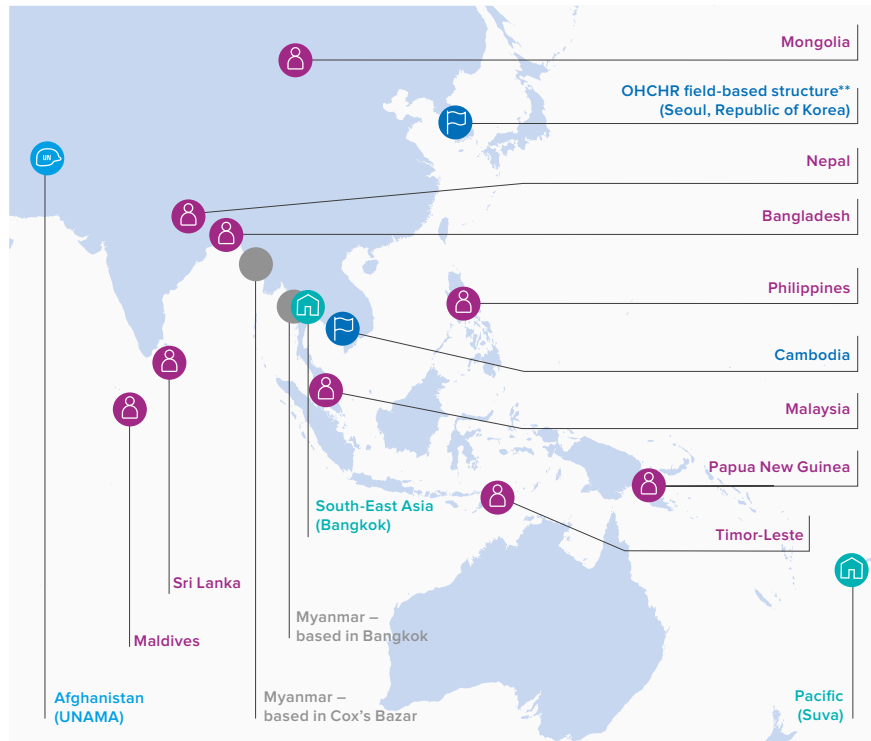


UN HUMAN RIGHTS IN ASIA-PACIFIC



LEGEND:

Spotlights:

- Disabilities
- Youth
- Women

Shifts:

- Global constituency
- Prevention
- Civic space
- Climate change
- Corruption
- Inequalities
- New technologies
- People on the move

TYPE OF PRESENCE	LOCATION
Country/Stand-alone Offices/ Human Rights Missions	Cambodia, Republic of Korea (Seoul)
Regional Offices/Centres	South-East Asia (Bangkok), Pacific (Suva)
Human rights components of UN Peace/Political Missions	Afghanistan
Human Rights Advisers deployed under the framework of the UNSDG	Bangladesh, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste
Other types of field presences	Myanmar (based in Bangkok and Cox's Bazar)

SDGs:



** Mandated by Human Rights Council resolution 25/25.

The Asia-Pacific region is the largest in the world, both in terms of its geography and population. The work of OHCHR covered 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 2019, the Office supported one country office in Cambodia; Human Rights Advisers (HRAs) or national officers in Bangladesh, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea (PNG), the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste; two regional offices for the Pacific and South-East Asia; one Human Rights Service (HRS) in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan; and one field-based structure, based in Seoul, which covers the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). OHCHR continued to deploy staff working on Myanmar.

In 2019, OHCHR developed a broader, regional approach with more emphasis on cross-country thematic issues, including torture prevention, accountability and transitional justice, civic space, climate change, business and human rights and migration. For instance, a number of activities were conducted between the two regional offices to enable local actors to respond to the human rights impacts of climate change.

OHCHR continued to oversee the implementation of Human Rights Council (HRC) resolutions on Afghanistan, Cambodia, the DPRK, Myanmar, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. OHCHR engaged with the Government of the Philippines, national institutions and NGOs in the context of the implementation of the first HRC resolution on the promotion and protection of human rights in the Philippines, which was adopted, in July. OHCHR also assisted the special procedures country mandate holders for Cambodia, the

DPRK and Myanmar and supported the visits of a number of thematic mandate holders to countries in the region.

In Cambodia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka, OHCHR continued to provide support to the UN Country Teams (UNCTs) to ensure the implementation of the Human Rights up Front (HRuF) Initiative, the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) and the application of a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to programming, including in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Various activities were undertaken to support the incorporation of human rights principles into UN programming, including training on an HRBA and technical advice for the development of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) in all roll-out countries, increase communication with UN entities to cement partnerships and enable broader access to information with regard to civic space, political participation, access to justice and non-discrimination.

OHCHR conducted numerous human rights capacity-building and technical assistance activities for a wide variety of international and national stakeholders, including UNCTs, national human rights commissions and civil society organizations.

In Cambodia, OHCHR supported the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) review and the examination of Cambodia's reports under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD). OHCHR also strengthened its support to the Resident Coordinator (RC) and the UNCT in working with the authorities and other stakeholders to assist in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

OHCHR substantially strengthened its work on Myanmar to respond to the additional reporting requirements arising from the implementation of HRC resolution 42/3 and created opportunities for technical cooperation and closer engagement with the UNCT on several initiatives. Pursuant to HRC resolution S-27/1 on the situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar, the High Commissioner prepared a comprehensive report on the human rights situation of the Rohingya and other minorities in Myanmar, which was presented at the HRC's fortieth session, in March.

In South Asia, the High Commissioner issued an update on the human rights situation in Kashmir. In addition, OHCHR increased its technical assistance on the development of human rights indicators in Pakistan and actively engaged with national stakeholders on the transitional justice process in Nepal. In Sri Lanka, OHCHR collaborated with the UNCT and the RC to provide advice and support related to various aspects of transitional justice. Following the adoption of HRC resolution 40/1, OHCHR monitored and assessed progress made by the Government in the implementation of the

transitional justice agenda and produced a written update that will be presented at the HRC's forty-third session. OHCHR continued to support the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka as the designated domestic mechanism to conduct the human rights screening of Sri Lanka military personnel who are nominated for deployment to UN peacekeeping missions. Moreover, OHCHR deployed a rapid response team to strengthen the UNCT's capacity to monitor the human rights situation before and during the presidential elections that were held in November.

In Bangladesh, OHCHR provided support to the UNCT by contributing inputs throughout the drafting process of the Common Country Analysis (CCA), in support of the UN's engagement with the Government on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development/SDGs. OHCHR also supported the review by the Committee against Torture (CAT) of the initial report of Bangladesh, which was submitted 20 years overdue. Following the Government's expressed commitment to develop a national implementation plan for recommendations emanating from the UPR, OHCHR provided support, along with the UNCT, through training and technical cooperation. OHCHR continued to engage with the Maldives, including through the deployment of a Human Rights Officer to the UNCT. An HRA will be deployed from early 2020.

In Northeast Asia, the absence of an in-country presence continues to limit OHCHR's engagement in this region. As a result, OHCHR explored entry points to strengthen existing partnerships with authorities, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and CSOs, including through UPR follow-up. Nevertheless, OHCHR secured a number of promising

entry points in 2019, most notably in Mongolia. At the Government's request, in July 2018, OHCHR secured financial support from the UPR Trust Fund and partnered with the Government, the National Human Rights Commission and the UNCT in Mongolia to implement the UPR recommendations in the areas of torture prevention, development of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, launching of the Free & Equal campaign, finalization and adoption of the Human Rights Defenders Law and use of the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD). In July, an HRA was deployed to the UNCT to support the implementation of the project. As of December, all of the targets envisaged under the UPR follow-up support project had been successfully achieved, including the Government's use of the NRTD.

OHCHR continued to pursue its work with regard to the DPRK by developing possible areas of technical cooperation, while at the same seeking ways to ensure accountability for gross human rights violations. The field-based structure in Seoul continued to monitor and document human rights in the DPRK, including within the framework of the implementation of HRC resolutions 34/24 and 40/20, which strengthened the capacity of OHCHR's work on accountability for human rights violations in the DPRK. Through the "Accountability project for the DPRK," OHCHR continued to develop a central information and evidence repository, assessed all information and testimonies collected by the field-based structure in Seoul from an international criminal law perspective and developed a number of strategies to be used in future accountability processes, including through the exploration of international and domestic avenues. In the area of technical cooperation,

OHCHR and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) cooperated to organize a workshop that was held in Geneva, in May, for members of the DPRK's delegation to the UPR. In addition, OHCHR continued to enhance its engagement with the People's Republic of China while seeking mutual opportunities for dialogue to address human rights issues of concern within China, including with regard to the situation in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and in Hong Kong SAR.

In the Pacific, OHCHR delivered technical assistance to a number of countries across the region. To this end, the Office conducted a number of capacity-building and awareness-raising sessions with national partners from across the region on the issue of human rights and climate change. Furthermore, OHCHR continued to engage with the Government of Australia on the issue of the offshore processing centres of migrants in Nauru and Papua New Guinea. Finally, the Office engaged with the co-Chairs of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime in an ongoing effort to obtain membership status.

The High Commissioner visited Australia, Japan and Malaysia in 2019.

AFGHANISTAN: UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN (UNAMA)

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
38.04 million	653,000 km ²	0.496 (rank: 170/188 in 2018)	Status A, 2014
Type of engagement	Peace Mission		
Year established	2002		
Field office(s)	Kabul		
UN partnership framework	One UN for Afghanistan 2018-2021		
Staff as of 31 December 2019	72		

XB requirements 2019 **US\$391,000**

Key OMP pillars in 2019



¹²³ Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.208.

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability (A)

A2 – Inclusive and accountable peace and reconciliation processes are established that conform to international human rights standards and internationally recognized principles of transitional justice. They include mechanisms for vetting ex-combatants and for identifying potential violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

10 16

The HRS of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan contributed to the functioning of transitional justice mechanisms, in line with international human rights standards, by advocating with and supporting civil society, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) and the Government to promote

the increased participation of civil society actors in reconciliation processes.

The HRS continued to support the Government, the AIHRC and civil society in the promotion of increased democratic space, the protection of human rights defenders (HRDs), anti-discrimination work, the promotion of inclusive and human rights-compliant peace and reconciliation processes, transitional justice and accountability for human rights violations. Specifically, the HRS organized 45 events countrywide, including trainings, dialogues and public awareness campaigns that involved 1,069 HRDs (267 women, 802 men) journalists, government officials, AIHRC staff and local community leaders, and supported the nationwide broadcast of thematic radio programmes.

To better inform UNAMA's work on peace and human rights, the HRS supported a two-week visit, in February, of a Senior Mediation Adviser from the Mediation Support Unit in the DPPA. The Adviser provided recommendations in the areas of transitional justice, the promotion of human rights in peacemaking and inclusiveness and participation in peace-related processes. To follow up on these initiatives, the HRS organized 10 workshops with local scholars on the protection of human rights under Islamic law. In November, an internal paper was finalized summarizing the main issues arising from the discussions. In August, the HRS and the Embassy of the Netherlands in Afghanistan established an informal "Group of Friends" on transitional justice to better coordinate efforts on this topic.

During the reporting period, the HRS documented 29 cases where HRDs were targeted, including journalists, due to their work. Four of these individuals were killed and three were injured. The remaining 22 cases involved threats or intimidation, temporary arrests or deprivation of liberty, assault or other ill-treatment that was attributed to governmental, pro-governmental or anti-governmental elements. While abuses against HRDs continued in 2019, there were fewer casualties than in 2018 when 10 journalists were killed and 15 were injured.

A1 – Cases of torture and ill-treatment at detention facilities are increasingly investigated promptly, impartially, independently and thoroughly. Accountability and protection mechanisms are strengthened.

16

The HRS contributed to the increased compliance of detention facilities with

international human rights standards, including in their treatment of conflict-related detainees, by advocating with authorities, providing technical support, monitoring detention facilities and compiling data.

In April, the HRS issued its biennial report on the treatment of conflict-related detainees, covering the period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018. The report provides an analysis that is based on interviews with 618 persons that were being held in 77 government-administered detention facilities in 28 provinces. The report notes an overall reduction in the custody of Afghan National Defence and Security Forces, from 39 per cent to 31.9 per cent, compared to the previous reporting period. The decrease is attributed to concerted advocacy efforts and technical support provided by the HRS, which also led to the adoption of specific measures by the Government, including the implementation of the National Action Plan on the Elimination of Torture following the 2018 enactment of the Anti-Torture Law.

