

Development (D)

Advancing sustainable development through human rights



Development in numbers

MAINSTREAMING HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL



UN Country Teams in

42

countries integrated international human rights norms, standards and principles, as well as the recommendations of the human rights mechanisms, into their work

37

Human Rights Advisers were deployed in UN Country Teams



MAINSTREAMING HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL IN THE UN SYSTEM



UN policies and programmes at the global level integrated a human rights-based approach

2030 AGENDA AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

UN Human Rights is a custodian of

4

SDG indicators under Goal 16



UN Human Rights e-learning module on operationalizing the right to development in implementing the SDGs completed by

306

participants from

116

countries



JOINT UN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS



joint UNCT submissions to treaty bodies

Of **1,382** stakeholder contributions to UPR,

105 were prepared by UN entities, including

24 joint submissions by UNCTs



33



UNCTs provided joint inputs to the visits of special procedures

HUMANIZING THE PRISON WORLD: A DIPLOMATIC VICTORY IN MADAGASCAR



Madagascar has a total of 24,000 prisoners in various prisons across the country. According to Omer Kalameu, the Human Rights Adviser in the country, the material and judicial conditions of detention are well below international standards.

Sixty per cent of detainees are in pretrial detention and overcrowding remains a serious problem. The country's largest prison, Antanimora, in Antananarivo, has an 800-person capacity, but more than 4,000 detainees are being held there, significantly impacting their health, hygiene and nutrition.

Following extensive advocacy undertaken by UN Human Rights in the country, Malagasy President Andry Rajoelina visited Antanimora, on 31 October, marking the first presidential visit to a penitentiary since 1960.

After meeting with prisoners and prison officials, the President proposed solutions to reduce overcrowding, pardoned detainees who had committed minor offenses and vowed to release 2,000 people by 31 December.

"We have managed to put the prison issue at the heart of reflection, discourse and political action," said Omer Kalameu. Monthly meetings between the Resident Coordinator and the Malagasy Minister of Justice, facilitated by the Human Rights Adviser, provided opportunities for discussions on the inclusion of human rights in public policies. Madagascar's second UPR cycle, in November, offered further avenues for discourse on protecting the rights of detainees.

In addition, OHCHR provided extensive technical and financial support for the implementation of a new penal policy, which aims to end the systematic detention order and strengthens the operational capacities of the justice system to reflect Madagascar's international human rights obligations.

This multifaceted advocacy has produced tangible results. Following the President's visit to the Antanimora Central House, the Government increased the allocated budget for prisons, resulting in a more nutritious diet. It also began construction of the new Fianarantsoa Prison. Funding from the Peacebuilding Fund was used to set up a drinking water supply network at the Tsiafahy High Security Prison and Norway supported the building of a separation wall between minors and adults in Ankazobe Prison. Finally, the Ministry of Justice and UN Human Rights organized a campaign of reforestation and fruit tree planting in some prisons.

The Minister of Justice, Johnny Richard Andriamahefarivo, welcomed "the exemplary partnership between the UN and Madagascar to improve the detention and judicial conditions of inmates." He continued, "thanks to the efforts of the Ministry of Justice and the technical and financial support of the Office and others, the target ratio of 60 per cent of convicts and 40 per cent of pretrial detainees was almost reached by the end of 2019."

The Resident Coordinator, Violet Kakyomya, noted that "these positive achievements constitute an important step towards reinforced protection



President of Madagascar, Andry Rajoelina, accompanied by the Minister of Justice, visited the Central Prison of Antanimora in October 2019. © OHCHR

of human rights. The entire UN family is proud to have contributed to these achievements." The next step is establishing preventive measures. "After 31 December, the work must continue to ensure that this criminal policy is effective, irreversible and sustainable."

Highlights of pillar results

Development (D)

PILLAR RESULTS / SHIFTS / SDGs

RESULTS / SPOTLIGHTS



D1

Judicial and non-judicial mechanisms hold business and other economic actors to account for rights abuses and provide remedies to victims.



In **Kenya**, the Centre for Justice Governance and Environmental Action (CJGEA) continued litigating a case on environmental rights, which involves two companies that are being sued for polluting the environment. Specifically, the two companies were smelting lead as their core business in the Owino Uhuru community where 3,000 residents suffered lead poisoning. OHCHR has provided technical and financial support for the case since 2016. In addition to securing a grant, we worked closely with Kenyan authorities to urge protection for the CJGEA and the members of the Owino Uhuru community when they were threatened for having filed and pursued the case. The Director of Public Prosecution took up the issue of threats and committed to offering witness protection for the duration of the case. The case challenges the responsibility of the State and non-State actors to respect, protect and fulfil the right to a clean and healthy environment as provided by the Kenyan Constitution. The case sought declarations on procedural environmental rights, access to information, public participation and access to effective remedy and was concluded in November. The decision is expected to be handed down in 2020.

