

HIGHLIGHTS OF RESULTS

EN EL OPERATIVO MILITAR PARTICIPARON MÁS DE 6.000 EFECTIVOS, LOS CUALES AGRUPARON A LAS VÍCTIMAS Y LAS AMETRALLARON. DOS SEMANAS DESPUÉS DE LO OCURRIDO, EL MINISTRO DE DEFENSA GENERAL JOSÉ GUILLERMO GARCÍA DECLARÓ HABER INVESTIGADO EL SIN QUE LE CONSTARA DICHA MASACRE; REITERANDO ESTO MISMO LA COMISIÓN DE LA VERDAD.

EN JULIO DE 1992, PARTICULARES INTERPUSIERON UNA DENUNCIA EN EL JUZGADO MIXTO DE PRIMERA INSTANCIA DE SAN SEBASTIÁN SIN QUE A LA FECHA SE HAYA HECHO JUSTICIA.

La Comisión de la Verdad para El Salvador

EN ESTE MEMORIAL QUEREMOS DEJAR CONSTANCIA DE LOS NOMBRES DE LAS VÍCTIMAS DE LA MASACRE "EL CALABOZO" PARA HONRAR SU MEMORIA, PARA EVITAR QUE EL HORROR SE REPITA Y PARA DEJAR EN LA CONCIENCIA DEL PUEBLO SALVADOREÑO UN RECUERDO IMPERECEDERO PARA LA BÚSQUEDA DE UNA SOCIEDAD MÁS JUSTA Y MÁS HUMANA.

HAIDEE ABARCA
QUENCY AGUILAR CARRILLO
MATILDE ALFARO
JULIANA FRANCISCA ALVARADO
VIRGINIA ALVARADO DE AMAYA
ESTER ALVARADO DE BAUTISTA
CARMELA ALVARADO RODRÍGUEZ
ANTONIO ALVARADO
FELICITA ALVARADO
FIDELINA ALVARADO
HAYDEE ALVARADO
IRMA IRENE ALVARADO
JAIME ALVARADO
LAURA ALVARADO
LEONARDA ALVARADO
MARÍA ALBERTINA ALVARADO
MARÍA ALVARADO
VALENTÍN ALVARADO
LORENA ALVARADO
VICENTA AMAYA DE ALVARADO
CRUZ AMAYA
DANIEL AMAYA
LUIS AMAYA
PETRONA AMAYA
VICENTA AMAYA
ERNESTO ANTONIO
GLENDA AZUCENA AYALA
ADRIÁN AYALA
GUADALUPE AYALA
JUAN FRANCISCO AYALA

LORENA A
NARDA A
SALVADOR
CARMEN
FERMIN BAR
MARCELINO B
ABRAHAM BAUTIS
CLARA BAUTISTA
OSMAR BOLAÑO
ALERY BOLAN
FLORENTINA BO
CARMELA B
ELIAS BO
BETO BO
CHEPITO B
CRUZ BO
GUILLERMO
JAIME BO
JOSÉ BO
MARÍA ALICIA
SANTOS JAIM
ELIO CARRILLO
GUDELIA CARR
ALIRIO NAPOLE
MELBIN O. CARR
CONCHITA CARR
EULALIA CARRILLO
JUAN ALBERTO C
ORBELINA CARR
ARNOLDO

Engracia Chavarria (seated on the left), psychologist from the Madeleine Lagadec Human Rights Promotion Centre, and OHCHR staff console Roxana Aguilar (seated on the right), survivor of the 1982 El Calabozo massacre in El Salvador at the memorial to the victims of the massacre. Roxana Aguilar lost most of her family members in the massacre. © OHCHR



ANA VILMA CONSTANZA
ANTONIO CONSTANZA
SANTIAGO CONSTANZA
SANTOS CONSTANZA
WILITO CONSTANZA
JOSÉ CRUZ ALVARADO
LORENZA DE BONILLA
DANIEL DURAN
MANUEL DURAN
ROSALIO DURAN
AMADEO FLORES
BETO GÓNGORA
MARÍA LOREZANA REALEGUENO
CALIXTO MAJANO
MARIBEL MARTÍNEZ PORTILLO
ABRAHAM MARTÍNEZ PORTILLO
ANTONIO MARTÍNEZ PORTILLO
VILMA MARTÍNEZ PORTILLO
ABRAHAM MARTÍNEZ
ARGELIA MONTOYA
EUSEBIA MONTOYA
JUAN ANTONIO MONTOYA
LORENA MONTOYA
OLINDA MONTOYA
ÁNGELA MORENO
JUANA MORENO
OSCAR ANTONIO OSORIO
SANTOS PALACIOS RODAS
Efraín PALACIOS
JOSÉ LUCIO PALACIOS
JOSEFINA PALACIOS
JULIÁN PALACIOS
MARCELINA PALACIOS
MARIA INES PALACIOS
MARTA PALACIOS
MORFIRIO PALACIOS
ROSALBA PALACIOS
MASA PALACIOS

EISA ALVARADO
EDGARD ALVARADO
MARTIN ALVARADO
OMAR ALVARADO
FLORE ALVARADO
NINFA ALVARADO
JOSEFINA RIVERA
EUSEBIA RIVERA
ALCIDEN RIVERA
ANA RIVERA
EUSEBIA RIVERA
FELICITA RIVERA
NATIVIDAD RIVERA
OSMIN RIVERA
SEBASTIANA RIVERA
VICTORIA RIVERA
SANTOS RIVERA
CARLOS RODRIGUEZ ALVARADO
PAULA RODRIGUEZ ALVARADO
LEONEL ROSALES
ANA CECILIA SANCHEZ
CECILIA SANCHEZ
MARTA SANTOS BONILLA
MARIA LUISA SORIANO
NEFTALI SORIANO
ANA YANCIS TIZNADOS
VIDAL TIZNADOS
ALEJO VALLADARES
ANGEL VALLADARES
HIPOLITO VALLADARES
MANUEL VALLADARES
PEDRO JUAN VALLADARES
ALEJANDRO VELASCO
FELICITA VELASCO
MARTA VELASCO
REYNA MATILDE VILLALOBOS

A TODAS LAS

2000, 22 DE AGOSTO DE 2005

A NUESTRA HISTORIA
VERDAD.

ASE)
ncha (JCCM)
de San Vicente (ACD-NSV)
de Mujeres de Amatlán Arriba.

DERECHOS HUMANOS

OVERVIEW OF 2019 BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

OMP 2018-2021 at mid-point: Looking back at the first two years

When I was appointed High Commissioner for Human Rights in September 2018, my Office had just initiated the implementation of its four-year Management Plan (OMP) 2018-2021, building on the previous OMP from 2014-2017. This Plan is the product of a broad participatory process that provides both stakeholders and staff across the organization with an opportunity to discuss and contribute to the office-wide strategy, thereby enhancing the relevance of a management document to different human realities on the ground. It also boosts external trust and alignment, in addition to internal staff ownership and buy-in, and provides a solid programmatic framework to navigate through the present turbulent waters. As is the case with any programme, however, the OMP needs constant adjustments to ensure its relevance in our rapidly changing international environment. That is why I have undertaken a number of initiatives to continue to sharpen our programmatic focus during the first two years of the OMP. While ensuring agility in our current responses, these initiatives pave the way for the next OMP, which we will define in 2021.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, PREVENTION AND ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Since my appointment, I have taken steps to strengthen the focus of UN Human Rights on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), prevention, economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) and gender equality. Investing in these four critical interconnected areas enables my Office to draw on the potential of the UN system reform and the consensus to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while contributing to implementing the Secretary-General's prevention agenda. Our objective is to reiterate and bring to the fore the linkages across the SDGs and sustaining peace, the indivisibility of all human rights, while underscoring the value added and the difference our work makes in people's daily lives.

In 2019, my Office adopted a Prevention Strategy and allocated funds for its implementation. The Strategy outlines how our work on ESCR and addressing inequalities, especially economic inequalities, within the context of implementation of the SDGs, can contribute to conflict prevention.

In September, I launched the "Surge Initiative" to identify and pilot ways to further support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the field. A surge team, composed of four staff and a senior economist, spearheaded this effort. Through the Initiative, we are documenting impactful changes and exploring ways to replicate or scale up good practices,

while also identifying and addressing blind spots. The surge team has been facilitating these pilots to achieve cross-fertilization among field presences and has provided advice to over 50 field presences, including in the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks.

A newly established "Community of Practice on SDGs, Prevention and ESCR" is also helping us to share documented examples of our results on the ground. This online community offers a means to scale-up and cross-fertilize engagement in these three interlinked areas of work. In less than three months, the platform has reached more than 300 users and became a dynamic vehicle to connect staff throughout the world to share their good practices and experiences, resources and materials, provide peer support and identify colleagues with particular expertise in these fields.

An analysis of the Annual Workplans 2020 across the Office demonstrated that the work of the surge team is already having an impact. A considerable number of field presences have either scaled-up their ongoing work or planned new activities for 2020 in areas such as engaging with the Cooperation Framework processes; analysing the consequences of inequalities on ESCR, deteriorating economic situations and economic policies; addressing corruption as a structural cause of human rights violations; and working on business and human rights. Enhanced engagement in humanitarian action through partnerships at the global level, as well as with Humanitarian Country Teams and Protection Clusters, is another unique



High Commissioner attends a presentation on information management at the OHCHR Global Meeting in Geneva in July 2019. © OHCHR

opportunity to strengthen our work in these three interlinked areas.

The 2018-2021 OMP provides a solid framework for this Initiative and the entire Plan contributes to the achievement of the SDGs. All six 'pillars' - support for the international human rights mechanisms; mainstreaming of human rights within development and peace and security efforts; and advancement of the core human rights principles of

non-discrimination, accountability and participation - encompass all sets of rights. Finally, prevention is identified as a 'shift' in our approach across the six pillars that will enable us to better adapt our work to the changing external context.

The following chapter highlights some of the key results of the work that we carried out across the globe in 2019. More details on the results achieved by all UN Human Rights field presences and

headquarters entities are available in the online part of the report.

CRC30

Key figures



201

States parties to the Convention



170

States parties to OPAC



176

States parties to OPSC



46

States parties to OPIC



196

States reported at least once



1,592

civil society reports submitted from 2009 to 2019



327

children met with the Committee during its pre-sessional working groups from 2008 to 2019



63

reports submitted by children from 2009 to 2019



57

States made **200+** pledges on **24** articles of the Convention to celebrate the 30th anniversary



Child-friendly version of the Convention produced in

6

UN languages



900+

visitors to the United Nations Office at Geneva to participate in celebratory events on 16 September 2019 and 20 November 2019



1 in 3

moderators/panellists at celebratory event on 16 September 2019 were children



180,000+

engagements generated on the campaign



In 2019, UN Human Rights, together with the Committee on the Rights of the Child, celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which recognizes children as their own beings entitled to non-negotiable rights. The Convention protects the rights of all children, everywhere, to be free from discrimination, violence and neglect and empowers them to claim those rights.