The HRS continued to monitor detention conditions across the country, visiting places of detention that are administered by the Ministry of Interior Affairs (Afghan National Police (ANP), Correction and Prison Directorate), the National Directorate of Security (NDS), the Ministry of Justice (Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre) and the Afghan National Army. The preliminary findings based on 388 interviews undertaken between 1 January and 30 September indicate that the rate of allegations of torture or ill-treatment in nationwide NDS custody declined to 15 per cent compared to 2018. The rate also declined to 19 per cent in nationwide ANP custody (compared to 31 per cent in 2018). Nevertheless, the significant increase of allegations in Herat, Kandahar and

Kunduz provinces is a cause for concern. The rate remains exceptionally high in Kandahar at 64 per cent. Children remain at higher risk of being subjected to torture both in NDS and ANP custody.

In 2019, the HRS began compiling data on the respect for and fulfilment of procedural safeguards that are critical for the prevention of torture and ill-treatment, such as informing persons deprived of their liberty about their rights, allowing them to have access to lawyers, enabling them to maintain contact with their families and providing them with medical check-ups upon their arrival at detention facilities. Preliminary analysis of the collected data indicates that many of these procedural safeguards remain insufficiently implemented.

Due to concerns about allegations of torture and the ill-treatment of people in the custody of anti-government elements, the HRS interviewed 23 individuals who had been released from detention facilities run by the Taliban. In May, UNAMA released a press statement expressing grave concerns about credible accounts that the Taliban had been subjecting detainees to ill-treatment and torture and allegations that some detainees had been killed. The detainees were reportedly held incommunicado, in poor conditions, in underground facilities.

A1 – The Government establishes an independent national mechanism to prevent torture, which has powers to: conduct regular unannounced visits to all places in which individuals are deprived of their liberty; monitor impartially and transparently the treatment of detainees by Afghan security officials; and strengthen implementation of legal and policy frameworks and national protection systems.

16

The HRS contributed to the increasing use of national protection systems in compliance with international human rights norms and standards following the enactment of the Anti-Torture Law in 2018.

The HRS engaged with internal monitoring mechanisms, such as human rights officers of the NDS, which play a key role in ensuring the rights of individuals deprived of their liberty. According to detention monitoring conducted by the HRS, 23 per cent of detainees being held in NDS custody were visited by NDS human rights officers who received complaints regarding torture, ill-treatment and lack of access to legal counsel. The Office engaged with the Attorney General's Office, which plays a critical preventive role through its Detention Monitoring Directorate and ensures accountability through its Anti-Torture Commission. The Anti-Torture Commission, established under the 2018 Anti-Torture Law, began its operations in 2019 and is composed of members of key security agencies, including the NDS and the Ministry of Interior Affairs.

While the HRS continued to advocate for the establishment of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), as of the end of 2019, this had not yet taken place, despite Afghanistan's accession to OP-CAT in April 2018.

A3 – The Government adopts measures to improve implementation of the 2009 Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women. It effectively investigates cases of violence against women, prosecutes perpetrators and introduces measures to support victims.

5 10 16

As a result of advocacy and technical support provided by the HRS, various State institutions and programmes improved their compliance with international human rights standards, in particular for the promotion and protection of women's rights.

The HRS continued to support the Government's efforts to advance the promotion and protection of women's rights. The Legislative Committee of the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) continued its review of the 2009 Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW Law), for which the HRS provided detailed technical inputs as a standing member of MoWA's Legislative Committee. The HRS also provided support for the development of regulations on funding for victims of violence against women and girls and in relation to guidelines on raising public awareness about combating violence against women and girls.

Throughout the reporting period, the HRS supported efforts to fully implement the Anti-Harassment Law, including by providing advice on an implementation plan during meetings with the Women's Empowerment Executive Committee, chaired by the Minister for Women's Affairs, and in discussions with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Interior Affairs.

The draft Family Law seeks to articulate human rights-compliant provisions pertaining to marriage, divorce, matrimonial

property, inheritance and child custody. The HRS provided technical advice to the Ministry of Women's Affairs with respect to legislation on the registration of marriage, which aims, among other things, to prevent forced and underage marriage.

The HRS supported the AIHRC and the advocacy efforts of CSOs for the prohibition, in law and in practice, of forensic "virginity testing," provided for in the 2017 Penal Code. Specifically, the HRS participated in a civil society forum dedicated to repealing the provision and eliminating this practice. During the reporting period, the forum began establishing committees at the provincial level. In a setback, the Cabinet Legislative Committee proposed an amendment to the Penal Code that would permit forensic "virginity testing" pursuant to court order. The Office will continue to advocate against the proposed amendment.

From January to November, the HRS documented 221 cases of 13 serious crimes of violence against women and girls, including 60 cases of murder, 16 cases of honour killing and 50 cases of rape. Furthermore, the HRS undertook 312 advocacy and outreach activities to promote the elimination of violence against women with State and non-State partners and conducted 36 awareness-raising activities on the EVAW Law and the prevention of harmful traditional practices with community and tribal elders across several provinces of Afghanistan.

Participation (P)

P1 – The AIHRC works in conformity with international standards (Paris Principles) especially in the areas of independence and improving female representation and access to adequate resources for independent functioning.

16

The HRS contributed to the independent functioning of the AIHRC in conformity with the Paris Principles through regular engagement, the coordination of activities and information-sharing.

During the reporting period, the HRS continued its long-standing engagement with the AIHRC. On 17 July, following a selection process that took more than one year, the President appointed nine new commissioners (four women, five men), including the new Chair, Shaharzar Akbar. The HRS continued to cooperate with the AIHRC on issues related to its pending re-accreditation by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). As a result, the AIHRC was re-accredited with "A" status by the GANHRI Sub-Committee on Accreditation, in November.

The AIHRC held public hearings across 33 provinces, in March and April, as part of its National Inquiry on the Role of Women in Peace and Security in Afghanistan. The hearings provided women in these provinces with an opportunity to raise their concerns regarding political participation and peace-related processes. The AIHRC produced a summary of these concerns, as well as recommendations to policymakers and other stakeholders. The HRS attended hearings in Kabul, Bamyan, Herat, Helmand and Kandahar provinces, where it advocated for the promotion of human and women's rights in peace and security efforts.

The HRS continued to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice in the drafting of anti-discrimination legislation, sharing information regarding applicable international human rights standards and good practices in this area. It also translated into English and provided initial feedback on an early draft of the Anti-discrimination Law.



Peace and Security (PS)

PS1 – The Government and armed opposition groups formulate, revise and strengthen policies, mechanisms and regulations to protect civilians and prevent civilian casualties; these comply with international humanitarian law and international human rights standards.

The HRS contributed to the establishment and functioning of mechanisms to protect civilians in line with international human rights standards through monitoring and advocacy efforts.

In 2019, the HRS documented 10,392 civilian casualties (3,403 killed and 6,989 injured) due to the armed conflict. Women and children continued to suffer disproportionately, with 1,202 women casualties (345 killed and 857 injured), representing an increase of four per cent compared to 2018 and 3,149 child casualties (874 killed and 2,275 injured), representing a three per cent increase from 2018. Women casualties made up 12 per cent of overall civilian casualties while children made up 30 per cent of casualties. Children continued to be recruited and used by the Taliban, Afghan national security forces and pro-government armed groups.

The majority of civilian casualties, 62 per cent, were attributed to anti-government elements, with 47 per cent attributed to the Taliban, 12 per cent to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan Province and three per cent to undetermined

actors. Pro-government forces caused 28 per cent of civilian casualties in 2019, with 16 per cent caused by Afghan national security forces, nearly eight per cent by intra-national military forces, nearly two per cent by pro-government armed groups and just under three per cent by undetermined or multiple pro-government forces.

UNAMA documented attacks against voters, campaign workers, candidates and others involved in the electoral process leading up to and during the presidential elections in 2019, which were primarily perpetrated by the Taliban. Their widespread use of indirect fire in populated areas on polling day caused significant levels of harm, striking civilians, including children, in their homes. Improvised explosive devices placed at or near polling centres exposed voters to extreme risk.

During regular civil-military discussions that were held at the national and provincial levels with parties to the conflict, the HRS shared its findings on civilian casualties and advocated for respect of international humanitarian law and accountability measures. The HRS also engaged in a human rights dialogue with the Taliban and emphasized the importance of protecting civilians during the armed conflict.

The HRS continued to encourage the Government to promote the implementation of the action plan of the National Policy for Civilian Casualty Prevention and Mitigation and adopt a mechanism on the implementation of Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and other relevant measures to reduce and mitigate civilian casualties. The first governmental investigations have begun in relation to at least three cases involving civilian casualties that occurred during pro-government search operations.

On 5 May, UNAMA and OHCHR issued a joint special report on airstrikes carried out by Initial United States Forces Afghanistan on alleged drug processing facilities in Farah province, following a joint mission with the AIHRC. The special report points out that 39 civilian casualties were verified and notes that the drug facilities and associated workers were not legitimate military objectives. It urges US authorities to start an investigation, cease aerial bombardments on drug-related targets, review its targeting policies and strengthen the responses of Afghan law enforcement.

The HRS continued its monitoring and advocacy regarding children and armed conflict. After ongoing advocacy, together with partners, the Child Act (Child Rights Protection Law) was enacted through a presidential decree on 5 March. The Act includes provisions prohibiting recruitment and the use of children and bacha bazi, which involves the sexual exploitation of boys. Through trainings delivered by the HRS, 113 interlocutors, including teachers, judges, prosecutors and NDS forces, were sensitized on the protection of children in armed conflict, specifically in relation to the prevention of sexual violence against children.

BANGLADESH

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
163.05 million	148,000 km ²	0.614 (rank: 136/188 in 2018)	Status B, 2015
Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser		
Year established	2018 (following earlier deployment 2014-2016)		
Field office(s)	Dhaka		
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2017-2020		
Staff as of 31 December 2019	1		

XB requirements 2019 **US\$239,000**

Key OMP pillars in 2019



^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.208.

PILLAR RESULTS:

Mechanisms (M)

M1 – The Government regularly submits reports to the treaty bodies.

16 17 

The Office contributed to increased engagement with the international human rights mechanisms by supporting the first review under the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), building the Government's capacity to develop an implementation plan for the recommendations issued by the UPR in 2018 and facilitating civil society and UN contributions prior to the review by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) of the Government's initial State Party report, scheduled for 2020.

Bangladesh submitted its initial report to CAT, in July, before its review by the

Committee, nearly 20 years after the report was due. In cooperation with the UNCT's Human Rights Working Group, coordinated by OHCHR, information exchanges were organized between civil society, development partners and the Committee. The Committee's recommendations provide clear guidance to the Government and include a request that it submit a follow-up report in August 2020. Follow-up discussions were initiated on the implementation of key recommendations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and other partners.

A high-level conference organized by MoFA, in February, provided an opportunity for the Government to reiterate its commitment to the development of an action plan for the implementation of the 2018 UPR recommendations and

enabled OHCHR to engage with key interlocutors. The capacity of line ministries to develop the action plan was built through a workshop, held with OHCHR's support and participation, in June. In December, an agreement was reached to organize a series of consultations to finalize the plan in 2020.

Engagement with the CRPD Committee was enhanced through consulting and providing a platform for Bangladeshi CSOs to engage with the Committee's Pre-Sessional Working Group, in March. In addition, a joint UN report was submitted in anticipation of the adoption of the list of issues.

Peace and Security (PS)

PS5 – The UN system systematically integrates a human rights-based approach in humanitarian programming in response to the needs of Rohingya refugees.

3 5 8 10 13 16 17 

OHCHR contributed to the increased integration of human rights into the humanitarian response for Rohingya refugees from Myanmar. OHCHR continued to facilitate the engagement of the UNCT and local actors with the special procedures and international human rights and accountability mechanisms who visited the country, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar (FFM) and the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar. The engagement established a better understanding and appreciation of the accountability work being undertaken by the UN system in response to the atrocities committed in Myanmar in 2016-17.

The Office supported the RC, as requested, in her high-level human rights

engagements regarding the Rohingya response. The primary focus of this assistance was at the policy level and in her engagement with the UNCTs in Bangladesh and Myanmar. OHCHR participated in the joint UNCT meeting in Bangkok, in October, and contributed to a preparatory analysis for the meeting.

OHCHR was also engaged in policy-level discussions around protection issues in Cox's Bazar that arose due to restrictions on communications and freedom of association imposed on the Rohingya refugees in the camps and due to plans for their planned relocation to Bashan Char.

Accountability (A)

A2 – The National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh increasingly meets international standards (the Paris Principles).