In September, the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes presented a report to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/42/41). The report contains 15 principles that build on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions and multilateral environmental agreements on toxics to help States, businesses and other key actors to better protect workers from toxic exposure and provide remedies when their rights have been violated. The report, prepared with our support, constituted the fruit of 25 years of research under the mandate and its recommendations were echoed in a resolution adopted by the Council. The resolution encourages States, businesses and other actors to implement the 15 principles suggested by the Special Rapporteur through their legal and policy frameworks, as well as initiatives and programmes to strengthen the coherence between human rights and occupational health and safety standards.

D2

Business actors implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights effectively.



The roll-out of the Standards of Conduct for tackling discrimination against LGBTI persons continued in 2019. The Standards of Conduct were disseminated at key global corporate events, such as the World Economic Forum in Davos, and they have now received the support of 270 of the largest companies in the world. In addition, OHCHR established a partnership with the newly created non-profit Partnership for Global LGBTI Equality to bring companies up to speed and assist them in operationalizing the Standards of Conduct. Furthermore, the Office hosted a meeting in Berlin, in July, with 50 representatives from civil society and 20 from various business organizations to discuss a paper for our forthcoming publication *Minding the corporate gap: How activists and companies can work together to tackle LGBTI discrimination*. This manual for human rights defenders (HRDs) around the world highlights the potential role of the private sector in tackling discrimination and violence against LGBTI persons, including by using the Standards of Conduct as a tool for effective engagement and collaboration.

In **Cambodia**, 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. This platform was created to focus on the finance sector and is composed of members of the private sector and civil society organizations. Following UN Human Rights' advocacy, the UNGPs were incorporated into the assessment.

D3

State authorities adopt and implement laws, policies and strategies on land and housing that increasingly comply with human rights.



In view of the critical role played by cities and local governments in an urbanizing world, OHCHR collaborated with United Cities and Local Governments to organize the first meeting, in Geneva, bringing together a group of 20 mayors and representatives of local governments to share their experience in promoting and protecting human rights. This initiative led to a number of recommendations to strengthen the engagement of cities and local governments with international human rights mechanisms and opened avenues for strategic collaboration for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Canada adopted a national housing strategy, in June, that explicitly incorporates the right to housing in a national law for the first time. The Government also established an accountability mechanism, the Federal Housing Advocate, to monitor its implementation. Furthermore, in **Portugal**, a new housing law entered into force, on 1 October, guaranteeing the right to housing, the participation of citizens in housing policy and improved protections against evictions. These results were achieved through advocacy undertaken by OHCHR and the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context and civil society.

In December, the Tripartite Charter for sustainable development and respect for human rights in the framework of private investments in **Madagascar** was finalized. With our support, the Charter was drafted by representatives of civil society, the Government and mining companies to promote the integration of the principles of participation, transparency and accountability into law and policymaking and to ensure that the Government's general policy and sector-based policies incorporate a human rights-based approach (HRBA).

D4

Public health approaches, including sexual and reproductive health policies, comply with international human rights standards and provide non-discriminatory access, especially to children, adolescents, women and migrants.

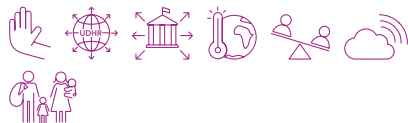


OHCHR worked through various partnerships to ensure that public health approaches comply with international human rights principles and standards, including a joint workplan with the World Health Organization (WHO) for 2019 that builds on the Framework of Cooperation, which was signed in 2017. As part of the joint workplan, both organizations worked together to identify good practices from the Western Pacific Region that are in line with the WHO QualityRights Initiative. This Initiative aims to improve access to quality mental health and social services and promote the rights of people with mental health conditions.

The High Commissioner's annual report to ECOSOC in 2019 was dedicated to the theme of universal health coverage and human rights (E/2019/52), through which we continued to advocate for universal health coverage and human rights. In addition, the report contributed to the recognition of human rights in the outcome of the General Assembly's High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage that was held in September.

D5

Environmental and climate policies and plans increasingly respect, protect and fulfil human rights, guaranteeing those affected access to information, decision-making, public participation and remedies.



NHRIs from across **South Asia** and **Southeast Asia** were convened by OHCHR 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. Additionally, we 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 the United Nations Environment Programme in 2019 provided initial scope, which will be further broadened in 2020, to jointly engage with stakeholders in the region on the environment and climate change.