“Bringing up children and young people secure in their rights is fundamental to the future of humanity. Thirty years after it was adopted, the Convention on the Rights of the Child continues to be a vital guide for us all.”

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet



Photo 1: © National Commission on the Rights of the Child, Belgium

Photo 2: © National Human Rights Committee, Qatar

Photo 3: © Child Rights Connect

Photo 4: A group of children meet with then Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, as the General Assembly adopts the Convention. 20 November 1989, United Nations, New York. © UN Photo

Photo 5: © National Commission for the Advancement of Women, Mothers and Children and UNICEF, Lao PDR

Photo 6: Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana, speaks with a child by his side at the high-level commemorative event of the General Assembly on the 30th anniversary of the Convention. 25 September 2019, United Nations, New York. © UN Photo

Mechanisms (M)

Increasing implementation of the outcomes of the international human rights mechanisms



Mechanisms in numbers

TREATY BODIES

133



State Party reports reviewed by human rights treaty bodies

172

State Party initial and periodic reports and common core documents submitted

7

general comments elaborated by the treaty bodies

640

individual complaints registered



308

concluding observations and lists of issues prior to reporting

7



State Parties visited by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AND UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

92

resolutions adopted

42

Member States reviewed for the implementation of UPR recommendations

33

(23 women, 10 men)

delegates from 32 Small Island Developing States supported to attend HRC sessions by the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to support the participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of the HRC



Participation of 26 out of 42 Member States reviewed by UPR, supported by the UN Voluntary Fund for participation in the UPR

6

new HRC mandates established, including one new expert mechanism on the right to development

SPECIAL PROCEDURES



44 thematic and

12 country-specific Special Procedures mandates

57

Governments hosted

84

visits by special procedures mandates



125

Member States and

1

non-Member Observer State extended a standing invitation to thematic special procedures

REPORTING AND FOLLOW-UP ON RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS



41

newly established and/or strengthened National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up

REPORTING BACK TO MYANMAR'S ROHINGYA: THE MOST IMPORTANT REPORT OF ALL



People on the move



Women

When the UN's Independent International Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) on Myanmar completed its [444-page report](#) last year, which documented violations allegedly committed by security forces against Myanmar's ethnic Rohingya minority, its experts reported to the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly, the Security Council and a global audience. In May, the experts visited Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh to present the report to members of the Rohingya community, the majority of whom had fled an explosion of violence in the Rakhine State two years ago.

Among those present were witnesses, survivors and community leaders who had contributed vital testimony to the report and posed questions of their own. Many asked about the slow pace of justice and said they were desperate to leave the network of camps that has become the largest refugee settlement in the world, housing 900,000 people. They also complained they were being excluded from discussions about their future, including in relation to education and jobs, by governments and humanitarian organizations.

One woman expressed her appreciation that they had been given the chance to be heard and that the report had helped inform the world about the "indescribable violence" they had experienced.

RELAYING THE ROHINGYA MESSAGE

The report documented systematic violations of the human rights of ethnic groups across the country, including the military "clearance operations" in Rakhine State that began in August 2017. Myanmar security forces allegedly killed

thousands of Rohingya civilians, raped and sexually abused women and girls and set their homes ablaze. The violence forced more than 700,000 Rohingya from the country, most to Bangladesh.

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

The experts began their 10-day reporting journey on 3 May, during which they held two meetings in the refugee camps, including one exclusively for women. They also met with Rohingya at Konarpara and heard new testimony from recent arrivals.

During their meetings in Bangladesh's Kutupalong camp, some refugees asked what would happen next. Darusman, the Chairperson of the FFM on Myanmar assured them the newly established Independent Mechanism for Myanmar will begin by preparing case files for the potential prosecution of alleged perpetrators.

"For us, this was the most important report back we've done," said Sidoti, member of the FFM on Myanmar. "Theirs are the stories we told. I very much hope it will become the standard for Human Rights Council investigations...to report to UN mechanisms [and] affected communities."

Expert Radhika Coomarswamy, member of the FFM on Myanmar, stressed the need to report back to the other ethnic groups that provided testimonies for the report.

"The plight of the Kachin, Shan and Chin communities also remains of serious concern to the FFM," she said.

The experts completed their trip by urging the international community to cut all financial ties with Myanmar's military. They further emphasized that its commanders need to be brought before a credible court to answer charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.



UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar representatives listen to a member of the Rohingya refugee community speak during a meeting in Kutupalong, Bangladesh. © OHCHR

Highlights of pillar results

Mechanisms (M)

PILLAR RESULTS / SHIFTS / SDGs

M1

National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.



M2

Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.



RESULTS / SPOTLIGHTS

Spotlights: Youth Disabilities Women

Technical assistance provided through the Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme contributed to the establishment and/or strengthening of National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRFs) in **Botswana, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Eswatini, Ghana, Haiti, Kenya, Mauritius, the Republic of North Macedonia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Zambia**. In the **State of Palestine**¹, OHCHR gradually enhanced the capacity of the Palestinian NMRF, including by increasing the knowledge about the international human rights treaties and mechanisms of representatives from relevant government institutions in the NMRF. Actions taken by the Office contributed to the institutionalization of the NMRF, clearly identifying the roles and responsibilities of each of its three levels, namely, the permanent High-level Interministerial Committee, the Interministerial Technical Committee and the ministry-based working groups. In addition, UN Human Rights initiated the roll-out of the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD) to support the effective follow-up on relevant concluding observations/recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.


With OHCHR's support, the NMRF in **Serbia** cooperated with civil society and other relevant actors in the measurement of implementation of recommendations from the international human rights mechanisms. The Government, together with CSOs, developed a set of human rights indicators and an online database is now available to reflect nearly 400 recommendations received from the international human rights mechanisms. The database includes an interactive feature that ensures that all indicators that measure progress, their level of implementation and all relevant collected data can be easily updated and monitored by the general public. Furthermore, the Office facilitated the participation of CSOs in regular sessions of the NMRF and their engagement with issues of particular relevance, such as the prohibition of torture, specific reporting exercises and follow-up to individual decisions. At the request of CSOs, the Office organized a series of thematic sessions between relevant line ministries and members of the NMRF that are focused on follow-up and the exchange of insights and information about accountability regarding specific processes or outcomes.

The UN Country Team (UNCT) in **Ukraine** submitted contributions to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in anticipation of its preparation of the list of issues related to its consideration of Ukraine's combined second and third periodic reports; to the Human Rights Committee in anticipation of its preparation of the list of issues prior to its consideration of Ukraine's eighth periodic report; and to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) to supplement Ukraine's follow-up report to the concluding observations issued by the treaty body. UN Human Rights led the UNCT's Human Rights Working Group and, in coordinating these submissions, it promoted a unified UNCT approach and ensured that the major human rights issues affecting Ukraine were brought to the attention of the UN human rights mechanisms.

In **El Salvador**, OHCHR facilitated the process of discussing recommendations issued during the second Universal Periodic Review (UPR) cycle with the UNCT, the Office of the Procurator

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

for the Defence of Human Rights (the NHRI of El Salvador) and civil society organizations on issues related to citizen security, justice, women's rights and the LGBTI population. These three stakeholders submitted contributions to the third UPR cycle and actively participated in the follow-up to the interactive dialogue. Furthermore, the Office contributed to the participation of non-traditional actors (organizational structures of indigenous peoples and committees of relatives of missing migrants) through the submission of information to the human rights treaty bodies and special procedures.

 In the context of **Kenya's** third UPR cycle, 67 CSOs submitted a joint report while a total of 22 CSOs submitted individual reports. For the first time, CSOs working on disabilities, sexual orientation and gender identity and sexual and reproductive health and rights participated in the preparation of the joint report. OHCHR contributed to the increased capacity of civil society to prepare and submit reports to the international human rights mechanisms.

UN HUMAN RIGHTS WORK TO ADDRESS INTIMIDATION AND REPRISALS OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN 2019

UN Human Rights continued to pay increased attention to the importance of protecting civil society actors against reprisals. The Office consistently ensured that cases of reprisals against those who had interacted with the international human rights mechanisms were identified and addressed by the international community.

The human rights treaty bodies developed mechanisms to prevent and help protect human rights defenders (HRDs) in accordance with the San Jose Guidelines against Intimidation or Reprisals, as referenced in General Assembly resolution 68/268. To support these efforts, UN Human Rights updated a common treaty body web page on reprisals that indicates how the treaty bodies address cases of intimidation and reprisals and outlines how such allegations need to be reported. In addition, the treaty bodies continued to facilitate accessibility for civil society and HRDs, including by adopting decisions (interim measures) on individual cases of reprisals. During the year, various treaty bodies flagged concerns regarding the

work of HRDs during their dialogue with concerned States Parties, reflected these concerns in recommendations and published letters of alleged reprisals on the web page of the committees.

UN Human Rights continued to facilitate regular exchanges between NGOs and the President of the Human Rights Council (HRC) to create opportunities for civil society to discuss issues of critical concern. This included discussions on how to deal with reprisals occurring in the context of HRC sessions and enhancing the methods of work of the HRC while safeguarding civil society space. With regard to allegations of reprisals that were reported to UN Human Rights, the internal protocol for handling such cases in connection with HRC sessions was put in motion and recommendations on appropriate action on each case were made to the HRC President.

The Secretary-General issued a report on Cooperation with the UN, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights (A/HRC/42/30). It was prepared with

support from UN Human Rights and was presented to the HRC, in September. It includes cases from 48 States, reflecting the increased documentation of information on trends and cases in the public domain. For comparison, between 2010 and 2016, an average of 15 countries were included in the annual reports. The 2017 report mentions 29 States and the 2018 report lists 38 States. The 2019 report includes good practices to address and prevent reprisals, as recommended by Member States during the interactive dialogue on the 2018 report.

Moreover, 2019 marked the tenth anniversary of the adoption of HRC resolution 12/2, in which the Council requested that the UN take urgent steps to address intimidation and reprisals. The strong commitment to confront this issue was renewed by the Council, in September, with HRC resolution 42/28. Furthermore, the General Assembly adopted, by consensus, a resolution that condemns reprisals (A/RES/74/146).

M3

Policy-makers, legislators and courts make increased use of the outcomes of the international and regional human rights mechanisms.



National courts took opinions of the Working Group on arbitrary detention into account on a number of occasions, including in **Turkey**, where two detained individuals were conditionally released and in the **Republic of Korea**, during a public hearing before the Supreme Court regarding conscientious objection to military service and its status under international human rights law. In the latter case, the Government informed the Working Group that the Supreme Court reversed its existing jurisprudence that consistently justified the punishment of conscientious objectors as a means of protecting public safety. As a result of the reversal, detained objectors may now be eligible to file a claim for compensation.

In cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and various Member States, OHCHR organized a side event during the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly, in New York, with the participation of 80 parliamentarians from 35 countries. The event promoted the establishment of parliamentary human rights committees, which was recommended in the report on the Contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/38/25). The outcome document highlights good practices of parliamentary human rights committees as an important point of reference for parliaments worldwide.

M4

International human rights mechanisms contribute to the elaboration of international law and jurisprudence, in particular in the context of emerging human rights concerns (frontier issues).



With substantive and secretariat support from OHCHR, the human rights treaty bodies examined a large number of cases on issues such as climate change; the international custody of children; and international criminality, including human trafficking and the enforced disappearances of migrants. In all of these contexts, the treaty bodies continued to define their jurisprudence, provide legal analyses and ensure that they shared a harmonized approach. In September, five treaty bodies, namely, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), CEDAW, the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW), the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and CRPD, adopted a statement on human rights and climate change ahead of the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit. Furthermore, at the CRC's eighty-first session, in May, the Committee adopted General Comment No. 24 on children's rights in the child justice system. In November, in its first ruling on a complaint by an individual seeking asylum due to the effects of climate change, the Human Rights Committee stated that without robust national and international efforts, the effects of climate change on sending States may trigger the non-refoulement obligations of receiving States. Finally, under its urgent action procedure, the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED) addressed specific recommendations to concerned States Parties regarding the challenges that arise in searching for disappeared persons along migration routes. The Committee invited these States Parties to adopt search and investigation strategies that are suited to the specific circumstances of each case and are in line with principle 9 of the Guiding Principles for the search for disappeared persons.

M5

International human rights mechanisms are increasingly effective in promoting and protecting human rights.



In the context of enhancing the efficiency of the Human Rights Council (HRC) and the rationalization of its initiatives, seven resolutions became biennial and three resolutions became triennial. In addition, out of the six new thematic resolutions adopted in 2019, three were one-time resolutions. One-time resolutions represent a good practice wherein a resolution is adopted on an issue that has gained political momentum in the Council. Of all "recurrent" HRC resolutions, 78 are now biennial or triennial and only 33 are annual. In 2019, UN Human Rights provided support to the President and the Bureau on streamlining the work of the Council, which resulted in the adoption of a President's Statement on this subject.

The treaty bodies became more accessible to increase their engagement with all stakeholders. The Committee against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and CED used videoconferencing and webcasting for public reviews, private hearings with NGOs, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), the UN in the field and, in the case of CAT, National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) and for joint meetings with

regional courts. During the eighty-second session of CRC and the seventy-third session of CEDAW, the dialogue with Mozambique took place through videoconferencing. CRPD continued implementing accessibility measures by ensuring remote captioning, international sign interpretation, national sign language interpretation, webcasting and Braille transcriptions. Remote captioning was provided for all dialogues that took place with State Party delegations during the Committee's twenty-first and twenty-second sessions. The Committee also facilitated accessibility arrangements during private briefings with organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), other civil society organizations and NHRIs on country situations.



Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Philip Alston, visits an unexploded ordnance clearance site in Houaphanh, Lao PDR. © Bassam Khawaja 2019

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

D1

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



RESULTS / SPOTLIGHTS

Spotlights: Youth Disabilities Women

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.

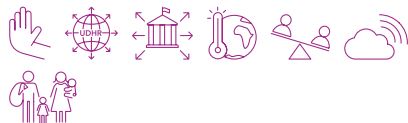


OHCHR worked through various partnerships to ensure that public health approaches comply with international human rights principles and standards, including a joint workplan with the World Health Organization (WHO) for 2019 that builds on the Framework of Cooperation, which was signed in 2017. As part 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

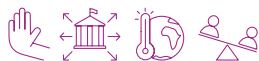
Environmental and climate policies and plans increasingly respect, protect and fulfil human rights, guaranteeing those affected access to information, decision-making, public participation and remedies.



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.
© UN Barbados and the OECS

Peace and Security (PS)

Preventing violations and strengthening protection of human rights, including in situations of conflict and insecurity



Peace and Security in numbers



12 out of **14**

UN peace missions have a human rights component

32

staff deployed to support various investigations and crises situations (surge capacity)



524

human rights staff serve in UN peace missions



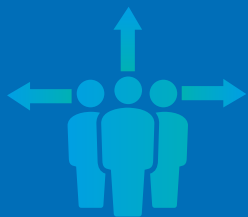
The Declaration of Shared Commitments under the Action for Peacekeeping initiative endorsed by

152

Member States and

4

intergovernmental organizations reasserting the UN's commitment to the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy for all UN support to non-UN security forces



2

"light team" deployments in situations at risk of serious human rights violations

HRDDP implementation advanced in

8

peace missions (MONUSCO, MINUSCA, MINUSMA, MINUJUSTH/BINUH, UNIOGBIS, UNMISS, UNSMIL and UNSOM) and

2

regional frameworks (AU-UN Partnership on Peace and Security and G5 Sahel Compliance Framework)



At least

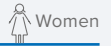
16



public reports issued by human rights components of peace operations (MINUSCA, MINUSMA, MONUSCO, UNAMA, UNAMI, UNIOGBIS, UNMISS, UNSMIL, UNSOM) highlighted the human rights situations in

9

countries

MINDING MILITARY MANNERS: HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES IN GUINEA-BISSAU

Guinea-Bissau has faced political turmoil since its independence from Portugal in 1974 with longstanding violence and an elusive quest for justice by many.

Since 2013, UN Human Rights has trained the various branches of the military, including decision makers and border guards, about human rights, humanitarian law and international obligations.

A Guide on Human Rights for Armed Forces, written in Portuguese and known as the “blue book,” outlines human rights and responsibilities. The guide is now compulsory reading for new recruits.

Lieutenant-Colonel Jorge Gastao Na Sultate, who coordinated the training for the armed forces, believes the time was right.

“Things were definitely not good. There were enforced disappearances and our only way of dealing with the general population was through violence,” Gastao said.

“Things are changing here,” said Eduardo Da Costa Sanhá, the country’s former Minister of Defence and former Vice-President of the Military Tribunal. UN Human Rights helped us see how we could transform the way we work, stay within the law, know our obligations and work peacefully with civil society.

LEARNING ABOUT DIGNITY

While training succeeded in shifting deep-rooted attitudes, change was difficult due to the military’s historical role and hierarchical structure, coupled with poverty and a lack of knowledge about human rights.

Through the UN Human Rights training, the military learned how to respectfully and peacefully interact with civilians. It also challenged its default reaction to use force.

“Before, the military took things into their own hands when it came to civilians, now there is civilian justice,” said Augusto Da Costa, UN Human Rights Officer.

“We have also learned about gender equality...and the right to health,” added Ensign Maria de Fatima Mendes.

COLLECTIVE AWARENESS FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Guinea-Bissau is now experiencing a societal shift.

According to Olivio Pereira, Secretary General of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, “Human rights have changed lives. We are more politically mature, no one can violate laws with impunity. Society is more democratized and people simply won’t stand for it.”



Lieutenant-Colonel Jorge Gastao Na Sultate. © OHCHR

Highlights of pillar results

Peace and Security (PS)

PILLAR RESULTS / SHIFTS / SDGs

PS1

Parties to conflict and actors involved in peace operations increasingly comply with international human rights and humanitarian law and provide greater protection to civilians.



RESULTS / SPOTLIGHTS

Spotlights:  Youth  Disabilities  Women

OHCHR participated in five assessment missions to promote human rights integration into peace operations, including in the context of transitions, namely, UNAMID (March), AMISOM technical review (March), UNSOM review (May), MONUSCO independent strategic review (June/July) and UNOAU (October/November). Following these missions, UN Human Rights secured a central role for human rights during the transitions of UNAMID and MONUSCO. The independent MONUSCO strategic review report indicates that “human rights will be the main barometer for judging progress on various peace, security and rule of law efforts” in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and, “as human rights will be a key weather vane informing political engagement and protection tasks, a strong presence of the UN Joint Human Rights Office should continue in Kinshasa and the provinces,” even where the Mission is advised to drawdown. This provides an excellent basis for positioning human rights at the core of the transition, conflict prevention and peacebuilding work in the DRC.

Following UN Human Rights’ monitoring and advocacy efforts for the rights of children in armed conflict in **Afghanistan**, the Child Act (Child Rights Protection Law) was enacted through a presidential decree on 5 March. The Act includes provisions on recruitment and the use of children and bacha bazi, a harmful practice involving abuse of boys. Through trainings delivered by the HRS, 113 interlocutors, including teachers, judges, prosecutors and National Directorate of Security officers, were sensitized on the protection of children in armed conflict, specifically in relation to the prevention of sexual violence against children, such as bacha bazi.

In **Bolivia**, UN Human Rights undertook monitoring and analysis of the human rights situation during the pre- and post-electoral crisis. This significantly contributed to a national process, including a national dialogue that led to a call for new elections and an agreement between the transitional Government and the Movement for Socialism, on 23 November, to address the post-electoral crisis. Through the deployment of a technical mission, on 11 November, we facilitated the inclusion of human rights as a key element of the agreement. More specifically, the agreement calls upon the UN to provide assistance in relation to three main areas through the UN’s Initiative for the Consolidation of Peace in Bolivia, namely: 1) electoral assistance that is led by UNDP; 2) dialogue that is led by the Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO); and 3) the promotion and protection of human rights that is led by OHCHR with the support of UN Women. Relevant institutions received political and technical advice during and after the crisis on relevant human rights situations. In particular, UN Human Rights provided a technical analysis of Decree No. 4078, which appeared to grant the military with overly broad discretion to use force. On 28 November, the Decree was derogated, as recommended by UN Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

In the context of the protracted conflict in **Transnistria (Republic of Moldova)**, OHCHR supported Thomas Hammarberg, UN Senior Expert for the Transnistrian region, to prepare a follow-up report to his 2013 baseline study and contributed to his end-of-mission statement that outlined the need to better integrate human rights into the ongoing settlement process. The report was presented to the constitutional and de facto authorities and contributed to advocacy efforts to widen civic space and minimize protection gaps.

PS2

Efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism comply with international law.