10 **16**

The High Commissioner, the RC, and key development partners advocated for the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to increase its compliance with the Paris Principles to advance from its current “B” status. Conducting high-level engagement with key actors in the selection process of a new Commission, namely the Speaker of Parliament, the Minister of Law and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the development partners encouraged a review of the NHRC Act and procedure and support for the active participation of civil society. The selection of the new Chair and members of the Commission, however, fell short of the Government's accepted recommendations issued by the UPR on ensuring the independence of the NHRC. In December, at a high-level event organized by the NHRC to celebrate Human Rights Day, which was attended by the

Prime Minister, the RC encouraged reform of the NHRC Act and urged the newly constituted Commission to broadly interpret its mandate and tackle challenging issues, including human rights violations allegedly committed by law enforcement agencies.

Development (D)

D7 – States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms' outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.

1 **17** 

In the context of reform of the UN Development System, the UNCT in Bangladesh was one of the first in the region to start developing its new UNSDCF. OHCHR contributed to the integration of an HRBA into the Common Country Analysis, the analytical framework underpinning the new UNSDCF, which will begin in 2021.

CAMBODIA

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
16.49 million	181,000 km ²	0.581 (rank: 145/188 in 2018)	NA
Type of engagement	Country Office		
Year established	1993		
Field office(s)	Phnom Penh		
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2019-2023		
Staff as of 31 December 2019	38		

Total income	US\$2,332,324		
XB requirements 2019	US\$2,597,000		
Total XB expenditure	US\$2,080,580		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴	
42%	49%	8%	
\$879,882	\$1,025,204	\$175,493	
Total RB expenditure	US\$1,425,050		
Personnel	Non-personnel		
88%	12%		
\$1,251,641	\$173,410		

Key OMP pillars in 2019



^{1,2,3,4} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.208.

PILLAR RESULTS:

 Participation (P)

P5 – International, regional and national protection mechanisms responsive to the protection needs of civil society organizations and individuals, particularly but not only in the context of political participation.



The Office contributed to enhancing the compliance with international human rights standards of legislation and

policies related to protection for HRDs, oversight of civil society participation in public life, the rights of ethnic minorities and access to information.

OHCHR followed up on protection cases of HRDs and political activists and brought them to the attention of the international human rights mechanisms and the diplomatic community in Cambodia. The Office documented 200 cases of violations of human rights of persons believed to be members of the Cambodia

National Rescue Party (CNRP). The Office drafted four communications for the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia, which were sent to the Government. In addition, the Office issued six public statements about the human rights situation in the country. Through these communications, authorities became more aware of the links between their actions and their human rights obligations. OHCHR also published statements made by the Secretary-General and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia regarding the shrinking space on social media for freedom of expression and association. These statements were welcomed by CSOs. In 2019, OHCHR completed *the Handbook* on human rights protection and security of human rights defenders, which will be shared in print format. In 2020, it will be released as a smartphone application.

OHCHR continued coordinating and building the capacity of civil society organizations to better engage with international protection systems and noted positive results during the reporting period. More specifically, OHCHR built the capacity of over 20 teams from eight CSOs consisting of 70 individuals to monitor rights violations.

In 2019, OHCHR focused its advocacy efforts on imprisoned opposition members and contributed to the Government's decision to release 75 of 88 opposition CNRP members. The Ministry of the Interior responded to a letter from OHCHR outlining reported acts of intimidation against local CSOs by issuing a communication to local authorities reminding them that the requirement to provide notice for activities had been lifted. Although OHCHR contributed to progress in this area, the context of fundamental freedoms for HRDs remains challenging.

The Office continued to identify and raise the awareness of authorities of the stateless ethnic Vietnamese communities. Following OHCHR's advocacy efforts and the targeted recommendations of the Special Rapporteur, the forced eviction of approximately 10,000 ethnic Vietnamese living on floating houses on the Tonle Sap Lake in the Kampong Chhnang province was prevented. Instead, provincial authorities allocated plots of land measuring 5 metres by 20 metres to 780 ethnic Vietnamese families (approximately 3,302 persons) in the Chhnok Tru commune, in October. The plots are situated along a canal with access to the lake. As of the end of December, 374 families had already moved to these plots of land. The remaining families from other communes were granted permission to settle on river shores of their choosing where they rent land. The lack of formal identification documents remains a key challenge in terms of access to education, work and other economic, cultural and social rights for ethnic Vietnamese. OHCHR continued to raise awareness about these issues with national, provincial and sub-regional institutions.

P7 – Youth networks increasingly recognize the value and importance of human rights and accountability and their contribution to development and peace.



The Office enhanced the level of engagement of young persons in supporting human rights messages by conducting a targeted competition on human rights for youth.

Five groups of young people, composed of 23 individuals, participated in the OHCHR Youth Human Rights Champion Competition. Various activities were

conducted to encourage the youth to exercise their right to participation. The competition entries were filmed and posted on the OHCHR-Cambodia Facebook page. As of November, five posted videos had received 11,200 engagements (reactions, comments, shares). In addition, 40 young individuals, including the 23 mentioned above, from youth organizations and informal networks were trained by OHCHR on human rights and the international human rights mechanisms. A total of 12 youth organizations and informal youth groups requested 1,550 copies of the *Human rights questions and answers* booklet for distribution to their members and target communities and at their offices and school libraries. The youth participants also shared human rights messages on their Facebook pages, which triggered more discussion on the topic. The Office conducted research on the knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of youth on human rights and participation. The findings, which were made available in January 2020, provided information for the Office and other relevant stakeholders that will enable them to effectively design their youth human rights programmes.

Accountability (A)

A1 – Laws and policies in the areas of justice and prisons increasingly comply with international human rights standards.

16

The Office contributed to increasing the level of compliance of prevention of torture and ill-treatment, including in detention facilities, with international human rights norms and standards.

The Office's support to the Transcultural Psychosocial Organization Cambodia in

relation to its Operation Unchained project has had an important human impact. The project aims to treat and rehabilitate persons with psychosocial disabilities who have been locked up by family members due to poverty, lack of access to treatment and stigma. In the cases monitored by OHCHR, the intervention resulted in a significant improvement in their conditions and the treatment they received from their families and communities. Many have been unchained by their relatives and have regained some of their dignity as members of their families and communities.

Capacity-building activities undertaken by the Office contributed to an increased compliance with international human rights law, in particular to prevent torture and ill-treatment. Three deaths were investigated by three official bodies, namely, the local police, the National Committee against Torture (NCAT) and the local prosecutor. The outcomes of the investigations were made public. The local Office of the Prosecutor concluded that the death in custody was a suicide. Despite the investigations, no one was held accountable for the deaths.

Using OHCHR prison monitoring tools as a reference, the NCAT developed its own monitoring tools for visits to places of deprivation of liberty, including police custody facilities and social affairs centres. As a result of a joint investigation that was undertaken by the Office and the Cambodia Human Rights Committee (CHRC), three prison officials who had verbally abused detainees received disciplinary action.

Detention authorities also benefited from the Office's monitoring visits, recommendations and follow-up. In 2019, the Office carried out 45 visits to 27 prisons, two visits to a social affairs centre and one visit to a drug rehabilitation centre that is being

used as a detention facility. The Office's findings, recommendations and interventions related to detention conditions and the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty were discussed with the management of the facilities. It conducted further follow-up visits, interviews with current and former detainees, as well as with their families and NGOs working in the facilities.

As a follow-up to the 2018 national workshop that formally launched the NCAT and sensitized more than 200 senior officials about its roles and duties, the Office sensitized authorities during four joint awareness-raising sessions with NCAT on the prevention of torture and ill-treatment at the provincial and district levels. Over 300 participants from local prisons, the social affairs department, the police and gendarmerie increased their awareness at the sessions that sought to prevent the commission of torture and ill-treatment in their daily work. The participants showed their willingness to cooperate with the NCAT in their future visits to detention and prison facilities.

During the reporting period, OHCHR took various steps to address the issue of mob violence. For instance, on 18 July, OHCHR launched a report on the subject. OHCHR also engaged in discussions with the CHRC. These efforts were undertaken to prevent cases of "popular justice" and ensure that adequate investigations are undertaken. The national police asked OHCHR to provide copies of the report for dissemination at trainings for the judicial police. A communications campaign launched by the Office generated significant attention from media outlets and resulted in a high rate of national engagement on social media. As a result of this awareness-raising campaign, a youth group participating in OHCHR's youth campaign on political participation chose mob violence as the subject of their video clip.

A1 – Allegations of torture and ill-treatment and cases of mob violence are promptly investigated; perpetrators are prosecuted and sanctioned.

16

The Office raised awareness about cases of human rights violations in order to increase access to justice for persons with disabilities.

The implementation of the project on access to justice for persons with disabilities progressed during the reporting period. Following the targeted trainings for judges and pre- and post-training, tests showed that judges had an increased knowledge of international human rights norms and standards. Little change was reported on the practical application of that knowledge.

OHCHR undertook a needs assessment of disabled persons' organizations (DPOs) and delivered a training on documenting cases of human rights violations. The Office also carried out follow-up missions with the DPOs who were trained in 2018-2019 and had no previous knowledge about human rights monitoring and advocacy. Based on their questionnaires and interviews, OHCHR noted a definite increase in the knowledge of participants, as well as some progress achieved in the application of their acquired skills. Further follow-up and potential coaching will be required to reinforce the impact of the training.

Due to the ongoing anti-drug campaign launched by the Government, the prison population has significantly increased, thereby exacerbating problems of overcrowding. Some aspects of the treatment of prisoners have, nonetheless, improved as a result of OHCHR's continued prison monitoring visits. For example, the monitoring visits documented an increased access to food, fresh air, library resources,

vocational training and rehabilitation. Moreover, stronger engagement was noted by government departments, including the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training. Several NGOs working in prisons, such as Sipar Cambodia, This Life Cambodia, Caritas and others, consistently reported positive changes.

The Police Academy of Cambodia included a module in three separate four-month trainings for newly recruited prison staff, following OHCHR's advocacy on policy reform. As a result, 289 new prison staff from all 28 prisons increased their awareness and understanding of the rights of persons with disabilities.

The prisoner case management database started to be upgraded through cloud computing services. The database, which is interfaced with the court database, is being supported by OHCHR. Once the upgrade is completed, existing challenges are expected to be addressed with regard to multiple cases wherein individuals are being detained without a trial, appropriate court documents or opportunities for sentence reduction.

In 2019, OHCHR engaged in trial monitoring and observed a marked improvement in judges referring to fair trial rights and the Code of Criminal Procedure during hearings and trials. In some of its monitoring visits to provincial courts, OHCHR noted more openness from judges and prosecutors compared to 2017-2018, although at a couple of meetings in Phnom Penh, judges asked that the request for a meeting with OHCHR representatives be submitted to the Ministry of Justice. Nevertheless, in light of remaining knowledge gaps, there is a need to continue training and technical assistance, including in relation to legal reasoning.

OHCHR continued to focus on accountability for cases of violence against women and initiated a partnership with the Cambodian Centre for Human Rights regarding trial monitoring of cases of gender-based violence (GBV), which will begin in 2020. OHCHR continued disseminating the Annotated Code of Criminal Procedure in 2019. The guide on fair trial rights was not finalized and therefore postponed until 2020. Four meetings on police, courts and prisons were organized in Pursat, Kampong Speu, Oudour Mancheay and Battambang provinces. Although there was more openness to OHCHR convening and participating in the meetings than was demonstrated in 2017-2018, some prosecutors were reluctant to have OHCHR present and providing support. The meetings provided a valuable opportunity for inter-institutional dialogue at the local level.

With regard to the legacy of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), a legal dialogue was undertaken, in December. This raised the awareness of over 30 practicing lawyers about fair trial rights in the ECCC's practice. A training course for 25 law students will focus on the same subject.

A1 – The criminal justice system, and particularly judges, prosecutors and lawyers, become increasingly professional. Prison staffing is professionalized in a manner that accords with international human rights standards.

16

The Office contributed to increasing the compliance of the legal aid policy and other relevant legislation with international human rights norms and standards.

OHCHR and the Ministry of Justice signed the Joint Monitoring Indicators for 2019-2023, which includes recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms to harmonize national legislation, policies and programmes with international human rights standards. More specifically, it emphasizes the need to amend legislation (Criminal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and Anti-Corruption Law), approve and implement the legal aid policy, conduct a judicial integrity study and expand the courts of appeal.

OHCHR cooperated with development partners to conduct ongoing advocacy on the adoption of the legal aid policy. The draft was developed, in 2018, with support from the Office, however, the Ministry of Justice delayed its adoption due to political pressure. OHCHR will continue strengthening its strategic partnership with CSOs and government officials to ensure that the policy is adopted. As a result of OHCHR's advocacy, the legal aid budget was increased and two more legal aid groups were established.