D6

Human rights assessments and impact analyses mitigate, prevent or redress the negative effects of economic, trade and development policies and projects.



In partnership with the Independent Accountability Mechanisms (IAMs) of multilateral development banks (MDBs), we worked to develop policies and procedures on reprisals and contextual risk assessment tools and to strengthen the effectiveness of IAMs. The High Commissioner headlined a high-level event in the margins of the World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings on reprisals in Washington D.C., which built momentum for more IAMs to adopt policies related to reprisals during the year. OHCHR continued its research and advocacy on the safeguard policy review processes of MDBs and produced a draft due diligence benchmarking study to compare the safeguard policies of development financing institutions against the standards outlined in the UNGPs, which influence safeguard policy revision processes. OHCHR also produced a series of project case studies as part of its advocacy efforts on the safeguard policy review processes of MDBs.

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.



OHCHR co-organized a panel at the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region entitled “Leave No One Behind: Driving policies through data and a human rights-based approach,” to present and illustrate the linkages between human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To sensitize and engage the incoming European Parliament on the SDGs and its linkages with human rights, the UN Brussels Team, composed of 25 UN entities, including OHCHR, invited candidates standing for the European Parliament elections, to sign a 10-point pledge to “Leave No One Behind.” By the end of 2019, 67 Members of the European Parliament had signed the pledge to personally defend human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights. Many more joined the pledge, which will remain open for signature throughout 2020.

The UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) has a strong normative and human rights foundation. This will provide a robust basis for UN Human Rights engagement at regional and country levels to ensure the integration of human rights into UN development work and support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. UN Human Rights participated in all of the UN Development System reform work streams and processes, most importantly in the development of the Management and Accountability Framework, the new Guidance for the UNSDCF, the System-Wide Strategic Document and the Regional Review.

A number of initiatives were carried out in Central Asia to contribute to the integration of human rights into national frameworks for the SDGs. In **Turkmenistan**, UN Human Rights supported the elaboration of a road map on the implementation of recommendations issued

by CEDAW, CESC and the UPR. In addition to the activity-specific indicators, the road map contains appropriate SDG indicators, which will enhance the mutual reinforcement of human rights and SDG reporting, thereby setting an example of a good practice for other Central Asian States. In **Uzbekistan**, UN Human Rights, through the UNCT, advised State authorities on developing national SDG indicators, which include supplementary human rights indicators to strengthen the implementation of SDGs that are aligned with international human rights law. OHCHR delivered a training on an HRBA to SDGs for the members of the expert group of the national SDG coordination body. The training session helped to enhance expertise at the national level and encouraged discussions about improving national SDG indicators from the human rights perspective.

D8

National institutions, assisted by communities, systematically collect, disaggregate and use data relevant for advancing human rights when they monitor and implement the SDGs.



The methodologies developed by UN Human Rights for SDG indicator 16.1.2, on the number of conflict-related deaths, and SDG indicators 10.3.1/16.b.1, on the percentage of the population experiencing discrimination on grounds prohibited by international law, were endorsed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators, which is composed of Member States. This result increases potential opportunities for OHCHR to further mainstream human rights obligations and the prevention of human rights violations into the implementation and accountability framework of the SDGs at country, regional and global levels. We also supported the development of methodologies to monitor and collect data on the national implementation of human rights education, including through the work of UNESCO, in the context of SDG target 4.7 and the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

YOUTH FROM BARBADOS AND THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN STANDING UP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

In line with the theme of 2019 Human Rights Day, “Youth standing up for human rights,” the UN Multi-Country Office for Barbados and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States sponsored a photo contest entitled “Our rights, our Caribbean... Leaving No One Behind.” Human Rights Day provided an opportunity to reflect on the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In addition, the event encouraged everyone to take action in their daily lives against all forms of discrimination and uphold universal human rights, thereby promoting the kinship of all human beings.

As photography is a powerful medium of expression that can communicate strong messages, the contest sought to

inspire action through imagery. Young people from Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines were invited to capture a photo that depicted what “Leaving No One Behind” meant to them within the human rights context of their respective countries and territories. Participants were also asked to explore themes of anti-discrimination and inclusion.

Prizes were awarded to the three top contestants, on 10 December, during the launch of a photo exhibition of the entries, in Barbados. The winners ranged in age from 11 to 15 years.



Kya Knight, second place winner of the photo competition, receives her award from the Honorable Colin E. Jordan, M.P., Barbados Minister of Labour and Social Partnership Relations and Mr. Didier Trebucq, UN Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the OECS.
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