeting of the Misrata-Tawergha Joint Committee dialogue, in Tunis, which called for the establishment of an interministerial committee for reparations and discussed steps that needed to be taken to facilitate the safe return of the displaced Tawergha community. By the end of 2017, the Government of National Accord had signed onto the agreement and issued several decrees to support the return of the displaced Tawergha community to their town.

Widening the democratic space

- *An impartial and effective National Council on Civil Liberties and Human Rights that is working well with civil society and increasingly operating in compliance with the Paris Principles (EA 1)*

In light of the current security situation and ongoing political stalemate, the National Council on Civil Liberties and Human Rights has been closed since 2014 and has not resumed its activities.

- *Diverse networks of civil society organizations actively advocate for human rights and participate in public life (EA 5)*

The environment for civil society, particularly for women activists, remained hostile as armed groups

continued to threaten members of civil society and the media, thereby hampering their activities. The HRD facilitated the participation of Libyan civil society organizations and human rights defenders, including women, in international fora and initiated and supported various groups and networks for NGOs. These included the Libya Working Group for national and international NGOs, established in 2015, the Libya Platform, launched by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies in 2016 and a forum that was created in 2017 by Libyan civil society organizations that are active in the field of human rights.

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

- *Consistent reference to the human rights situation and recommendations in statements by the international community and increased responsiveness to meet emerging human rights needs (EA 10)*

The HRD continued to raise the awareness of the international community on the human rights situation in Libya, including through inputs to reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on UNSMIL as well as thematic reports on sexual violence in conflict, the Central Mediterranean crossing, minorities and the protection of civilians. It also regularly published general updates on the human rights situation in the country and thematic reports on detention, torture, migrants, judicial processes and human rights defenders. The HRD published monthly civilian casualty reports, which received significant coverage by Arabic and English language news outlets in the Libyan media. Finally, the HRD contributed to press statements by the High Commissioner and provided numerous talking points for UNSMIL and OHCHR for high-level meetings with Member States and other stakeholders.

- *Increased integration of human rights standards and principles into the UN's security policies and programmes, including the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on UN support to non-UN security forces (EA 11)*

Through its leadership role on the implementation of the United Nations Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) in Libya, the HRD supported the creation of a HRDDP Task Force and the adoption of a general and preliminary risk assessment for support to security forces in Libya. In September, the Task Force adopted a HRDDP Risk Assessment with respect to support to the Libyan Naval Coast Guard. Agencies involved in supporting this Libyan organization agreed to implement extensive monitoring and advocacy measures to mitigate risks of human rights violations at sea. It is also expected that a risk assessment will soon be adopted with respect to UN support to the Department for Combating Illegal Immigration.