OHCHR continued to support rights-holders through the provision of grants to legal aid organizations, with a particular focus on land cases and prolonged pending appeal cases. In the context of the project on access to justice for persons with disabilities, OHCHR identified six cases of persons with disabilities requiring legal aid and referred them to Legal Aid of Cambodia. The NGO provided legal advice to 12 persons with disabilities and legal representation in court in 11 cases, four of which have been finalized. OHCHR's publications on rights upon arrest were used as reference tools by Legal Aid of Cambodia while it was developing its own guidelines on legal aid for persons with disabilities.

In 2019, OHCHR suspended its analysis of the draft law on surrogacy as the inter-ministerial working group was unable to reach a consensus due to differences in position among the line ministries. OHCHR prepared background information, set up meetings and provided briefings to the University of Chicago team that produced a report on the subject. The report was disseminated to UN agencies, CSOs and government officials and follow-up meetings will be organized in 2020. The Office also participated in an expert consultation on the draft principles for the protection of the rights of the child in the context of surrogacy and provided inputs directed at addressing the challenges faced in surrogacy cases in Cambodia.

The General Department of Prisons (GDP) produced a final draft on the minimum standards on prison construction, which was based on previous recommendations issued by OHCHR and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). OHCHR's advocacy and support concerning international human rights norms and standards were reflected in the draft GDP Guidelines. The draft Guidelines include various requirements regarding the land used for prisons, including that: it shall not be susceptible to flooding or foreseen natural disasters; it has an adequate water source; a separate detention facility must be in place for newly admitted detainees; separate rooms are created for women/men/adult/juvenile prisoners and for prisoners with disabilities; there is an area for children accompanying their incarcerated mothers; and there is a larger minimum space for sleeping and movement.

Although the Office has worked with the GDP since 2014, no progress was noted in relation to the draft Royal Decree on sentence reduction and pardons or the draft prison procedure.


Development (D)

D2 – Business actors increasingly implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including by engaging with local and national authorities, civil society organizations, local and indigenous communities and other stakeholders.

1 2 3 5 8 9 13 16 17



The Office contributed to increased knowledge in the business sector to positively address human right violations by engaging with relevant actors, creating networks with civil society partners and providing technical support.

As a result of OHCHR's interventions, selected business actors increased their knowledge about and capacity to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

In 2019, a platform was created to focus on the finance sector that was composed of members of the private sector and CSOs. At the initiative of Oxfam and Fair Finance Asia, OHCHR contributed to the assessment and discussion of the Fair Finance Coalition and its road map to ensure that the activities of financial institutions are more socially responsible, fair, sustainable and respectful of international human rights principles. Following OHCHR's advocacy, the UNGPs were incorporated into the assessment. The existing Corporate Social Responsibility platform has come to a halt while its coordinators develop a new strategy.

OHCHR teamed up with the UNCT to present a project to the Human Security Trust Fund. The project, which was approved by the Fund to start in 2020, will focus on the impact, including the human rights impact, of foreign

investment in the Sihanoukville province. OHCHR supported similar research by CSOs that specifically focused on the human rights impact of foreign investment. The report should be available in 2020.

Some progress was achieved in resolving land disputes through non-judicial mechanisms. OHCHR's support to and observation of a mediation process between the Socfin Company and Bunong indigenous peoples' communities (IPCs) regarding traditional land that was granted to the company as an economic land commission (ELC) in 2007 contributed to solving most land-related disputes for the collective land parts, which will now be included in the applications for communal land titles (CLTs) submitted by IPCs. OHCHR has been providing support to the dispute resolution process since 2015. In 2017, the Independent Mediation Group launched a mediation process. To counter the power imbalance between the company and the IPCs, OHCHR financially supported Legal Aid of Cambodia to train community representatives in mediation skills and act as their legal advisers during the mediation process. The mediation on communal lands and family farming contracts was completed with positive results. Individual financial compensation will be discussed in April 2020, when the mediation formally ends.

D3 –Laws, policies and strategies on land, housing and property increasingly comply with human rights standards. Their implementation by 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 and sub-national authorities similarly complies with international standards.

1 11 

The Office advocated for better compliance with international human rights norms and standards of legislation and policies regarding the land rights of indigenous peoples.

In 2019, no new laws or policies relating to land and/or housing rights were discussed by the Government. Following extensive consultations in 2018, the draft Environmental Code was discussed at the ministry level, however, it has not yet been adopted.

With the support of OHCHR, and following advocacy undertaken by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples, the five concerned ministries refined a discussion paper on the simplification of the CLT process. OHCHR and its partners have been raising concerns about the complexity, length and cost of the CLT process for several years. While the simplification process is pending, authorities have continued implementing the CLT process with the support of OHCHR. As a result, in 2019, 11 IPCs were formally recognized as indigenous peoples (step one of the CLT process), three IPCs progressed to step two and one IPC progressed to step three, the final step before a land title is issued. In addition, OHCHR published

a government-sanctioned manual on the three-step CLT process, which was developed through a consultative process with the five concerned ministries. The manual was designed to help local authorities and IPCs more efficiently progress through the CLT steps. OHCHR also published a research paper on credit opportunities for IPCs in possession of a CLT.

As a result of training workshops that were organized by OHCHR and NGOs, local officials in Kep/Kampot, Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap and Preah Vihear provinces increased their knowledge about the UNGPs and eviction and resettlement standards. This knowledge is anticipated to assist them in carrying out their duties to better protect and respect the rights of communities affected by business and development projects in their areas.

At the request of the Ministry of Justice, and in partnership with CSOs, OHCHR organized a training of trainers for the Ministry's Department of Mediation and Local Justice. The training provided practical instructions on how to use non-judicial grievance mechanisms with a special focus on gender and land-related disputes. Follow-up trainings will be organized in 2020 at the provincial level.

As a follow-up to its monitoring of land disputes related to ELCs, OHCHR coordinated with NGOs to organize a multi-stakeholder dialogue to identify gaps in the implementation of the ELC legal framework. It also outlined suggestions on how the Government can fill those gaps. As a result, local authorities in four provinces committed to resolving land disputes involving private companies. OHCHR will follow-up on these commitments in 2020.

The findings and recommendations of OHCHR's study on the impact of six

social land concessions (SLCs) on rural livelihoods in Cambodia served as a basis for follow-up with relevant national and local authorities for the improvement of the Government's SLC programme. In 2019, OHCHR conducted follow-up visits in four provinces, during which OHCHR presented the findings of its study to residents and local authorities and followed up on the development of the sites. Participants were also introduced to the Open Development Cambodia (ODC) SLC interactive map, which was developed with OHCHR's financial support to assist users who are working with SLCs. In turn, ODC obtained information from the participants about the sites that will be reflected in the map. In December, OHCHR organized a final national consultation with all relevant stakeholders from the sites (community representatives, communal, provincial and national authorities, CSOs, UN agencies and donors) to discuss lessons learned and ways forward. The government officials who participated in the joint visits and the final consultation announced specific actions that will be taken to respond to the concerns raised by the SLC recipients. These commitments include the re-measurement of land and the issuance of land titles. After the follow-up visit to the Kampong Speu SLC, the Government issued land titles to all SLC recipients. OHCHR will follow-up on these commitments in 2020.



Mechanisms (M)

M1 – Cambodia submits five reports to treaty bodies that conform with reporting guidelines, as well as its report to the UPR. It adopts an integrated and participatory approach to preparing and following up on these reports.

OHCHR contributed to the submission of two periodic reports to the human rights treaty bodies that fully conformed with their respective reporting guidelines.

More specifically, in 2019, Cambodia submitted periodic reports to the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. During consultations on the draft reports, the Office provided the CHRC with training on the reporting process and missing contents. As of December, some government agencies had not yet submitted their respective inputs for a report related to CAT's list of issues prior to reporting and a report for the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

OHCHR supported the preparations of the government delegations for the reviews by CEDAW and CERD. For the CEDAW review, OHCHR and UN Women organized a mock preparatory session. For CERD, OHCHR provided a briefing to the members of the CHRC delegation.

With regard to the follow-up to the UPR, OHCHR and the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) organized a joint workshop that raised the awareness of over 150 participants from all branches of the Government and all line ministries, civil society and development partners/embassies on the UPR, good practices on the implementation of UPR recommendations and the role of civil society throughout the process. The workshop enabled CSOs and the Government to engage in open and constructive dialogue and for CSOs to build relationships with government representatives that are responsible for relevant human rights issues.

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
25.67 million	121,000 km ²	NA	NA
Type of engagement	Field-based structure		
Year established	2015		
Field office(s)	Seoul, Republic of Korea		
UN partnership framework	United Nations Strategic Framework 2017-2021		
Staff as of 31 December 2019	9		

Total income **US\$152,698**

XB requirements 2019 **US\$171,000**

Total XB expenditure **US\$118,026**



Total RB expenditure **US\$1,107,325**



Key OMP pillars in 2019



^{1,2,3} † Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.208.

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability (A)

A2 – National institutions in DPRK curb violations of human rights in response to international pressure.

10 16 

OHCHR contributed analysis and raised awareness about human rights concerns in the DPRK, including among the DPRK leadership, through public reporting and strategic media engagement.

In May, OHCHR launched a report on its accountability work entitled *The price is rights: The violation of the right to an adequate standard of living in the DPRK*. The report highlighted the Government's failure to provide basic rights or establish the conditions that are necessary for the full realization of these rights and the consequential impact this has on civil and political rights. The report was widely covered by national and international

media. It also led to greater awareness of the Government as a duty-bearer.

OHCHR continued to interview escapees from the DPRK upon their arrival in the Republic of Korea (ROK) for the purposes of documenting grave human rights violations, including violations that appeared to amount to crimes against humanity. Of the 75 escapees who were interviewed, 63 were women. The information was reviewed, analysed and entered into the Human Rights Case Database and a separate database, which was established in 2018, to enable analysis under international criminal law as part of the accountability project.

A2 – The international community continues its efforts to hold perpetrators of crimes against humanity accountable.

10 16 

OHCHR contributed to the extent to which critical human rights issues have been taken up in international forums in a timely manner.

OHCHR continued its efforts to hold perpetrators of crimes against humanity accountable. In March, the Deputy High Commissioner presented an update on the implementation of the recommendations related to accountability under HRC resolution 34/24. The HRC passed a resolution to strengthen the monitoring and documentation capacity of OHCHR, including its field-based structure in Seoul, for a period of two years, until March 2021, and requested that the High Commissioner provide an oral update on this progress at the forty-third session of the HRC and submit a written report to the forty-sixth session.

The team continued to collect and assess information from an international criminal law perspective. It collaborated

with relevant CSOs working on documentation to facilitate the sharing of information stored in the comprehensive repository and assess methodologies for conducting interviews and documenting human rights violations on crimes against humanity.

OHCHR advocated with the diplomatic missions based in the ROK regarding the need to keep human rights on the agenda of the Security Council. A discussion in the Security Council on human rights in the DPRK, which was scheduled for 10 December, was cancelled. A report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly, which was issued in October, provided momentum for advocacy on human rights in the DPRK.

Participation (P)

P4 – Human rights principles, norms and language are embraced by civil society organizations that work with the DPRK government or with DPRK escapees.

8 16

OHCHR contributed to the increased integration of human rights principles, norms and language into media narratives on human rights issues in the DPRK.

The Office continued to broaden its constituency by reaching out to North Koreans living in the ROK, academics working on issues related to the DPRK and other relevant actors. Through these activities, the Office sought to raise awareness, increase the interview base for monitoring and documentation, facilitate the participation of escapees from the DPRK in relevant UN meetings and engagements and build their human rights capacities. The Office organized several meetings with escapees from the DPRK and established a core group

of North Korean civil society actors with whom the Office can systematically engage on human rights issues. The Office also provided opportunities for the core group members to interact with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea during a high-level visit by the Chair of the UN Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in North Korea, at OHCHR workshops and the launch of the report *The price is rights*.

The Office regularly used websites and social media accounts, both in Korean and English, to disseminate human rights messages to its broader constituency and strengthen human rights advocacy. These tools featured reports that had been shared or published by the Office, which were then covered by major international and ROK media outlets. In January, a video on separated families was published and, in May, a feature story was posted on the OHCHR website about an escapee from the DPRK who had engaged in market activities and fled to the ROK. The Office also posted to Twitter to promote human rights issues. The Twitter office in Seoul provided OHCHR with training and helped to create hashtags and emojis in the Korean language for Human Rights Day.

Finally, the Office continued to brief youth and university students on human rights and its the work. More specifically, in October, the OHCHR organized a series of lectures for students attending Hongik University in Seoul. A number of representatives from the Office delivered speeches at Model UN sessions and events organized for youth by the Korean Cultural Association.