As a result of a workshop on human rights and detention in relation to terrorism, which was conducted by OHCHR, the United Nations Police, the Justice and Corrections Section of MINUSMA and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in June, 321 detainees were released who had been illegally detained in facilities under the responsibility of the Pôle Judiciaire Spécialisé (PJS), the leading entity in the fight against terrorism, money laundering and transborder criminality in **Mali**. The objective of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of the personnel of the PJS. The workshop facilitated a debate on illegal detentions in relation to the fight against terrorism, as well as challenges faced by the PJS in handling the cases of persons arrested during counter-terrorism operations. Participants also explored possible avenues to improve detention conditions in compliance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

In 2019, the **G5 Sahel** Compliance Framework was increasingly considered by UN Member States to be a tool that could help mitigate harm to civilians in the context of conflict and counterterrorism operations in the Sahel. OHCHR consistently engaged members of the Security Council, Member States, the African Union (AU) and UN entities at strategic levels in order to provide consistent political and technical support for its work with the G5 Sahel countries. In February, the Assistant Secretary-General delivered an informal briefing to Security Council members, the AU, the G5 Sahel and some permanent representatives from the European Union (EU) on the Compliance Framework. In March, the High Commissioner briefed the Security Council on the Compliance Framework during a ministerial meeting that was organized by Burkina Faso and France on the establishment of the FC-G5S. In coordination with the UN Department of Peace Operations, UN Human Rights provided inputs to the Secretary-General's report to the Security Council on the FC-G5S, which was presented to the Security Council on 16 May. Following the presentation, 11 Security Council members referred to the Compliance Framework as a positive initiative. Recommendations were put forward to fully operationalize its measures and mechanisms.

PS3

Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection.



UN Human Rights partnered with the Department of Peace Operations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict to draft and sign a new joint United Nations Field Missions Policy: Preventing and responding to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), which provides guidance and explains the responsibilities and complementarity of mission components in peace operations, including the leading role of human rights components in implementing Security Council mandates on CRSV. The policy entered into force as of 1 January 2020.

UN Human Rights supported the development of a regional UN-wide strategy on sustaining peace in the **Western Balkans**. In March, UN Human Rights hosted an expanded retreat and facilitated human rights briefings for the Western Balkan Inter-Agency Working Group and Resident Coordinators (RCs) from the region. The adoption by the Secretary-General of a UN Action Plan for the Western Balkans, in June, created space for UN Human Rights to promote the application of an HRBA to its implementation and enhance its work in the region, together with UN entities and other partners. In this regard, UN Human Rights continued to undertake high-level advocacy on human rights concerns, including through increased engagement with authorities and an enhanced presence in the region. With the deployment of a Human Rights Adviser (HRA) to Montenegro, in September, UN Human Rights now has four field presences in the Western Balkans.

UN Human Rights, in coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Presidential Commission on Human Rights, provided technical assistance to the National Civil Police (PNC) of **Guatemala**, for the integration of human rights standards into the

development of the Protocol on the Use of Force, with a view to improving the performance of their duties in the upcoming elections. The Ministry of the Interior adopted the Protocol, in June, prior to the general elections, during which the PNC played an important preventive role. UN Human Rights monitored the implementation of the Protocol during the elections and will continue to do so in all relevant situations, including demonstrations, protests, detentions and all other forms of police intervention.

UN Human Rights engaged with Security Council experts to provide a human rights analysis of primary conflict drivers in order to support the shaping of human rights mandates for peace operations that can effectively address those drivers. As a result, 12 Security Council resolutions adopted in 2019 include dedicated sections on human rights with a monitoring and reporting mandate.

PS4

Justice mechanisms, including for transitional justice, provide increased accountability for conflict-related violations.



UN Human Rights provided advice and in-country support to a wide range of stakeholders (States, civil society, victim groups, UN partners) and engaged in reflection on and the design or implementation of transitional justice processes and mechanisms, including in **Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, the Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Myanmar, Nepal, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia** and the **Western Balkans**. Examples include advice/support on the design of a comprehensive transitional justice strategy (**the Central African Republic, the Gambia**), draft legislation on transitional justice processes and mechanisms (**the Central African Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Kosovo**²), draft regulations on reparations programmes and justice-sensitive security sector reform processes (**the Gambia**) and the socioeconomic re-integration of members of armed and terrorist groups (**the DRC**).

In **Colombia**, UN Human Rights continued to provide technical assistance to the Search Unit for Persons Deemed as Missing in the Context of the Armed Conflict (UBPD) in order to increase the analytical capacities of the Unit to design strategies and methodologies for the search, location, identification and dignified delivery of remains, as well as the delimitation of the universe of persons deemed to have disappeared. In addition, UN Human Rights provided technical assistance to the UBPD for the inclusion of international human rights standards of victim's participation in the autonomous and independent process of selecting delegates from the organizations of victims of kidnappings and enforced disappearance to serve on the UBPD Advisory Board.

In **Tunisia**, UN Human Rights provided extensive technical assistance to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission "Instance Vérité et Dignité" (IVD), enabling it to fulfil its mandate in conformity with international standards. In particular, technical support was provided during the elaboration phase of the final report, notably on drafting of the IVD's recommendations. The recommendations focus on the State's reforms at the legal, political and institutional levels to promote democracy, reinforce the rule of law and guarantee the non-recurrence of past human rights abuses. The final report seeks to uncover the truth about violations of human rights committed between 1955 and 2013 and provides reparation measures for victims that have been included in a global reparation programme. The IVD's report was submitted and published, in March, in accordance with Law 53-2013. The IVD transmitted 69 indictments to the Specialized Criminal Chambers (SCC) with regard to 1,120 cases of torture, rape and other forms of sexual violence, enforced disappearance, murder, arbitrary detention, human trafficking, corruption and the misuse of public funds. It issued 145 decisions which referred cases of a similar nature to the SCC. The cases and the decisions concerned a total number of 1,666 victims and 1,426 perpetrators. As of the end of 2019, the SCC has held more than 150 hearings

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

on more than 100 cases of gross violations of human rights. OHCHR engaged in constructive discussions with the judicial authorities to enhance and support the mandate and work of the SCC, including by building the capacity of the SCC judges and organizing workshops and various technical meetings and continued to monitor hearings throughout the year.


PS5

Human rights information and analyses are integrated in early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policy-making, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.



UN Human Rights strengthened the prevention agenda and operationalization of the Human Rights up Front (HRuF) Initiative in **Southern Africa** through support to RCs and UNCTs on early warning and prevention. This was achieved by conducting integrated human rights monitoring and analysis prior to and during elections (Comoros, Malawi and Mozambique) and after elections (Malawi and Zimbabwe), as well as through country visits, briefings, technical cooperation, remote monitoring and the establishment of cooperation platforms, such as integrated information and risk analysis mechanisms. In **Comoros** and **Malawi**, OHCHR was instrumental in the deployment of two multidisciplinary light teams, which strengthened the UN's preventive role in the run-up to potentially destabilizing elections. Specifically, in Malawi, UN Human Rights developed an in-country prevention platform, which provided integrated UN analysis throughout the electoral process to guide UN response led by the RC. OHCHR also deployed a surge team to **Bolivia** to monitor the human rights situation in the electoral context and to **Chile** and **Ecuador** in the context of protests in both countries.

In the framework of the Office's efforts to pursue the Secretary-General's vision of establishing a Prevention Platform and enhancing the UN's role at the regional level, a new regional emergency response team (ERT) was set up at the West Africa Regional Office, in Dakar. Together with established presences in Bangkok and Pretoria, the three ERTs developed risk analysis to more directly influence UN responses at the field level. In 2019, this included the development of an early warning system in Myanmar and the identification of emerging risks in the north of Mozambique, which led to the improved coordination of UN responses, including the deployment of additional UN Human Rights capacity.

 With regards to policy development, the Office contributed to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, which were officially launched, in November. The Guidelines are founded on CRPD and are the first humanitarian guidelines developed by persons with disabilities through their representative organizations, together with humanitarian stakeholders.

 In terms of support for humanitarian action, the Office remained active in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and contributed to various operational and policy-related discussions, including in the area of the humanitarian/development nexus. In 2019, we supported UN Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs) in the **Bahamas, Malawi, Mozambique, the State of Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic and Zimbabwe** and participated in the Operational Peer Review of the response to Cyclone Idai in Mozambique. In Southern Africa, HCTs in **Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe** incorporated human rights analysis into their discussions and strategies related to the response to Cyclones Idai and Kenneth, including as a result of UN Human Rights inputs and participation. UN Human Rights also supported the integration of human rights in Post-Disaster Needs Assessments in Malawi and Mozambique, with a focus on persons with disabilities, older persons and persons with albinism. In Mozambique, UN Human Rights participated in the Operational Peer Review that followed the scale-up response to Cyclone Idai and recommended strengthening the Protection Cluster. UN Human Rights implemented a pilot project with the Asia Pacific Forum aimed at strengthening the capacity of NHRIs to engage in emergencies and humanitarian crises.

PS6

United Nations' support to national and regional security forces, law enforcement agencies, and non-State actors integrates human rights and complies with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.



With technical assistance from UN Human Rights, the **Lebanese** Armed Forces (LAF) developed a Code of Conduct on Human Rights, launched in January. The Code of Conduct outlines fundamental human rights standards and principles that are relevant to law enforcement and highlights the importance of protecting women, children, older persons, refugees and victims of human trafficking in all law enforcement-related tasks. Following the launch, LAF announced that a number of legal adviser positions had been created in the departments responsible for monitoring the dissemination and implementation of the Code of Conduct. Moreover, the Office received official requests from the other two main security agencies in Lebanon, the Internal Security Forces and the General Security Office, to assist with the revision of their respective codes of conduct, introduce accountability elements and ensure wider dissemination of the documents among their personnel.

OHCHR provided technical support to MINUSMA and engaged RCs in **G5 Sahel** countries to establish a common understanding of Security Council resolution 2480 (2019) and to plan the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Framework in G5 Sahel countries. Security Council resolution 2480, which expanded the mandate of MINUSMA to support the G5S Joint Force in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania and Niger, made strong references to compliance with the HRDDP regarding UN support to non-UN security forces. To this end, the Office provided technical and operational support to MINUSMA for the organization, in October, of regional consultations on the implementation of the HRDDP in the context of MINUSMA's support to the G5 Sahel Joint Force outside of Mali. In addition, we prepared a draft General and Preliminary Risk Assessment Framework on MINUSMA support to the FC-G5S, which will serve as a basis for specific HRDDP risk assessments for cases/operations/forces across the Sahel region.

In **Myanmar**, the Office provided support to the development of a Human Rights Due Diligence Framework for the work of the UNCT Myanmar. The work originated from a recommendation issued by the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar that the UNCT should undergo a human rights due diligence analysis. The advice and recommendations from the UN Human Rights team were adopted by the Myanmar UNCT and a draft Human Rights Due Diligence Framework was developed by OHCHR that provides clear guidance and next steps for implementation in 2020.

PS7

The use of private military and security companies, and the development and deployment of new technologies, weapons and tactics, are increasingly consistent with and respect international human rights law and international humanitarian law.