Peace and Security (PS)

PS3 – International approaches to the DPRK integrate human rights as a cross-cutting issue and recognize the centrality of human rights in the promotion of peace and security in the DPRK.

16

OHCHR consistently raised critical human rights issues and advocated for them to be taken up in international forums.

The Office continued to engage with humanitarian actors operating or planning to operate in the DPRK and advocated for the integration of human rights into their programmes. More specifically, the Office contributed to the *2019 DPR Korea Needs and Priorities Plan* which to some extent reflected to some extent, protection and human rights concerns in relation to humanitarian programmes of the UNCT. The Office participated in a number of humanitarian and peace forums to raise awareness about human rights issues in the DPRK and advocated for the integration of human rights into humanitarian activities. In February, the Office moderated a session on the Human Rights, Humanitarian and Peace Nexus at the Pyeongchang Peace Forum, which was held to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Olympics. It also participated in the International Forum on Peace Economy, in August, and in the same month, at the 2019 Korea Global Forum for Peace, in a Track 1.5 multilateral dialogue that was organized by the Ministry of Unification. In addition, OHCHR continued to meet with humanitarian agencies and diplomatic missions providing humanitarian assistance in the DPRK to advise and encourage them to take key human rights issues into consideration in their engagement in the DPRK. Finally, a briefing to the Security Council on human rights in the DPRK, scheduled for December, was postponed.

Mechanisms (M)

M1 – The Government of the DPRK submits reports to two treaty bodies and participates in the UPR process.

16 17

OHCHR aimed to contribute to the development by local actors of reports to the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR.

Together with the European Union (EU) delegation in the ROK and the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the Office provided technical support and training to CSOs. In particular, the Office offered practical assistance to defector-led organizations in relation to the drafting of stakeholders' reports, engaging with the diplomatic community, prioritizing recommendations and advocating at the national and international levels.

Following this support, a number of CSOs submitted their stakeholders' reports to the UPR. Key human rights recommendations made by the CSOs in these reports were raised by Member States during the UPR review of the DPRK, in May. The Office also supported the screening of the UPR live review for CSOs and engaged with the EU and the NDI to develop plans for follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations emanating from the UPR. Following the review, the Office translated into Korean and disseminated the UPR outcome document.

Finally, with financial support from the DPPA, OHCHR organized the first human rights training, in Geneva, in May, for the DPRK's UPR delegation on the international human rights mechanisms, reporting to the human rights treaty bodies, migration and labour standards of the International Labour Organization.

MYANMAR

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
54.05 million	677,000 km ²	0.584 (rank: 146/188 in 2018)	Status B, 2015
Type of engagement		Human Rights staff (Other type of field presence)	
Year established		2014	
Field office(s)		Bangkok, Thailand and Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2022	
Staff as of 31 December 2019		3	
Total income		US\$1,531,025	
XB requirements 2019		US\$2,163,000	
Total XB expenditure		US\$924,688	
Personnel		Non-personnel	PSC⁴
66%		23%	11%
\$608,152		\$210,355	\$106,181

Key OMP pillars in 2019



^{1,2,3,4} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.208.

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability (A)

A5 – UN policies and practices comply with human rights standards and UNDAF guidance (2017); they focus on accountable institutions, access to justice, and the participation of civil society in planning and monitoring.

16 

OHCHR contributed to incorporating rights-based approaches into the work of the UNCT, through strategic support, early warning reporting and by co-chairing the UNCT Human Rights Theme Group (HRTG).

In 2019, the Office provided strategic support to the UNCT. This was done by establishing, in consultation with the RCO, UN agencies and NGOs, a regular monthly early warning reporting system. The overarching objective was to facilitate communication and information-sharing within the UNCT and inform the RCO, the High Commissioner and the UN leadership about concerning human rights developments, while also suggesting early actions to address and mitigate these developments. The first early warning report was issued in October. Since

then, the early warning monthly reporting system helped to ensure that human rights were maintained as a standing item for discussion on the UNCT agenda.

Following the release of the report of the FFM, in September 2018, and the report on the economic interests of the Tatmadaw (armed forces of Myanmar), in 2019, OHCHR took steps to support the UNCT in the establishment of its human rights due diligence framework, which would enable the UNCT to strategically assess and continuously review whether UN action is supporting or hindering the protection and advancement of human rights in Myanmar. More specifically, the framework seeks to develop interventions in line with these objectives, modify or correct its course of action as needed and strengthen its standing as a credible, principled and effective actor.

Furthermore, following the FFM's recommendations to the UNCT to develop a comprehensive human rights strategy in line with the HRuF Action Plan, OHCHR worked with the RCO to initiate and finalize the strategy, which is scheduled to be approved by the UNCT in 2020. The HRTG, which was established in 2018, will be mandated to ensure the implementation of the UNCT human rights strategy as it is the only forum focused on human rights discussions and initiatives within the UNCT.

In 2018, the Office had a leading role in a working group that was struck to assess the level of implementation of the FFM recommendations issued by the UN, the international community and the Government. In 2019, OHCHR presented the working group's outcome report to the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) for endorsement. The report recommends that the HRTG explore new avenues to monitor the implementation of the recommendations, including those

issued by the FFM in 2019, and ensure a continuous human rights dialogue between the UN, donors and international and national NGOs.

Participation (P)

P2 – Human rights principles, norms and language are embraced by civil society organizations that work with the DPRK government or with DPRK escapees.

16

UN agencies, the UNDG Human Rights Network and the reprisals focal point cooperate with national human rights institutions (NHRIs) (where they exist), making it possible to more promptly and effectively protect individuals and CSOs. The international community promotes an increasingly safe and enabling environment for civil society and effectively protects both individuals and organizations.

OHCHR helped to ensure the protection of civil society organizations and victims of human rights violations by training CSOs on security and protection for HRDs and advocating for all documentation actors in camps to be bound by a “do no harm” policy.

Despite its lack of regular access to the country, OHCHR continued to expand its network of local organizations in order to obtain information and receive case referrals to substantiate its analysis. Given the risks involved in this area of work, OHCHR trained 18 CSOs on issues related to documentation of human rights violations, protection of HRDs, information management and physical and digital security.

In its work in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, OHCHR advocated for the adoption of a “do no harm” policy for all actors carrying out documentation work in the camps. Concerns initially arose after learning that victims, particularly victims of rape and other forms of sexual violence, had been subjected to several rounds of interviews by different people, including journalists, NGOs and academics, without any protection strategy in place. OHCHR worked with the Protection Cluster, headed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to produce a sound policy document on protecting victims of serious human rights abuses from being re-traumatized.

Together with the Protection Cluster, OHCHR carried out a specific risk assessment for members of the Rohingya community who had been chosen to travel from the camps in Cox's Bazar to the HRC, in March. The risk assessment focused on the potential risks for reprisals by other community members or Bangladeshi actors, with particular reference to organizations aimed at promoting women's rights.


Peace and Security (PS)

PS3 – Relevant intergovernmental fora, processes and mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council, UN General Assembly and Security Council, integrate human rights concerns when they address situations of conflict and insecurity in the sub-region.

16 

The Office continued raising human rights issues in several relevant UN forums, including at the national and global levels.

In spite of lacking regular access to the country, the Office continued to provide written and oral inputs by participating in remote or in-person meetings, where possible, thereby providing substantive advice and policy positions in relation to various processes involving Myanmar's UNCT and its sub-entities, including the HRTG and HCT, and to some extent, the Inter-Sector Coordination Group, which is operating in Cox's Bazar.

The RCO and UNCT were provided with authoritative advice on the recommendations of the FFM report, which addressed alleged human rights violations in Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states, including on adherence to the HRuF Initiative and the HRDDP.

Furthermore, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-27/1 on the situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar, the High Commissioner presented a comprehensive report on the human rights situation of the Rohingya and other minorities in Myanmar at the Council's March session. The Office also prepared the High Commissioner's oral update, which was delivered to the Council, in July.

The Office supported the missions of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar and contributed to her reports, communications and statements.

**ROHINGYA HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS ADDRESS
THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

From 8 to 15 March, two Rohingya HRDs, Muhib Ullah from the Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights (ARSPHR) and Hamida Khatun from Shanti Mohila, visited Geneva to attend a session of the Human Rights Council. The trip was funded and facilitated by the Myanmar team and marked the first time that representatives from the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar spoke at an international forum to detail the crimes and violations committed against the Rohingya, including during the campaign of violence that began in August 2017. A staff member provided them with assistance throughout their visit.

In their speeches, the two HRDs spoke about their experiences and described the impact that decades of persecution and violence perpetrated by Myanmar authorities had taken on them, their families and their communities. They spoke about the need for accountability for those crimes and underlined what the international community needs to do to support the Rohingya community in Cox's Bazar and Myanmar, including undertaking direct consultations with those affected. They also expressed their eagerness to return home, but only after their rights and Myanmar citizenship have been guaranteed.

During the week, the HRDs attended side events, participated in a press conference by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar and met with various government representatives. They also had the opportunity to meet with officials from international and regional bodies and NGOs. Finally, the two HRDs were interviewed by the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar.

As there is a widespread perception within the Rohingya community that the international community is not taking steps to alleviate their plight, both representatives expressed their surprise at the number and extent of activities underway at the national and regional levels that are focused on Myanmar and the situation faced by the Rohingya.

Since returning to the camps, Muhib Ullah has held a series of debriefing discussions with leaders from the camps in Cox's Bazar to talk about his trip and inform the wider community about the many efforts being undertaken to address the Rohingya crisis.

THE PACIFIC

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
Year established	2005
Field office(s)	Suva
UN partnership framework	United Nations Pacific Strategy 2018-2022
Staff as of 31 December 2019	8

Total income	US\$1,114,605		
XB requirements 2019	US\$1,807,000		
Total XB expenditure	US\$1,089,476		
	Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC [†]
	52%	37%	11%
	\$565,243	\$401,728	\$122,505
Total RB expenditure	US\$88,341		
	Personnel	Non-personnel	
	99%	1%	
	\$87,628	\$713	

Key OMP pillars in 2019



[†] Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.208.

PILLAR RESULTS:

Mechanisms (M)

M1 – Special procedures mandate holders make at least two visits each year to the Pacific region.

16 | 17

During the reporting period, OHCHR encouraged countries in the region to accept visit requests from the special procedures.

OHCHR supported the country visits of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights to **Tuvalu** and the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health to **Fiji**. The latter Special Rapporteur noted that while Fiji has good opportunities and a strong political will that can contribute to realizing the right to health, the achievement of that goal

necessitates that violence, discrimination and inequalities are addressed and that investments are made in its healthcare system. The report stresses that more attention should be paid to violence against women and children, including by implementing existing laws, and highlights that the mental health of the Fijian population is an emerging priority. In June 2020, the Special Rapporteur will present his full report on the findings of the visit to the HRC.

M1 – More Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) ratify at least one core international human rights treaty.

16 | 17

OHCHR advocated for the increased ratification of international and regional human rights treaties by countries in the region. In 2019, three ratifications/accessions of core international human treaties were recorded.

In 2019, **Kiribati** ratified CAT, without any reservations. **Samoa** acceded to the Convention, which entered into force on 27 April, although reservations were made to articles 14, 20 and 30. OHCHR, regional partners and civil society actors jointly advocated for the ratification of CAT in these countries.

The **Marshall Islands** acceded to ICERD in April, without any reservations. In doing so, it became the fourth Pacific Island State, after Fiji, Solomon Islands and Tonga, to become a State Party to ICERD.

M1 – States in the region submit on time a higher proportion of the reports that are due to the treaty bodies and UPR.

16 17

OHCHR engaged with and provided technical assistance to countries in the region to support their timely submission of reports to the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR.

Fiji was reviewed during its third UPR cycle, in November. OHCHR provided technical support to the Government, the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission and civil society to help them prepare their reports and submissions. Between June 2018 and January 2019, OHCHR held several briefing sessions for government officials and civil society on the UPR process. The Government of Fiji sent a strong delegation to Geneva to participate in the UPR process. During the interactive dialogue, 97 delegations made statements and a total of 138 recommendations were issued to the Government, 122 of which it accepted.

M1 – Kiribati, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and Vanuatu establish National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRFs) to coordinate reporting and implement recommendations made by the treaty bodies, special procedures, the Human Rights Council, and the UPR.

16 17

The Office provided technical assistance in relation to the establishment and functioning of NMRFs and the implementation of recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR.

OHCHR contributed to building the capacity of State officials on treaty body reporting procedures and the effective implementation of and follow-up to the recommendations issued by various international human rights mechanisms. Discussions also focused on transforming the Working Group on Treaties (WGT), Nauru's NMRF, into a functioning body. The WGT is led by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Justice and Border Control. It lacks a comprehensive plan for the implementation of the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms and lacks a database to track any progress achieved. As a result, the WGT expedited the drafting and finalization of Nauru's initial reports to CAT and CRPD and intensified its advocacy with political leaders regarding the ratification of the remaining international human rights treaties, particularly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). In addition, a plan was developed for the implementation of existing recommendations.

In November, through the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the work of the Human Rights Council, OHCHR organized a workshop for the Pacific region. Participants included the HRC President, marking the first time that a sitting HRC President had visited the region, 33 representatives from LDCs/SIDS, three former Trust Fund beneficiaries from Africa and the Caribbean and representatives from the Forum of Small States and the Commonwealth Secretariat. The workshop provided a unique opportunity for interaction and

the exchange of experiences, information and ideas and for the identification and documentation of good practices to enhance and strengthen effective participation in the HRC and its mechanisms. The event concluded with the adoption of the Nadi Declaration Towards 2022, which sets out a series of recommendations and priorities looking towards 2022, when OHCHR will produce a report outlining the activities of the Trust Fund. Among the priority recommendations agreed up on are undertaking concerted efforts to improve the functioning of the Trust Fund, which has been operational since 2014, and ensuring that topics relevant to the Pacific SIDS are discussed at the Council.

Accountability (A)

A1 – The Cook Islands and Vanuatu establish national human rights institutions and existing national human rights institutions in Fiji, Samoa and Tuvalu are further strengthened in full respect of the Paris Principles.

16

OHCHR contributed to the extent to which an NHRI has been established and is working in conformity with international standards (Paris Principles).

OHCHR contributed to the establishment of an independent NHRI in Tuvalu, the third Pacific Island State to establish an NHRI. Throughout 2019, OHCHR regularly provided technical advice to the Office of the Ombudsperson of Tuvalu, which led to the establishment of an independent NHRI. OHCHR will continue to work to bring the Ombudsperson's Office of Tuvalu in line with the Paris Principles, with a view to facilitating accreditation with GANHRI as per existing international guidelines.

In coordination with the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, the Regional Rights Research Team of the Pacific Community and UNDP Pacific, OHCHR facilitated a dialogue to assist the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission to regain its "A" status.

In September and October, in cooperation with key partners from the Asia Pacific Forum and the Pacific Community's Regional Rights Resource Team, OHCHR concluded two successful scoping missions regarding the establishment of an NHRI in Kiribati. The Office advocated for this objective with senior government representatives, Members of Parliament, the Office of the Public Defender and representatives of civil

society. Extensive engagement with national stakeholders was key in preparing the ground for discussions on the value of having an NHRI in Kiribati.

Finally, at the request of the Government of **Vanuatu**, and as a direct outcome of its third UPR cycle, OHCHR provided advice to the Government for the establishment of an independent NHRI.

A1 – The police academies and penitentiary services in Fiji and Vanuatu include human rights training in the curriculum of pre-service and in-service training.

16

OHCHR contributed to the institutionalization of human rights training in key human rights areas by providing technical advice, training police and law enforcement staff and advocating with authorities.

In May, at the invitation of the Fiji police force, OHCHR provided a substantive submission in support of the review of the Fijian Police Act 1965. The submission focused on recommendations to incorporate international human rights standards and good practices into a new bill to bring it in line with Fiji's international human rights obligations. OHCHR also advocated for a modern and effective police force that is respectful of the rights and dignity of all human beings, especially women, juveniles, children, members of the LGBTI community and other vulnerable parts of Fijian society. The consultative session was facilitated by the Assistant Commissioner of Police and included the participation of more than 45 senior police officials.

In July, the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights of the Parliament of Fiji invited OHCHR to provide expert advice on the review of

the Sex Offenders Bill No. 34 of 2018. OHCHR submitted written suggestions on how to bring the Bill into conformity with international human rights law. The most recent draft of an amendment follows OHCHR's interventions over the past two years with the Office of the Attorney General and training and capacity-building activities that were delivered to law enforcement officers and CSOs regarding the treatment of sex offenders.

At the request of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence of the Parliament of Fiji, OHCHR made an oral submission to the Committee, on 18 April, with a view to encouraging governments in the region to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW) and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED). The Parliament requested that the Standing Committee conduct a review related to both of the conventions and submit a review report for its consideration. Fiji accepted the recommendations issued during its second UPR cycle to ratify the remaining core international human rights treaties by 2020.

In September, the Regional Office for the Pacific conducted human rights training sessions for 27 INTERPOL officers in Singapore, which included two days of substantive discussion on torture, the use of force and the deprivation of liberty. Participants were consequently equipped with the tools to deal with related queries from INTERPOL member countries and advocate for the inclusion of and respect for human rights when carrying out law enforcement functions in over 100 countries. Some action plans were specifically developed to more fully integrate human rights into the law enforcement training curriculum of

INTERPOL countries. The primary areas of focus of the action plans include a review of training courses as they relate to human rights, the incorporation of human rights topics into recruitment examinations and reinforcing links between the academy and operations.

OHCHR conducted high-level meetings with the Fijian Police Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners, which led to the establishment of a human rights cell within the internal affairs department of the Fiji police force. Educational materials were provided during these trainings, including *the Pocketbook on human rights for law enforcement officers 2018* and *the Manual on human rights training for law enforcement officers 2018*.

A2 – Judiciaries, law enforcement and oversight mechanisms in the region uphold human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights. They take measures that provide protection to victims of climate change, abusive business practices and unsafe migration.

10 16

OHCHR contributed to the increased compliance of oversight, accountability or protection mechanisms with international human rights standards by building the capacity of the police, parliamentarians and civil society partners.

Through a training of trainers for 40 high-ranking police officers on international human rights from the perspectives of law enforcement, OHCHR contributed to the integration of good practice models into their own practice. Extensive discussions were held on the human rights obligations provided in CAT and ICCPR. Sessions focused on how to deal with individuals who may be in vulnerable situations, such as children,

women, sex workers, migrants, LGBTI persons and persons with disabilities.

OHCHR also provided training and technical support to Fiji's Office of the Attorney General in relation to CAT and ICERD and conducted a consultative seminar on existing legislative gaps with regard to the prohibition and prevention of torture. During the week-long regional capacity-building programme on human rights and business and the SDGs, OHCHR advocated for the rights and responsibilities of civil society organizations when monitoring, reporting on and advocating against torture. This was followed by sessions on the prohibition and prevention of torture as part of the human rights training provided to the Fijian Parliament.

To this end, OHCHR made a total of five written submissions and oral presentations to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence of the Fijian Parliament, in addition to extensive submissions that proposed the ratification of ICRMW and ICPPED in Fiji. OHCHR reviewed the 1965 Police Act and proposed the inclusion of good practice models, especially in relation to women, juveniles, children, members of the LGBTI community, older persons and persons with disabilities. This was followed by oral presentations that were delivered at a consultative seminar with a team of over 45 senior police officers.

Development (D)

D5 – Tuvalu and Vanuatu strengthen the legal framework of their labour migration and climate finance policies and adopt a human rights-based approach. The Marshall Islands develop a human rights plan. Under the joint human security project, States in the region develop a draft regional legal framework on climate change and migration that complies with international human rights standards.

13 14 15 

OHCHR contributed to improving the level of compliance of the legal framework with international human rights norms and standards.

In Fiji, OHCHR organized the Human Rights and Climate Change Conference, which brought together more than 35 representatives from governments, civil society organizations, the private sector, international organizations and NHRIs from Pacific nations. The Conference enabled climate change practitioners to gain valuable knowledge from leading human rights experts, discuss how to mainstream human rights into international and global forums and prepare Pacific-related key human rights and climate change messages for the Pacific so that they can speak with one voice, and therefore amplify that voice, at the global level.

OHCHR conducted field research in the Vunidogoloa and Naviavia communities on the emotional and psychological difficulties that are arising due to climate change in Fiji. In a set of recommendations, OHCHR highlighted the responsibilities of States and other duty-bearers to recognize the importance of addressing the mental health impacts of climate change. OHCHR concluded that there is an urgent need

to adopt an integrated, inclusive and uniform approach for public medical and mental health services, taking into account the overlap between these two areas, and for governments, stakeholders and UN organizations to collaboratively work together to frame objective mental health policies, adopt an HRBA and ensure its effective implementation. Moreover, in implementing programmes for mental health in the context of climate change, States, the private sector, civil society and other relevant stakeholders need to ensure the availability of comprehensive programming and that full consultations are being carried out with all relevant stakeholders.

PHILIPPINES

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
108.12 million	300,000 km ²	0.712 (rank: 106/188 in 2018)	Status A, 2012
Type of engagement		Human Rights Adviser	
Year established		2014	
Field office(s)		Manila	
UN partnership framework		Philippines-United Nations Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development (2019-2023)	
Staff as of 31 December 2019		1	

XB requirements 2019

US\$283,000

Key OMP pillars in 2019



¹²³ Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.208.

PILLAR RESULTS:

Development (D)

D7 – The UNCT integrates human rights norms, standards and principles when it formulates and implements programmes and projects.



OHCHR substantially contributed to the integration of international human rights norms, standards and principles during the first year of the implementation of the Philippines-United Nations Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development (UNPFSD) (2019-2023).

Partially owing to sustained advocacy by OHCHR, the UNPFSD (2019-2023) is grounded in human rights through the application of the “Leave No One Behind” (LNOB) principle, gender equality and women’s empowerment approaches and the identification of

vulnerable and marginalized groups. The UNPFSD provides a strong starting point for enhanced implementation of an HRBA in relation to agency programming. As a result of OHCHR advocacy, the UNCT agreed to establish a theme group on the LNOB principle and a focal point network on human rights, both of which are led by the Office. The Government’s institutional counterparts agreed to organize a series of training sessions on LNOB, an HRBA and follow-up to recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. The first session was held in November while the remaining two are scheduled for 2020. OHCHR also participated in various workshops and briefing sessions with civil society in order to suggest strategic interventions and develop specific elements for a plan of action to

further the human rights agenda. As a result of these activities, participants had a better understanding of the need to increase engagements between human rights actors and social and economic actors. In addition, a process was initiated to facilitate the engagement of the Commission on Human Rights and the Statistical Authority in monitoring the implementation and achievement of the SDGs in terms of human rights, thereby ensuring that an HRBA is applied in the collection and use of data.

Mechanisms (M)

M1 – An institutional mechanism is established to integrate reporting to human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.

16 17

OHCHR contributed to the extent to which NMRFs were in place.

Building on discussions that were initiated in 2018 to help the Government develop an holistic and coordinated approach to engagement with the international human rights mechanisms, OHCHR continued to advocate with the Presidential Human Rights Office during the reporting period for the creation of this process. This also became an item for consideration in the context of the discussions on the National Human Rights Action Plan. To this end, further work and initiatives will be undertaken in 2020.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
8.78 million	463,000 km ²	0.543 (rank: 155/188 in 2018)	NA

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser
Year established	2008
Field office(s)	Port Moresby
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2022
Staff as of 31 December 2019	4

XB requirements 2019

US\$985,000

Key OMP pillars in 2019



^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.208.

PILLAR RESULTS:

Participation (P)

P6 – Disenfranchised male and female youth, and persons with disabilities, participate meaningfully in the 2019 Bougainville referendum.



The Office promoted the meaningful participation of rights-holders during the Bougainville independence referendum, which was held in June, by enhancing the capacity of the Government and civil society to address human rights issues in that context.

OHCHR contributed to strengthening the capacity of civil society and HRDs, including DPOs, women and youth networks in all three regions of Bougainville. The Office provided trainings to monitor and report on human rights issues leading up to, during and after the referendum. The Office provided technical assistance to

develop and use a simple human rights checklist, which enabled stakeholders to monitor and advocate for the effective participation of women, youth, persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups at all stages of the referendum. In March, the Office trained 67 police officers (18 women, 49 men) from northern, central and southern regions of Bougainville and government officials on human rights. In May, 26 government officials (12 women, 14 men) were trained on human rights in the context of the referendum. Also in May, 22 HRDs (14 women, 8 men) were trained on human rights monitoring. Finally, in separate workshops that were held in September, October and November, OHCHR trained 107 HRDs (56 women, 51 men) in Wakunai, Tinputz, Halia, Selau, Arawa and Bui.

Non-discrimination (ND)

ND6 – Civil society organizations and the Government increasingly monitor and address human rights violations suffered by refugees, migrants and targeted vulnerable groups, advocate on their behalf, and produce regular public reports.