The Working Group on mercenaries participated in the first session of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on private military and security companies (PMSCs) and reiterated its support for a legally binding instrument supported by the findings made in its two thematic reports on the human rights impact of PMSCs in the extractive sector (A/HRC/42/42) and on gender and PMSCs (A/74/244), which highlighted the gaps in regulation and accountability created by insufficient PMSC regulation. It also stressed the importance of ensuring strong human rights safeguards in any future regulatory mechanism. The mandate consistently emphasized the need for strengthened regulation, including in engagements with States, private industry and in the context of multi-stakeholder initiatives.

INFORMATION DRIVES PREVENTION

Operating under the understanding that “information drives prevention,” the organization has strengthened its efforts to build the practices, skills, and resources required to deliver timely, reliable, accessible information and analysis to inform prevention efforts.

WHY NOW?

This Information Management (IM) initiative came out of the need to be able to provide human rights data to feed into the integrated analysis called for in the Secretary-General’s Prevention Platform. In addition, the New Way of Working and the Sustainable Development and Sustaining Peace Agendas make human rights a key part of meeting their goals. In the OHCHR Management Plan (OMP) for 2018-2021 this has been addressed through a “Shift” to prevention. To ensure human rights data and analysis are part of the solution, the Office needs to be able to engage in the integrated analysis on an equal footing with UN partners.

WHAT IS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT?

We define IM as the systematic practice of identifying, collecting, protecting, processing, analysing and sharing data, information and knowledge for evidence-based decision-making. It is an information lifecycle that provides the ingredients for analysis.

HOW DID WE MEET THE NEED?

The Emergency Response Section (ERS) has been moving to meet the data needs in the prevention space as this represents a transformation in how UN Human Rights engages and leverages information. In March, the Section was re-structured due to the expansion of its focus on IM and the organization-wide support that these IM services offer. The ERS is driving the creation and establishment of the Information Management function in the organization. The new Information Management and Data Analytics (IMDA) Unit developed a field operations IM Strategy that serves as the road map for the development of sustainable IM structures in support of human rights work in the field. This Strategy envisions a range of profiles and expertise required to set in place systems and practices for early warning, data aggregation, data cleaning, secure data collection, media monitoring, open source intelligence, geo-spatial analysis, mapping, satellite imagery analysis and visualization.








The Strategy is built around delivering **services, tools** and **people**. Targeting resources to support field presences leads to more actionable data and information; enabling UN Human Rights to provide the situational awareness required to deliver the timely, evidence-based, strategic and operational decisions that the UN system requires. The team has developed partnerships to leverage powerful **tools** to support media monitoring and structured secondary data analysis. The **services** are



Map of the network of detention facilities by de facto authorities in Yemen for the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen. © OHCHR

delivered through the IMDA Unit and a service catalogue to support field presences, investigative bodies, peace-keeping components and risk analysis at headquarters. Examples of services produced in 2019 include data visualization, establishment of information flows, leveraging information and data to inform decisions, data management and analysis, GIS/mapping, media monitoring tools, satellite imagery, etc.

ADDITIONAL RESULTS FROM OTHER PILLARS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE PEACE AND SECURITY PILLAR:

<div>A1</div> <div>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</div> <div></div>	<p>With support from the Office, the Government of the Central African Republic gradually deployed defence and security forces and administrative and judicial authorities beyond the capital, in an effort to enhance its capacity to protect civilians and address impunity. OHCHR applied the United Nations Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) in response to 132 requests for support from the defence and security forces. This resulted in the production of risk assessments and proposals for mitigating measures to prevent human rights violations. UN Human Rights screened 4,399 members of the defence and security forces who were to benefit from UN support. A total of 74 of those who were screened were excluded when it was determined that they were responsible for human rights violations. UN Human Rights continued to provide technical support for the integration of human rights into security sector reform through trainings, workshops and expert advice. It notably organized 60 training sessions and 10 workshops on international human rights law and international humanitarian law for 1,796 defence and security officers, including 287 women, in Bangui and across the country.</p>
<div>P6</div> <div>The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard.</div> <div></div>	<p> Building on its support in 2018, in Colombia, OHCHR implemented strategies to increase the capacity of victims, their families, civil society organizations and national and regional collective processes to participate in the mechanisms of the System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Recurrence (SIVJNRN). UN Human Rights provided technical assistance to nine of the 10 organizations that attended the “Space for strategic litigation” workshop to facilitate their participation in the SIVJNRN mechanisms, thus increasing their capacity to present reports to the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP). As a result, the organizations prepared one report for the JEP on 23 cases of extrajudicial executions that were carried out in Cesar, between 2007 and 2009, and one report on 158 cases of extrajudicial executions that were carried out in Antioquia. Furthermore, the Office strengthened the capacity of the Coalición contra la vinculación de niños, niñas y jóvenes al conflicto armado en Colombia (COALICO) to actively participate in the SIVJNRN mechanisms. COALICO subsequently presented one report to the JEP, which in turn contributed to the opening of Case No. 007 on recruitment and the use of children in the Colombian armed conflict.</p>

SUPPORTING KEY TRANSITION PROCESSES IN A NEW DEMOCRACY IN THE GAMBIA

In 2017, after 22 years of dictatorship in the Gambia, the UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), approved US\$3.1 million in essential financing to assist with the country's transition to democracy. From 28 to 31 May, partners of the Fund, including Belgium, Canada, the European Union, Germany, Ireland, Japan and the United Kingdom, visited the Gambia to evaluate the initial impact of this support. The PBF partners also sought to identify additional peacebuilding needs that had arisen during the transition process.

In late 2018, the PBF allocated an additional US\$450,000 to enable UN Human Rights and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to support the establishment of transitional justice processes and human rights mechanisms to promote reconciliation and sustainable peace.

From the beginning, UN Human Rights supported nationwide consultations

to set up the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC), helped to develop a Comprehensive National Strategy for Transitional Justice and facilitated the functional establishment of the TRRC, in October 2018. Moreover, UN Human Rights built the capacity of the TRRC members and staff regarding the rule of law, human rights and gender equality and the practical aspects of the proceedings.

In reflecting on the past year, the TRRC staff shared moments of success and various challenges, including in relation to the quality of investigations, the low number of testimonies received from women, the payment of reparations, the design of an effective framework and fundraising.

Since commencing its public hearings, in January 2019, the Commission registered 941 victims and received the testimonies of 188 witnesses, including 23 that were delivered via video link from witnesses living outside of the country, during 10

three-week sessions that were completed by the end of the year. In addition, the Commission held one closed hearing and two hearings during which the identities of witnesses were concealed. Among these testimonies before the Commission, 35 were delivered by alleged perpetrators.

Furthermore, the Office and UNDP worked together to provide technical assistance for the operationalization of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and contributed to the increased capacity of key stakeholders to participate in transitional justice processes. During the swearing-in ceremony of the five commissioners, in February, the Vice-Chair of the NHRC, Mrs. Jainba Johm, recognized that the Fund had enabled the Commission to begin its work. The Fund also supported the NHRC to participate in the country's third UPR cycle by submitting an alternative report to the UPR Working Group and to organize a live streaming, in the Gambia, of the review process that was held in Geneva, in November. Finally, the Fund supported and facilitated the NHRC's programmes to promote the work of the Commission, including through participation at the Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions annual conference, in March; exchange visits to the Ghanaian Human Rights Commission; trainings for CSOs and law enforcement officers; meetings of regional stakeholders in all five regions; and monitoring missions to Mile II, Old Jeshwang and Janjanbureh prisons and to three police detention centres.



Victims shared their personal stories with Ambassador Gert Rosenthal, member of the Peacebuilding Fund Advisory Group (right) in May 2019. © UN Peacebuilding Fund

This story is based on the feature article published on the UN Peacebuilding Fund's Exposure platform: <https://unpeacebuildingfund.exposure.co/supporting-key-transition-processes-in-a-new-democracy>

Non-discrimination (ND)

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination



Non-discrimination in numbers

Since its establishment in 1985, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples has supported the participation of over

2,500

indigenous persons in UN human rights mechanisms



15



national laws adopted to combat discrimination in all its forms

1

transgender person participated in the new UN Human Rights LGBTI Fellowship Programme launched in 2019



UN Free & Equal campaign supported national campaigns and activities in

17

countries across the world, reaching

187,000

followers via its social media platforms



35

fellows (18 women, 17 men) from

29

countries participated in the annual Indigenous Fellowship Programme in Geneva



The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent sent 44 allegation letters and urgent appeals on behalf of over

30,200

victims



30

members of minority groups (15 women, 15 men) from

27

countries participated in the annual Minorities Fellowship Programme in Geneva



12

persons of African descent (8 women, 4 men) from

11

countries awarded a UN Human Rights Fellowship for People of African Descent



IMPROVING THE LIVES OF TUNISIA'S RURAL WOMEN



CHEBIKA, Tunisia – Here in the fields of the interior, in the central Tunisian province of Kairouan, farmers – mostly women – spend eight hours a day picking olives, peppers or tomatoes, regardless of the weather.

“It is very hard work – sometimes we are so tired we fall down,” said Naima Khlif, 49, bending over to pick another handful of peppers.

Many rural farming women in Tunisia carried out this work, which entailed a multitude of risks, without a safety net for themselves or their families. Working for short periods for a variety of employers made them ineligible for social security benefits. With high unemployment rates in Tunisia, there were always plenty of other women waiting to take up available work. Despite these precarious conditions, some positive changes are slowly helping to improve the situation of these women.

PROTECTING RURAL WOMEN'S RIGHT TO SOCIAL SECURITY

As a result of a local scheme that is supported by the Office, many rural women are now able to access social security and pay their contributions with a simple and free phone app that requires limited technical knowledge.

The app is the brainchild of Maher Khlifi, a local mechanic whose mother, a farm worker, was refused hospital care after her cancer diagnosis. After finding out that more than 90 per cent of women didn't have social security, Mr. Khlifi launched Ahmini, which means “protect me” in Arabic, a volunteer-based social enterprise designed to improve working

Naima Khlif at work picking peppers in Chebika, Tunisia.
© OHCHR/Moadh Grami



conditions for rural women. “I wanted to find a way to change the lives of women like my mother and give them greater equality,” he said.

Today, women who join the scheme can register for social security on their phones, upload the required documents and pay their contributions. This simple technology has meant freedom from fear and uncertainty.

CHANGING ATTITUDES, CHANGING LAWS

It all started in 2016 when Eljezia Hammami, a former coordinator with the Ministry of Women's Affairs, proposed a study on rural women and access to social security. The Office helped to fund and design the study, with support from UN Women.

The final report, which identified some of the startling reasons why rural women were ineligible for social security benefits, combined with advocacy materials, including from NGOs, served as the

cornerstone for a national strategy to ensure the economic and social autonomy of rural women.

“UN Human Rights was relentless in its advocacy for legal reform. Each time a representative met someone...in Tunis or Geneva, the issue of rural women was discussed and kept alive, adding a strong voice to ours,” Ms. Hammami said.