The Office advocated on behalf of and raised awareness about the rights of refugees and asylum seekers in compliance with international human rights standards. To this end, it produced public reports and engaged in advocacy with national authorities.

With technical assistance and support from OHCHR, the RC continued to advocate at the highest levels of the Government for the rights of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in Papua New Guinea. In November, the RC wrote a letter to the Deputy Prime Minister raising concerns around the legality of the detention of 47 men with negative refugee status determination decisions who were being held in the Bomana Immigration Centre in Port Moresby. The letter followed strategic meetings with the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, with technical support and coordination from relevant key UN partners, including OHCHR, UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). OHCHR also provided technical advice and support to CSOs and HRDs advocating for the rights of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in Papua New Guinea.

The Office provided technical assistance to the RC to engage with and respond to supporters of the Free West Papua movement. Following the 17 August incident, in Surabaya, where Indonesian militias

allegedly racially abused indigenous West Papuan students, the supporters of West Papuans, including high-profile influential political officials, increased their advocacy efforts and pressured the UN system to provide support to this case.

Development (D)

D2 – Government regulatory bodies increase oversight of extractive industries to prevent and mitigate adverse human rights effects of their activities.



OHCHR contributed to improving the level of compliance of human rights and business, especially the extractive industries, with international human rights norms and standards.

OHCHR contributed to strengthening the capacity of 30 key stakeholders in the Government and civil society on human rights, business and the SDGs. A business and human rights network was established in Papua New Guinea following a training that was delivered by OHCHR, in partnership with the Diplomacy Training Programme, the University of New South Wales, the Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organizations and the Business and Human Rights Network. As a result, the 30 participants urged potential investors and members of the extractive industries at the 2019 Business and Human Rights Forum, held in Geneva, in November, to respect the rights of indigenous persons in Papua New Guinea and to practice due diligence and accountability in line with the UNGPs. The participants recorded a joint video, which was played at the Forum's special session on advancing

the business and human rights agenda in the Pacific. In 2020, OHCHR and regional partners, including the Diplomacy Training Programme, will host a national dialogue on business and human rights in Papua New Guinea, which would be the first of its kind to be held in-country. The dialogue would include representatives from the Government, business, civil society and members of the diplomatic corps, as well as development partners.

The Office also contributed to strengthening the capacity of 40 HRDs and civil society partners to monitor, document and report on human rights that are impacted by the extractive industries. The training targeted active members of civil society involved in advocacy around human rights abuses related to the Barrick Gold Mine in the surrounding communities in Porgera, including sexual violence and abuse against women, arbitrary detention, destruction of property, extrajudicial killings and environmental pollution affecting the rights of those communities to health, clean water and food.

D7 – The UNCT actively works with the Government and civil society to address the latest UPR recommendations to PNG by integrating the recommendations into the implementation of UNDAF.

OHCHR contributed to the increased integration of international human rights norms, standards and principles, as well as the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms into the UN common country programmes.

OHCHR supported the integration of human rights and gender into UN programming in Papua New Guinea, including through the establishment of Human Rights and Gender Focal Points

and the adoption of a strategy on mainstreaming human rights and gender by the UNCT in 2018. OHCHR and UN Women co-chaired the Working Group on mainstreaming human rights and gender. Through the Working Group, focal points in all 12 resident UN agencies in Papua New Guinea developed an action plan to address the recommendations that were issued following the 2016 Gender Audit of the UNCT and supported all staff in their respective agencies to strengthen their understanding of and capacity in relation to human rights and gender equality, including through online mandatory trainings.

Mechanisms (M)

M1 – PNG ratifies at least two additional human rights conventions (including CAT and one or more of the optional protocols to ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW, and CRC). The Government strengthens its reporting to treaty bodies, coordination of its reports, and its engagement with the UN human rights mechanisms.



OHCHR supported the Government in the preparation of its first report to the Human Rights Committee and advocated for the establishment of the NMRF.

The Office provided technical assistance and support for the development of Papua New Guinea's first report to the Human Rights Committee, which is scheduled for review in 2020. This included consultations with civil society and HRDs from across the country and the solicitation of inputs from key government departments. This resulted in the strengthened capacity of key officers within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Justice and Attorney General, to support

the establishment of an NMRF to coordinate engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

The increased capacity of national officers and the establishment of an NMRF will be critical when Papua New Guinea participates in the third UPR cycle in April and May 2021. The country will also receive the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences in 2020. Although the Government has issued a standing invitation for all special procedures mandate holders, this will be the first country visit of a special procedure to Papua New Guinea in five years and the second visit of this mandate holder.

Finally, OHCHR provided technical support to the Department of Community Development and the Constitutional and Law Reform Commission on the draft bill on disability, which aims to domesticate CRPD provisions into law. In collaboration with UNICEF, OHCHR reviewed the draft bill and provided inputs. At the end of 2019, the draft was awaiting approval by the Government before being submitted to the Parliament.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam
Year established	2002
Field office(s)	Bangkok
Staff as of 31 December 2019	21

Total income	US\$4,055,075		
XB requirements 2019	US\$4,129,000		
Total XB expenditure	US\$3,864,506		
	Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC [†]
	53%	38%	9%
	\$2,053,738	\$1,460,229	\$350,539
Total RB expenditure	US\$742,999		
	Personnel	Non personnel	
	93%	7%	
	\$691,470	\$51,529	

Key OMP pillars in 2019



[†] Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.208.

PILLAR RESULTS:

Development (D)

D5 – Laws and policies on the environment, climate change, extractive industries and urban planning comply with international human rights standards and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. National institutions and civil society organizations act to ensure that rights-holders can participate in decision-making processes on the environment and climate change and engage with duty-bearers and the private sector on these issues.



In 2019, the Office significantly advanced its work on climate change and human rights, with a focus on economic, social and cultural rights, strengthening the capacity of regional actors, notably NHRIs, environmental HRDs, civil society, journalists and business actors. This was achieved through workshops, field missions and providing regular support on effective engagement with international human rights mechanisms.

In October, OHCHR brought together NHRIs from across South Asia and Southeast Asia for the first dialogue

held on the transboundary impact of climate change on human rights, which included an exchange on key lessons learned from a variety of actions taken in the subregion. In November, a meeting co-organized with UNEP brought together environmental CSOs, members of the media and the private sector to raise awareness about and strengthen engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

The Office continued to closely monitor emblematic cases of environmental HRDs and community activists targeted by governments, private companies or State-owned enterprises. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that was signed by OHCHR and UNEP in 2019 provided the initial scope, which will be further broadened in 2020, for jointly engaging with stakeholders in the region on the environment and climate change. In addition, OHCHR participated in the global meeting that was held in Nairobi, in November, to discuss the implementation of the MoU and develop a joint regional workplan for 2020.

D7 – UN Country Teams and UN agencies in UNDAF roll-out countries (2018-21) and countries that support separate SDG planning or programming have adopted a rights-based approach to development planning and implementation that complies with international human rights norms, standards and principles.



Through capacity-building activities, OHCHR aimed to mainstream human rights into the work of the UN system to support the preparation of CCAs and UNSDCF's for countries of the region.

The Office contributed to a 7 workshop organized by for countries in the Asia-Pacific region that were

scheduled to undertake their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) in 2019. This engagement led to closer collaboration with ESCAP on the VNRs. During the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, held in March, the Office co-organized two side events entitled “Empowering the most marginalized and ensuring inclusiveness and equality: Realizing the SDGs through human rights,” together with the Danish Institute for Human Rights and “Ensuring women’s inclusiveness and equality in land rights and management of natural resources: The role of women human rights defenders,” with UN Women.

In 2019, the Office co-facilitated workshops with UN Women and UNFPA on gender equality and the application of an HRBA for UNCTs in **Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Malaysia** and **Viet Nam**. Each of the workshops included sessions on the interlinkages between the SDGs and international human rights frameworks, how to apply human rights principles in the context of SDG implementation and reporting and the operationalization of the LNOB principle. OHCHR actively contributed to the development of the respective CCAs in Indonesia, Malaysia and **Timor-Leste**. In Indonesia, OHCHR contributed to the elaboration of the UNSDCF 2021-2025 in accordance with international human rights principles.

At the request of UNEP, OHCHR participated in the **Thailand** Stakeholder Consultation on reducing marine litter by addressing the management of the plastic value chain in Southeast Asia, which was held in June. OHCHR led a session on applying an HRBA to the environment.

Peace and Security (PS)

PS5 – UN country policies and programmes, including UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), successfully integrate international human rights norms, standards and principles, including the recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms.

3 5 8 10 13 16 17

The Office contributed to the stronger integration of human rights norms, standards and principles into the UN development and humanitarian cooperation mechanisms at the regional and country levels, including by building capacity and providing analysis and technical expertise.

In November 2018, the Office strengthened its information management capacity, thereby enabling OHCHR to expand its work on early warning, prevention and humanitarian action in the region. The Office also used its strengthened information management capacity to contribute to the work on climate change and civic space by developing visuals to support their work.

The establishment of a light and flexible early warning system for the UN, in **Myanmar**, in September, was an important step to supporting improved analysis and responses to emerging human rights concerns in Myanmar. The early warning system provides regular updates to the UNCT.

During 2019, the Office trained 20 focal points (10 women, 10 men) in 11 NHRIs in the region to strengthen their capacity to engage in human rights work in humanitarian settings. The capacity-building programme was undertaken in partnership with the Asia Pacific Forum and included the development of an online training and the delivery of a workshop

and training in Bangkok. The participants expressed an interest in furthering their work and developed post-training action plans in order to put their learning into practice. These trainings with NHRIs is the first step in a comprehensive plan to provide them with longer-term strategic support. This would enable them to play a more prominent role in humanitarian preparedness and response and ensure enhanced protection for human rights in the context of increasingly national-led humanitarian action in the region.

The Office engaged in the regional-level mechanisms of the Inter-Agency Steering Committee (IASC), such as the IASC Sub-Working Group on preparedness, the IASC Regional Network Regional Directors Meeting and the Disaster Displacement Working Group, resulting in the inclusion of human rights protection on the agendas of the respective working groups. OHCHR facilitated a training session on human rights in humanitarian action at the annual regional meeting of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) meeting, which brought together national and international NGOs from the Asia-Pacific region. The Office also contributed to panel discussions at the ICVA Global Advocacy Officers annual meeting and at a regional meeting on the Humanitarian Development and Peace Nexus, which was organized by The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, in December.

Participation (P)

P1 – Civil society can operate more freely; civic space is more fully protected both in practice and by laws and policies. Civil society organizations engage more often and more deeply with UN human rights mechanisms; the communications of special procedures highlight more often the challenges that civil society faces in the region.



In **Indonesia**, the Office provided systematic support to strengthen the capacity of local CSOs in Indonesia to monitor, document and report on human rights violations in situations of conflict and insecurity, as well as on environmental and land rights. The Office also supported the UNCT's engagement with the Government on draft legislation and proposed amendments to the Criminal Code that would violate international human rights law, in particular the rights of women, religious minorities, LGBTI persons and indigenous peoples.

In **Thailand**, in the context of the general election that was held, in March, the Office provided training to HRDs on monitoring human rights in the electoral context, including by contributing to monthly reports from the UNCT on human rights in elections and coordinating the UN's monitoring of human rights during the election. OHCHR held two planned training sessions for HRDs, which included operational-level staff from the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT). OHCHR included staff members from the NHRCT in its briefings for WHRDs in the Southern Border Provinces.

In July, OHCHR held a regional workshop with 23 CSOs and technology companies in order to identify opportunities

and challenges in Southeast Asia in relation to digital technologies and civic space. This led to enhanced engagement among key partners in the area of technology and human rights.

Accountability (A)

A5 – Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.



Through technical cooperation, the Office aimed to contribute to the increased compliance of State institutions and programmes with international human rights norms and standards.

In **Malaysia**, the Office engaged in discussions with the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia on institutionalizing police training. It is envisaged that a long-term project will be agreed upon in 2020.

In **Thailand**, the Office interacted with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, in August, on issues related to the evictions of rural communities, including by undertaking field visits to areas of concern to meet the communities and discuss onsite human rights issues. The Office also continued to engage with CSOs and different government actors on the promulgation of a national law criminalizing torture and enforced disappearances and amendments to the 2003 Witness and Victim Protection Act.

SRI LANKA

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
21.32 million	66,000 km ²	0.780 (rank: 72/188 in 2018)	Status A, 2018
Type of engagement		Human Rights Adviser	
Year established		2004	
Field office(s)		Colombo	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Sustainable Development Framework 2018-2022	
Staff as of 31 December 2019		3	
XB requirements 2019		US\$597,000	

Key OMP pillars in 2019



¹²³ Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.208.

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability (A)

A2 – Fulfilling Human Rights Council resolution 30/1, Sri Lanka implements a comprehensive transitional justice strategy that is victim-oriented, gender-sensitive and complies with international human rights standards. It establishes an Office for Missing Persons, a truth and reconciliation commission, a reparations programme, and a credible special judicial accountability mechanism in which foreign experts participate.

10 16

OHCHR supported established accountability mechanisms in their compliance with international human rights standards.

OHCHR continued to provide technical assistance to transitional justice and related bodies and processes, in particular the Office on Missing Persons, the Office for Reparations, the Human

Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) and the Secretariat for Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms. Following the presidential elections that took place in November, OHCHR engaged with the new Government on its policy approach and with other national stakeholders on how to advance the agenda of the Human Rights Council.

Participation (P)

P6 – New laws establish transitional justice mechanisms and take into account the results of consultations held in 2016. Wherever necessary, victims of violations, women, and groups with specific needs are consulted in more detail about each element of the transitional justice agenda.

OHCHR advocated for the increased participation of rights-holders, especially

women and discriminated groups, in the process of reparations for the victims.

OHCHR assisted the Consultations Task Force (CTF), tasked with conducting nation-wide consultations on transitional justice issues, with the archiving of their materials, which was completed in 2019. The CTF participated in consultations with the Office for Reparations in Sri Lanka and OHCHR to advocate for the inclusion in the CTF report of the expectations of victims, especially women and groups with specific needs.

Peace and Security (PS)

PS6 – All Sri Lanka military or police personnel proposed for deployment in UN peacekeeping operations undergo a stringent screening process, led by civilians.

16

OHCHR supported the HRCSL, the UN and the Government to integrate international human rights norms, standards and principles into their work.

In 2019, the HRCSL continued to use the standard operating procedures for the screening of candidates that were developed in 2018, with OHCHR's assistance, for the screening of peacekeepers. In 2019, an individual who is the subject of serious allegations of human rights violations was appointed as the Army Commander, prompting the UN to revise the participation of the Sri Lankan Army in peacekeeping operations. As of December, the review process was still ongoing.

Under the Mechanisms pillar, OHCHR continued to support the establishment of the NMRF. In addition, the Office provided support to the visits of two special procedures that took place in 2019,

namely, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief. The visit of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity had to be rescheduled due to terrorist attacks. The standing invitation remains in place.

TIMOR-LESTE

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
1.29million	15,000 km ²	0.626 (rank: 131/188 in 2018)	Status A, 2018
Type of engagement		Human Rights Adviser	
Year established		2013	
Field office(s)		Dili	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2015-2019	
Staff as of 31 December 2019		3	

XB requirements 2019

US\$515,000

Key OMP pillars in 2019



^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.208.

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability (A)

A1 – The police and army comply with human rights standards that prohibit torture and ill-treatment.

16

The Office supported the police and the army in their compliance with international human rights norms and standards that prohibit torture and ill-treatment by providing technical support and targeted capacity-building.

More specifically, OHCHR provided technical support for a high-level seminar with the national and municipal command of the police, which was led by the Office of the Provedoria for Human Rights and Justice. The seminar included the active involvement of civil society and Timor-Leste's follow-up institution to the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It consolidated lessons

learned from the human rights training programme that can be used in seeking policy changes and securing a stronger commitment to improving respect for human rights, reducing human rights violations particularly due to the excessive use of force, ill-treatment, torture and killings and increasing accountability.

The human rights training programme for the national army, which was launched in 2018, continued to be available throughout 2019. The training was led by the NHRI, in partnership with OHCHR, as well as trainers from the army and the Ministry of Defence and Security. Five-day trainings were conducted in March, May and June for a total of 91 officers (9 women, 82 men). The training was based on a manual that was prepared with support from OHCHR and focuses on the obligations of the army to respect and

protect human rights in times of crisis, during arrests, in the use of force and when conducting searches. An extra-curricular session on the rights of LGBTI persons was facilitated as part of each training programme and was delivered by the NHRI and members of the LGBTI community in Timor-Leste.

In November, two training sessions were conducted for police officers. One police trainer was part of the training team. A total of 43 police officers (2 women, 41 men) in two municipalities learned about human rights when using force, during arrests and in relation to detention.

In 2019, OHCHR requested participants from a 2017 human rights programme, which was conducted by the NHRI in close collaboration with the national police, to provide post-training evaluations. Positive changes in attitude and behaviour were reported by participants and commanders alike (77 police force members, 10 women, 67 men). Yet, much remains to be done in a country that emerged from violent conflict less than 20 years ago and where impunity is rife, police training is limited and investment in policing is low. Moreover, public support for the use of strong measures against those who break the law remains high.

Participation (P)

P6 – Youth, women and discriminated groups, and those who represent them, regularly advocate for human rights.

The Office contributed to enhancing the meaningful participation of youth, LGBTI persons and women in selected public processes by providing technical expertise, funding and support for advocacy campaigns.

The Human Rights Defenders Network, established in 2015 with a grant from OHCHR, supported 20 street vendors who had been forcefully removed by civil security personnel and police from the park where they were selling their goods. The HRD Network drafted and submitted a written complaint to the NHRI, requesting mediation on the case. Following a meeting that the NHRI facilitated between the street vendors, the municipal authority and the Dili police commander, temporary sales areas were identified in the park for use by the vendors. With a view to increasing accountability for alleged violations by the police, the network met with the national police commander and learned that eight cases in which the police had used lethal force over the past few years were still under investigation. The Network continued to conduct joint public advocacy activities, focused on addressing impunity and called for security forces to respect human rights when carrying out their duties.

The Network, supported by OHCHR, organized a conference with parliamentarians, government officials, the NHRI and civil society in order to take stock of progress made since the 1999 referendum that led to the country's independence, including in relation to justice, women's rights, the situation of persons with disabilities and freedom of the media. Two Timorese women gained in-depth knowledge about human rights, the UN system and its human rights mechanisms and developed their advocacy skills to demand respect for and the realization of their rights. They also learned about human rights challenges in the region, together with 19 other civil society activists (10 women, 11 men) from 11 countries, by taking part in a two-week diplomacy training programme. The training, held in Dili and Balibo, is

organized every August by the University of New South Wales and is often held in Timor-Leste. OHCHR delivered one session on human rights in the UN system. OHCHR funded the participation of the two Timorese women, one of whom was the Head of an established women's rights organization and will join the Office of the Prime Minister. The second woman is a member of several youth groups that advocate for sexual and reproductive health rights, women's rights and the rights of LGBTI persons.

Furthermore, OHCHR enhanced the knowledge of 31 secondary school students (15 women, 16 men) from different schools in Dili about human rights, the rights of LGBTI persons and the rights of persons with disabilities. They also learned about the work of the NHRI to protect human rights and the advocacy efforts for human rights that are being carried out by inspiring young women in Europe (Greta Thunberg) and Asia (Malala Youssef). OHCHR and the Movimentu Feto Foin Sa'e Timor-Leste (the Movement of Female Youth, also known as MOFFE) organized a two-day session for this group, in Dili, in September. The Head of an organization of persons with visual impairments and the staff of the NHRI addressed the youth. In addition, 31 youth representatives from the community police force increased their knowledge on basic human rights, the rights of LGBTI persons, the rights of persons with disabilities and the work of the NHRI.

Non-discrimination (ND)

ND7 – The public supports a human rights-based approach to disability; the public opposes discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.



The Office contributed to strengthening the narrative on the rights of persons with disabilities and LGBTI persons in Timor-Leste by providing expert advice on compliance with international human rights law and supporting advocacy campaigns.

Following the 2018 design phase, the Association of Persons with Disabilities in Timor-Leste (ADTL) implemented a national campaign on the rights of persons with disabilities, with technical support from OHCHR. The campaign was based on a strategy that was drafted after consultations with persons with disabilities in three municipalities, interviews with organizations conducting behavioural change campaigns and desk research. The campaign featured inspiring persons with disabilities who are positive role models that embrace inclusion and make use of traditional and social media. Radio talk shows on the rights of persons with disabilities went on the air, in May, and preparations for three short videos/films commenced in November. One of the three short videos, which highlighted terminology that should be used to respect the rights of persons with disabilities, was launched on International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The national campaign aims to raise awareness about the equal rights of persons with disabilities and reduce the use of stigmatizing language and discriminatory behaviour. It also emphasizes the importance of ratifying CRPD. The ADTL received financial support to carry out the campaign under the joint

UN agency project entitled Empower for Change in order to reduce discrimination and violence against persons with disabilities. The campaign was funded by the UN Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Among the various activities that are planned to celebrate the seventy-first anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the NHRI, the Anti-Corruption Commission and OHCHR organized a series of events, including a speech competition for secondary schools students, a human rights quiz and drawing competitions for primary schools students. Human rights information was also disseminated in the Ermera Municipality. The HRD Network and MOFFE organized a seminar, a televised debate and other activities on human rights issues in different locations.

The third Pride march, which was held in Dili, in July, was organized by members of the LGBTI community and youth groups under the theme “visibility.” The Pride march included the participation of approximately 3,000 people, including Timorese and international individuals, as well as members of the UNCT. OHCHR took part in the Pride march and used the occasion to distribute Free & Equal campaign materials. On the same day, the sitting President of the Republic made a public address, for the first time in history, that called on everyone to embrace diversity. At a seminar that was held in Liquica Municipality, on 30 July, more than 60 members of the LGBTI community and their families shared their experiences of discrimination and violence and emphasized the need for acceptance and full respect for the equal rights of LGBTI persons in Timor-Leste.

Development (D)

D3 – New policies and laws on housing, land and evictions are adopted that comply with human rights standards.



OHCHR contributed to improving the level of compliance of one selected policy area with international human rights norms and standards.

OHCHR contributed to enhancing the knowledge of government officials about international human rights standards related to land, adequate housing and forced evictions. Specifically, OHCHR conducted a one-day workshop for 19 officials from the Ministry of Justice’s Legislation Department (6 women, 13 men), who were drafting a subsidiary decree under the country’s first law on land ownership, which was adopted in 2017.

OHCHR increased the knowledge of civil society members on how to incorporate human rights standards in law and policies on land and in their implementation. OHCHR engaged in discussions with the civil society land rights network and provided technical and financial support for a training on land-related legislation, land disputes and gender for 27 participants (7 women, 20 men), including local authorities, civil society and land defence groups. It also disseminated information on land rights to the 108 community members (36 women, 72 men) of the Viqueque Municipality. The network actively engaged with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples before and during her visit to Timor-Leste, in April. While there, the Special Rapporteur underlined serious human rights concerns regarding the land registration process

employed by the Government over the past four years. As a result of the network's advocacy, the Special Rapporteur called on the Government to suspend the registration process and conduct an independent evaluation.

Mechanisms (M)

M2 – The NHRI, the UNCT, and civil society coalitions that work on emerging human rights issues submit reports for each scheduled treaty review; NGOs submit information to the special procedures.



OHCHR provided support to NHRIs, CSOs, UN entities and individuals in the development of substantive submissions to the human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR.

Although there has been limited engagement with the special procedures to date, OHCHR has been working to change this fact. For instance, OHCHR worked closely with members of the HRD Network to prepare relevant information for various special rapporteurs on the alleged use of excessive force by security forces that resulted in deaths and injuries since late 2018. In June, three special rapporteurs sent a joint communication to the Government. A second communication was submitted to the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers by a family member of an individual (an ex-Minister who was convicted of corruption) concerning alleged violations of the right to a fair trial. OHCHR guided the family throughout the process. The Office will continue supporting submissions in 2020 as part of a strategy to make better use of the opportunities that these mechanisms present for swift interventions in relation to government actions.

Civil society members and the NHRI gained better knowledge about the opportunities that the special procedures offer for raising human rights concerns as a result of their active involvement before and during the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples, including through written and oral interventions on issues concerning customary land.

M1 – Reports are submitted in accordance with guidelines and include adequate information.



OHCHR supported the submission of the VNR report, which conformed to reporting guidelines and integrated a human rights-based approach, including in reporting on recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

OHCHR provided technical and financial support to the drafting of Timor-Leste's first report under the VNR on the implementation of the SDGs for the High-level Political Forum, in July. This presented an excellent opportunity for raising awareness about the complementarity of SDG reporting and reporting to the international human rights mechanisms. The report identifies five steps that must be taken to advance the implementation of the SDGs, including the Government's commitment to consider piloting integrated reporting to the various bodies of the UN. The VNR report recognizes that such a mechanism could also play a role in supporting follow-up on recommendations issued during the UPR process. The VNR report also refers to the first recommendations issued by the UPR on LGBTI rights and notes that they were accepted by Timor-Leste.