The legal reform was finally enacted in 2019, following which nearly 10,000 previously excluded rural women signed up for social security. The strategy for rural women has now been expanded to a five-year plan and many more women are expected to join.

The women are no longer refused healthcare, nor do they have to hide illnesses and pregnancies from employers. Working conditions may not yet be ideal, but the safety net for the poorest rural women is growing.

See the full version of this story on the UN Human Rights Exposure platform: <https://unhumanrights.exposure.co/improving-the-lives-of-tunisias-rural-women>

Highlights of pillar results

Non-discrimination (ND)

PILLAR RESULTS / SHIFTS / SDGs

ND1

Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to 'leave no one behind', including by addressing the root causes of inequality.



RESULTS / SPOTLIGHTS

Spotlights:  Youth  Disabilities  Women



In December, the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) of **Guatemala** adopted a ministerial agreement for the implementation of the intercultural bilingual education model in 13 communities in Antigua Santa Catarina Ixtahuacán, Sololá. This ministerial agreement is the direct result of a strategic litigation case that was supported by OHCHR. Building on the favourable decision handed down by the Constitutional Court, in 2016, the Office provided technical assistance to the MINEDUC, indigenous authorities and affected communities regarding the design and implementation of the abovementioned intercultural bilingual education model, which includes a carefully prepared curriculum for indigenous children and scholarships for students.

The Parliament of **North Macedonia** adopted a new Law on Prevention and Protection against Discrimination, in May, after long political debates. UN Human Rights used the opportunity of the country's third UPR report, in January, to support CSOs in their advocacy efforts prior and during the review. The resulting eight recommendations that were issued to expedite the adoption of the Law, coupled with advocacy undertaken by civil society after the review, contributed to the Parliament's decision to adopt the Law. An assessment of the compliance of the Law with international human rights standards will take place in 2020. The adopted text, however, appears to fully incorporate the Office's comments and comply with international human rights standards and recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. The new Law includes provisions related to persons with disabilities, explicitly lists sexual orientation and gender identity among the prohibited grounds of discrimination and clarifies definitions. Most importantly, it also strengthens the mandate and provisions for ensuring an independent and effective Commission for prevention and protection against discrimination, which were the weakest elements of both the previous Law and the national anti-discrimination framework.



A number of results were achieved in the context of the project to support the eradication of begging and child abuse in **Senegal**, including the development of standard operating procedures for the care of children in danger and a national action plan for child protection that has been endorsed by the government; and a Children's Code that has also been finalized and is under consideration at the Ministry of Justice. Furthermore, a methodological tool that will be used in conducting a national survey on child begging in Senegal, was developed with the technical assistance of OHCHR and approved by the Ministry of Women, Family, Gender and Child Protection. The provision of equipment (bedding and medicines) for 10 reception centres that were established to promote access to protection services for 500 children in vulnerable situations is also a significant achievement. Finally, the Office carried out three studies linked to the implementation of this project including a mapping of actors and initiatives to combat begging and child abuse; an analysis of Senegal's international, regional and national legal framework on the rights of the child and the implementation status of the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms on the rights of the child; and a study on the status of data collection related to child begging in Senegal.

ND2

Justice systems and related institutions increasingly monitor and investigate discrimination and provide redress to victims.



UN Human Rights contributed to the capacity-building of national institutions and equality bodies, mainly in **Europe** and **Latin America** and the **Caribbean**, and provided substantive inputs to national non-discrimination bills and plans of action against racism. For instance, as follow-up to recommendations issued by the UPR, UN Human Rights provided technical assistance to the Government of **Belgium** in its preparations of a national action plan against racism.

In April, the Constitutional Court ruled in favour of indigenous Mayan midwives, in a strategic litigation case that was supported by OHCHR in **Guatemala**. The Court's decision instructed the Ministry of Health to report on the implementation status of its internal policies for the provision of sexual and reproductive healthcare with an intercultural approach. Further, it ruled that the Ministry of Health must provide indigenous midwives with the tools and utensils they need to ensure quality, accessible and dignified reproductive healthcare. The Court ordered the Ministry of Health to develop adequate legal, technical and operational measures to ensure the effective inclusion of and respect for the customs, languages, practices and traditions of Maya, Garífuna, Xinca and Ladino women in the provision of maternal health services.

ND3

Legal and social frameworks increasingly promote women's and girls' autonomy and choice and protect them from violence, including in the digital space.



The Office's conference on "Protecting Civic Space in the **European Union**" recommended that any new legislation in the EU relating to online civic space should strictly define what constitutes prohibited content in accordance with ICCPR and ICERD. It was also suggested that consideration be given to the adoption of EU legislation to combat violence and abuse against women online. As a result of its participation in the conference, the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency expanded its survey on civic space in follow-up to its 2018 report entitled "Challenges facing civil society organizations working on human rights in the EU" to include questions about online harassment of HRDs in general, and women in particular. In November, UN Human Rights was invited to highlight the human rights-based perspective at the Women's Network of European Socialist Parties event on "Breaking the silence on online violence against women," which focused on the consequences of women withdrawing from political life on account of online harassment. The then incoming European Commissioner for Equality attended the event and pledged to take action.

OHCHR successfully engaged with the National Human Rights Commission and CSOs to advocate for enhancing the participation of women in public space in **Niger**. UN Human Rights' advocacy contributed to the adoption by the Parliament, on 6 December, of the bill amending Law No. 2000-008 of June 2000 establishing the quota system in elective, government and State administration positions. The revised legislation instituted a quota system for the participation of women in elective, government and State administration functions. The objective is to increase the quotas from 15 to 25 per cent for elective positions and from 25 to 30 per cent for appointments to senior government positions. It is anticipated that this legislation will strengthen the participation of women in public and political life in Niger.

ND4

Judicial institutions, media, and other sectors increasingly recognize and challenge harmful gender stereotypes and gender norms with a view to their eradication.



In **Paraguay**, Law No. 6338/19 was adopted on 1 July, amending article 10 of Law No. 5407/15 on domestic workers and improving their working conditions. This amendment was undertaken in response to a recommendation of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences during her visit to Paraguay in 2017.

ND5

Principles and practices effectively counter discrimination and hate speech in the digital space.



The High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner raised their concerns about the pushback on women's rights and gender equality, including in online attacks, misogyny and hate speech in several high-level discussions, including at the Commission on the Status of Women, which was held in New York, in March; at the Women Deliver 2019 Conference, which was held in Vancouver, in June; and at the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development, which was held in Nairobi, in November. The Office also contributed to the Doha Forum's panel on "New Models for Online Content Governance," during which panellists explored issues such as current and proposed efforts to monitor, regulate and curate online content; who should define what constitutes misinformation, hatred and violence on digital platforms; and risks associated with private actors developing their own decision-making frameworks for the removal of content. To this end, OHCHR developed a joint project with UN Global Pulse for monitoring online hate speech and incitement.

In the context of the rampant discourse emanating from religious and political groups opposing gender equality, UN Human Rights implemented activities aimed at countering the prevalence of hate speech and negative stereotyping directed towards women, LGBTI persons and groups that are frequently subject to discrimination. For instance, within the context of Human Rights Day, the Regional Office for Central America and **Panama's** Museum of Contemporary Arts co-organized a digital arts exhibition, which included a specific segment emphasizing the need to combat the use of harmful stereotyping and its negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights of discriminated persons and groups.

ND6

The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.



OHCHR supported selected State institutions and programmes in the **Middle East and North Africa** to significantly improve their compliance with international human rights norms and standards on migration. The Office translated into Arabic the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders and widely disseminated this document during capacity-building activities and discussions with governmental and non-governmental partners in the region. OHCHR also organized a training programme on these guidelines and conducted training sessions on the protection of migrants across borders for the Lebanese General Security (GS). As a result of the programme, 150 GS Officers were trained on human rights principles and guidelines for border management, trafficking and due process in border management. The programme allowed UN Human Rights to further engage with GS and relevant UN entities to uphold the rights of people on the move.

In 2019, concluding observations issued by CMW in relation to **Argentina, Colombia** and **Guatemala** addressed frontier issues, such as mixed migratory movements, and in particular, migrations known as the "migrant caravans." The Committee also highlighted the human rights of women and children on the move in the context of the massive migration of Venezuelan citizens, including in relation to citizenship for Venezuelan children born in Argentina and Colombia, family reunification, border management capacities and the lack of infrastructure at border crossing points. The Committee expressed its concern about the persistence of xenophobic attacks and hate speech against migrants from the media. In addition, CRPD issued recommendations concerning people's displacement and movement, particularly migrants, asylum seekers and refugees with disabilities, in 15 out of 18 concluding observations and recommendations that were issued during the year.

ND7

Public support for equal, inclusive and diverse societies, without discrimination, increases.



The UN Free & Equal campaign launched four mini-campaigns reaching more than 14.3 million people in 2019 alone through campaign videos. The campaign also reached more than 187,000 people through its Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts. In March, the campaign celebrated International Transgender Day of Visibility with a short, animated video. In May, International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia was marked with a campaign celebrating political progress achieved by human rights activists and LGBTI communities in countries around the world. In October, a mini-campaign for Spirit Day called on allies to stand up for the rights of LGBTI youth experiencing bullying. In December, a mini-campaign was launched to laud the dedication of some of Africa's most inspiring allies, including Willy Mutunga, former Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya; Seun Kuti, a musician and activist from Nigeria; Bishop Ssenyonjo, a theologian from Uganda; and Alice Nkom, a lawyer from Cameroon.

The Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights of persons with albinism engaged with various partners, including a dermatology company, to launch the largest worldwide awareness-raising campaign on albinism. This included NYDG's ColourFull campaign, which used billboards in New York's Times Square on International Albinism Awareness Day to advocate for the rights of persons with albinism. Similar billboard campaigns were launched in other cities, including London and Hong Kong. In conjunction with the campaign, a consultation was held in New York bringing together Member States, UN entities, media representatives and communications specialists to reinforce advocacy efforts to combat discrimination against persons with albinism. The Independent Expert continued to advocate and promote "Champions for Albinism" to increase dialogue in civic space on persons with albinism. UN Human Rights has set up a dedicated web page (<https://albinism.ohchr.org/>) on its website that features champion advocates for albinism. The Independent Expert visited South Africa during national albinism month. While there, the President of South Africa delivered a national statement that acknowledged the need to address challenges faced by persons with albinism.



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 support from the Office. 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 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.

ND8

The UN system implements a coherent and human rights-based response to inequality and discrimination, including intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination.



The Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities continued to actively promote a process to strengthen UN system-wide accessibility, inclusion and mainstreaming of the rights of persons with disabilities. The findings of the 2018 baseline review of UN action to mainstream accessibility and disability inclusion informed the development of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS), adopted in 2019. The Special Rapporteur engaged directly with the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General and collaborated with the IASG using CRPD as a reference point, which led to the adoption and launch of the UNDIS, in June. UN Human Rights contributed to the substance of the UNDIS.

ADDITIONAL RESULTS FROM OTHER PILLARS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE PEACE AND SECURITY PILLAR:

A3

Justice systems investigate and prosecute gender-related crimes more effectively.



With the support of UN Human Rights, protection measures were put in place for victims of sexual violence participating in the Walikale case in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, which enabled more than 20 victims to safely testify in court. In addition, UN Human Rights coordinated the provision of individual protection measures for 11 victims of sexual and gender-based violence in the **Central African Republic**. These measures enabled victims to participate in a public hearing judicial proceedings, in Bangui, from 11 to 15 March.



UN Human Rights

@UNHumanRights · Dec 13, 2019

#India: We are concerned that the new [#CitizenshipAmendmentAct](#) is fundamentally discriminatory in nature. Goal of protecting persecuted groups is welcomed, but new law does not extend protection to Muslims, incl. minority sects: [ow.ly/PYQC50xzfD9](#)

[#FightRacism](#) [#CABProtests](#)



4.8K

10.9K

17.6K

Top social media post in 2019 highlighted the discriminatory nature of India's new Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

#FAITH4RIGHTS: INTERFAITH ENGAGEMENT TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS

Religious leaders are important human rights actors in light of their considerable influence on the hearts and minds of millions of people.

The Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence (A/HRC/22/17/Add.4) outlined some of the responsibilities of religious leaders to prevent incitement to hatred. In order to expand on those responsibilities and include the full spectrum of human rights, UN Human Rights brought together faith-based and civil society actors, in Beirut in 2017 (see A/HRC/40/58, annexes).

The Beirut Declaration considers that all believers – whether they identify as theistic, non-theistic, atheistic or other – should join hands and hearts to articulate the ways in which “faith” can more effectively stand up for “rights” so that they are mutually reinforcing. The individual and communal expression of religions or beliefs thrive and flourish in environments where human rights are protected. Similarly, deeply rooted ethical and spiritual foundations provided by religions or beliefs are also the foundation of human rights and can contribute to their protection and promotion. The Beirut Declaration is linked to 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights,” with corresponding follow-up action (<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/FreedomReligion/Pages/FaithForRights.aspx>).

In 2019, UN Human Rights enhanced the application of the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights”

for training and advocacy purposes with religious minority groups, civil society organizations as well as international human rights mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur on minority issues and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief.

OHCHR focused on the protection of religious minorities by organizing a regional workshop, in Tunis, in October, on enhancing civic space and addressing hate speech on social media platforms in the Middle East and North Africa. In November, the Office organized a side event during the Forum on Minority Issues on “Telling human rights stories of minorities: Short films and conversations with UN Human Rights minority fellows.” It screened and facilitated discussions on several short films from Iraq. The films had been selected at the 2019 Baghdad Foundation of Cinema and Arts Film Festival, conducted in partnership with the Human Rights Office of UNAMI.

Bringing rights into the digital age, UN Human Rights produced a #Faith4Rights toolkit, in December, as a prototype for faith actors, academic institutions and training experts that can be adapted and enriched to suit unique interfaith engagement contexts. The concept is interactive and participatory and the methodology of engagement is designed to be implemented through information technology and social media, with a particular focus on the needs of youth. The toolkit contains 18 modules, which offer concrete ideas for peer-to-peer learning exercises, such as how to share personal stories, search for faith quotes or provide inspiring examples of artistic expression.

Throughout 2019, the “Faith for Rights” framework was used by UN Human Rights, faith-based actors and civil society organizations to promote and advocate for the respect of freedom of religion and of minority rights. For example, the G20 Interfaith Forum in Osaka recommended reducing incitement to hatred by supporting religious leaders and faith-based actors to fulfil their human rights responsibilities outlined in the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments. In addition, the Action Plan of the Faith Action for Children on the Move Global Partners Forum called for the design and implementation of projects and initiatives aimed at promoting respect for and understanding of minority groups, including those with different beliefs, faiths and religions in order to reduce violence and xenophobic narratives and to nurture peaceful societies. Furthermore, the Religious Track of the Cyprus Peace Process organized a “Faith for Rights” seminar, in Nicosia, in October, which focused on the role that faith communities can play in combating human trafficking and supporting victims. In November, Arigatou International published a multi-religious study entitled “Faith and Children’s Rights,” which also draws upon the Beirut Declaration.

Accountability (A)

Strengthening the rule of law and accountability
for human rights violations



Accountability in numbers

35,997

victims of torture in

77

countries received rehabilitation support



8,594

victims of contemporary forms of slavery in

23

countries obtained assistance



2,961

visits to places of detention were
conducted



6,047

monitoring missions were undertaken
to investigate and document human
rights situations worldwide



1,675

trials were monitored
worldwide



The Working Group on Enforced or
Involuntary Disappearances transmitted

797 new cases of allegations to States

142 were under its urgent action
procedure

The Working Group clarified **389** cases

NHRIs, the Global Alliance of
National Human Rights
Institutions and its regional
networks submitted

7 written submissions

16 pre-recorded video
statements and

29 oral statements

to the Human Rights
Council and its mechanisms



In **19**

countries, NHRIs have been established or have
improved their compliance with international standards
(the Paris Principles)



ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PAST HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN EL SALVADOR



It has been nearly 40 years since Dorila Márquez survived the horrific attack that left hundreds dead, including her brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews.

“It was purely a miracle I survived,” she said. Márquez and a few others had hidden in her home when the soldiers came. Over the course of the day, Márquez heard the screams, gunshots and explosions. It wasn’t until she exited her home the next day that she saw the scale of the violence – burned homes and fields, dead livestock and so many burned bodies.

Over the course of three days, in December 1981, soldiers of the El Salvador Army murdered nearly 1,000 civilians in El Mozote and other northeastern towns. El Salvador’s civil war lasted from 1980 to 1992.

Survivors and families have spent years fighting for recognition, justice and reparations. Decades of denial of the massacre by former governments, a new administration and bureaucratic mazes have stalled the reparations process.

Since 2016, the OHCHR Regional Office for Central America, has been working in El Salvador to provide technical assistance and support in relation to transitional justice. The Office provides technical and legal support to the country’s Attorney General’s Office and civil society for the investigation and criminal prosecution of crimes against humanity and war crimes that were committed in the context of the armed conflict.

“It was only after the 2016 rejection by the Supreme Court of the 1993 amnesty law that victims and family members could envision getting justice and dream of



Miriam Abrego (left) with two other survivors of the San Francisco Angulo massacre at a meeting with the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of non-Recurrence during his visit to El Salvador in May 2019. © OHCHR

the truth hopefully being known,” indicated Marlene Alejos, former Regional Representative for Central America and Head of the UN Regional Office.

Overtuning the amnesty law made it possible to finally bring to trial those involved in the massacres. Julio César Larrama, from the Attorney General’s Office, said “this not only opened up the chance for prosecutions of those involved, but it also showed the need for better training on handling such cases.”

“We know that these events occurred many years ago, but if you talk to a victim of a serious violation of human rights it is as if those events occurred yesterday,” he said. “We do not want to cause double suffering and that is why we asked the UN Human Rights Office for support.”

Alejos said that one of the Office’s main contributions was the Attorney

General’s 2018 adoption of the “Policy on Investigations and Criminal Prosecutions of Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes,” elaborated with technical support from the Office after consultation with survivors, civil society and prosecutors. The policy contains an action plan and toolkit to assist the Attorney General’s Office in the investigation and prosecution of transitional justice cases.

Larrama, who is the coordinator for prosecutors working on cases stemming from the armed conflict, said the UN Human Rights Office facilitated important information exchanges with counterparts from other countries in similar situations, such as Colombia and Guatemala.

“They had a much longer war than ours and have obtained very good results in the cases they have aired.”

Highlights of pillar results

Accountability (A)

PILLAR RESULTS / SHIFTS / SDGs

A1

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



A2

Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.




RESULTS / SPOTLIGHTS

Spotlights:  Youth  Disabilities  Women

In **Mexico**, a National Law on the Use of Force (LNUF) was adopted in May. During his visit to Mexico in 2015, the then High Commissioner for Human Rights recommended that Mexico adopt legislation on the use of force and, since then, several special procedures have issued similar recommendations. During the congressional debates related to the preparation of the draft law, UN Human Rights presented a document outlining the international standards that needed to be incorporated. Many of these standards were included in the final version. In May, UN Human Rights issued a statement acknowledging the positive aspects of the Law, while also underscoring its shortcomings, particularly regarding the lack of regulation on the use of lethal force and accountability. Following the adoption of the Law, the Office began to monitor its implementation, document cases of human rights violations and advocate for the security forces to fully comply with the LNUF.

Under the individual complaint procedures of the human rights treaty bodies, individuals have the right to complain about alleged human rights violations. In 2019, the eight treaty bodies that can receive individual complaints had registered a total of 640 new individual communications and had adopted 376 final decisions on communications. The Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED) registered 248 new urgent actions and adopted 139 follow-up decisions with regard to registered urgent actions, bringing the total number of decisions it adopted in 2019 to 389. In addition, 3,360 individual communications were registered in 2019 and 65 decisions were adopted to close urgent actions.

Several NGOs in **Mexico** created, with UN Human Rights support, a website, sintortura.org, which was launched, in November, to monitor the implementation of the General Law on Torture. The website includes information on the status and number of investigations, the number of convictions for torture and forensic torture exams. It is also used for advocacy before the authorities across the country. In addition, the Office provided technical assistance and support to civil society organizations and victims' groups to promote the creation of an Extraordinary Forensic Mechanism, including by holding periodic meetings with government stakeholders and diplomatic missions to identify opportunities for collaboration. After several months of dialogue, an agreement was reached between the various actors involved in the process and the Extraordinary Forensic Mechanism was formally established on 5 December.


 The President of **Nigeria** signed into law the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, enshrining the provisions of CRPD into national legislation. This came about following advocacy by the UN, its partners and stakeholders. To prepare the grounds for this achievement, UN Human Rights organized a workshop on CRPD, in 2018, which brought together relevant stakeholders and government representatives.

The Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission of **the Gambia**, established in 2017, began to implement in 2019 its mandate and made use of the knowledge it had gained through the capacity-building activities that UN Human Rights facilitated. Between January and October, the Commission conducted a number of public hearings to enable the participation of 129 witnesses, 21 of whom were women and 31 of whom were alleged perpetrators. A National Strategy on Transitional Justice and Resource Mobilization plan has been adopted. Still pending is a proposal to enact a government-led coordination mechanism on transitional justice that would facilitate a more coordinated and shared effort to implement the transitional justice process.

A3

Justice systems investigate and prosecute gender-related crimes more effectively.



 UN Human Rights engaged in a series of activities in **Tunisia** to help advance the implementation of General Law No. 2017-58 against violence against women. In March, UN Human Rights collaborated with the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Council of Europe to co-organize a two-day national conference to assess the level of implementation of the Law, one year after coming into force. The conference brought together 150 representatives (approximately 80 per cent women and 20 per cent men) from the justice, security, health and social affairs sectors, including 30 judges and lawyers from Tunis and other regions of the country. The conference identified key issues and produced recommendations for line ministries regarding each "P" of the law, namely, protection, prevention, prosecution and integrated policies.

A4

States take measures to ensure that their decision-making, policies and actions are more transparent and the public has access to information for accountability purposes.



Following many recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR, **Liberia** adopted the Domestic Violence Bill in August. The legislation is a landmark for gender equality in Liberia and seeks to address physical, emotional, verbal and psychological abuse, dowry-related violence, offenses against the family and harassment, among other violations. Due to advocacy from traditional leaders, however, the criminalization of female genital mutilation (FGM) was excluded from the Bill. OHCHR provided technical support to the Independent National Commission on Human Rights during the drafting and consultation process. This support led to the establishment of the Working Group on FGM, which is advocating for the adoption of legislation on FGM that is currently being reviewed by the Parliament.

A5

UN efforts for the rule of law, justice, counter-terrorism and accountability put human rights at the core.



UN Human Rights continued to engage with UN entities working on counter-terrorism to ensure due consideration for human rights. These included conversations with the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (OCT) on implementing the UN counter-terrorism travel programme and highlighting key human rights concerns in specific countries; with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) in relation to supporting their country assessments with human rights analysis; and with UNODC on developing UN strategies regarding prosecution, rehabilitation and the reintegration of persons allegedly associated with terrorist groups. UN Human Rights also provided inputs to the CTED for the Secretary-General's tenth report to the Security Council on the threat posed by ISIL/Daesh, covering the period from July to December, and to the OCT for the Secretary-General's report mandated by resolution A/RES/73/305 on victims of terrorism. In September, UN Women finalized the Guidance Note on gender mainstreaming principles, dimensions and priorities for preventing and countering violent extremism, to which UN Human Rights contributed.

In consultation with the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, UN agencies and NGOs in **Myanmar**, the Office supported the establishment of a regular monthly early warning reporting system. The overarching objective was to facilitate communication and information sharing within the UN Country Team (UNCT), making sure that concerns regarding human rights developments are flagged, 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 has helped to ensure that human rights are maintained as a standing item for discussion on the UNCT agenda.

In May, the Office of the State Inspector was established in **Georgia**, following five years of advocacy efforts by UN Human Rights in co-operation with the national human rights institution and NGOs. The Office of the State Inspector has been designated as the independent institution responsible for the investigation of serious human rights abuses allegedly committed by law enforcement agencies. The investigatory function of the State Inspector's Office was formally launched in November, when the Office received sufficient funds from the State. In 2020, OHCHR will focus on building the capacity of the newly hired investigators and monitor the performance of the Office.



Assistant Secretary-General Andrew Gilmour meets with Nicaraguan human rights defenders in San Jose, Costa Rica, in October 2019. © OHCHR

OUR SILENCE IS THEIR PROTECTION

This is the motto of the Toufah Foundation, which was established in July 2019 by Fatou “Toufah” Jallow, a 23-year-old women’s rights and anti-rape activist from the Gambia.

In June, following the publication of a report by Human Rights Watch and TRIAL International, documenting sexual crimes committed by former president Yahya Jammeh, Toufah decided to speak out publicly, breaking the culture of silence around sexual violence in her country. Her story inspired many in the Gambia and a movement was started by young activists, #IamToufah, which is similar to the #MeToo campaign. Later in the year, Toufah organized an historic women’s march against rape in the Gambia that saw many women and men take to the streets to say no to sexual violence. On 31 October, she testified for more than five hours in front of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC), which was set up to deal with human rights violations of the former president, who ruled the Gambia for more than 22 years.

OHCHR is working closely with Toufah to amplify her message of saying no to sexual violence, to ensure that the voices of victims are heard and to fight against impunity. In this context, the Office supported Toufah’s participation in a panel discussion that was organized for Human Rights Day, in New York, with the UN Secretary-General. Alongside other young human rights defenders from around the world, Toufah reiterated

her message and called on young people to take steps to “sit and get heard at the table. And if the tables need to change, create [your] own tables.” In addition, UN Human Rights has supported the TRRC since its inception to strengthen the institutional framework so that victims of serious human rights violations, including victims of sexual violence, like Toufah, can tell their stories in an environment that is safe and respects their dignity.



Fatou “Toufah” Jallow (second from right) with OHCHR staff at the West Africa Regional Office. © OHCHR

Participation (P)

Enhancing participation and protecting civic space



Participation in numbers

7.6 million



followers across UN Human Rights social media platforms

#StandUp4HumanRights mentioned

#408,000

times in 2019,

30 times more than in 2018

36,936

unique visitors to the Universal Human Rights Index website

Over

85,000

publications and other print materials were dispatched worldwide, reaching individuals in **51** countries



4.89 million

visits to online publications

481



civil society side events were organized during Human Rights Council sessions

UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples allocated

144



grants for participation of indigenous peoples in key UN mechanisms

Over

2,420



participants in the 8th Forum on Business and Human Rights

719



new partnerships were established by UN Human Rights' field presences

66

grants were awarded by the UN Human Rights Grants Committee to the total amount of

\$4,272,554

for projects to be implemented in over **28** countries



New cases of reprisals against CSOs or individuals for cooperation with the UN in the field of human rights identified in

48

countries



EMPOWERING SURVIVORS OF TORTURE IN UKRAINE



The use of torture and ill-treatment constitute systemic human rights problems in Ukraine that have been exacerbated by the ongoing armed conflict that broke out in 2014.

As at the end of 2019, more than 13,000 lives had been lost due to the conflict, including at least 3,350 civilians. In addition, hundreds of women and men have been detained, tortured, ill-treated or endured sexual violence in the eastern territory controlled by the self-proclaimed “republics” and in the territory controlled by the Government.

“SOMEBODY HAD TO MAKE SURE THERE WAS DIGNITY”

In the spring of 2014, the life of Hanna Mokrousova changed forever. As an active supporter of Ukraine’s unity, she was detained by armed groups in her home town of Luhansk. When she was released, she fled to Kyiv. She saw how many people were in a similar situation, searching for help that did not exist. “Nobody knew what was next. Somebody had to make sure there was dignity. I had to do something,” recalls Hanna.

‘BLUE BIRD’ SPREADS ITS WINGS

In mid-2015, Hanna pulled together a team of like-minded people and founded an NGO called “Blue Bird” that provides victims of torture and their families with humanitarian, medical, psychological and legal assistance. The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) provided essential advice, expertise and financial support. Significant funding also

came from the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, which has supported the organization since 2018.

“I felt their support at every step,” smiles Hanna speaking from a converted Kyiv apartment that serves as the Blue Bird office. From the onset of the armed conflict, the HRMMU interviewed victims of arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment from both sides of the contact line. “We saw an urgent need for services for victims of torture and their families. Since Blue Bird’s inception, we have been referring victims and families there,” says Uladzimir Shcherbau from the HRMMU. Over the last five years, at least 3,000 people have received support from Blue Bird.

HELPING FAMILIES HELP THEIR LOVED ONES

Relatives or loved ones of a victim are often the first ones to look for multiple forms of assistance. Since it can take weeks, months or years for a family to reunite, Blue Bird also supports families for the entire time that their loved one is missing or deprived of their liberty.

“We help them to deal with hopelessness...not to give up and continue to fight for the release of a loved one,” says Hanna.

See the full version of this story on the UN Human Rights Exposure platform:
<https://unhumanrights.exposure.co/empowering-survivors-of-torture-in-ukraine>



Hanna Mokrousova, a psychologist specialised in crisis counselling, founded Blue Bird in 2015. © OHCHR

Highlights of pillar results

Participation (P)

PILLAR RESULTS / SHIFTS / SDGs

P1

Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, including online, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling.



P2

The UN system and international, regional and national mechanisms provide increased, timely and effective protection to civil society organizations and individuals (including from reprisals).



RESULTS / SPOTLIGHTS

Spotlights:  Youth  Disabilities  Women

UN Human Rights continued its long-standing engagement with the **Afghan** Independent Human Rights Commission (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, Shaharзад Akbar. UN Human Rights 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 Accreditations, 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. AIHRC 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 Office supported the Government of Ethiopia to revise its draft legislation on NGOs, adopted in March. This major achievement led to a significant widening of the space within which civil society can engage in human rights work. For instance, in May, UN Human Rights convened an unprecedented countrywide gathering of CSOs to discuss, among other issues, efforts to build a strong and effective constituency of human rights CSOs and to identify how UN Human Rights can enhance the capacity of CSOs to engage and work on human rights in the country following years of repression of civil space in the country.

The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders participated in the implementation of the global communication campaign on the twentieth anniversary of the UN Declaration on human rights defenders, which was launched in December 2018. The website established for the occasion (<https://togetherwedefend.org/>) included stories of HRDs that had been champions in protecting civic space in various regions of the world and focused on a variety of human rights issues. The digital campaign featured a flagship video that told the story of grassroots and high profile defenders around the world, two made-for-social videos, campaign branding, an interactive website to showcase the stories of 10 HRDs, including a tool to send a message of solidarity to a defender, and a digital toolkit to enable partners to share the campaign materials on social media. The Special Rapporteur met with HRDs from around the world and devoted his report to the General Assembly to the persistent impunity for human rights violations committed against HRDs. The findings of the report are the result of extensive consultations with HRDs that have taken place since the beginning of his mandate, five regional consultations held in 2018 and 2019, the review of communications sent by the Special Rapporteur and 71 submissions collected through a survey.

In **Colombia**, relevant actors successfully addressed an increasing proportion of cases regarding human rights violations that were identified by the Office. In 2019, there was a reported increase in the violations of the rights of HRDs that often led to their deaths. At the same time, the institution responsible for protecting these groups has not demonstrated an increase in the delivery of effective protection measures. Against this background, UN Human Rights' contributions to the Committee for Risk Assessment and Recommendation of Measures (CERREM) during the reporting period aimed to strengthen the Pathway for Collective Prevention, which would enable government institutions to adopt informed measures in response to threats being faced by HRDs. To date, UN Human Rights has conducted 23 workshops for 952 leaders and HRDs across the country to explain and disseminate the legislation and characteristics of the protection route (requirements, procedures and responsibilities) to local authorities and communities. In addition, UN Human Rights continued to provide assistance related to requests for individual protection. The CERREM submitted information provided by the field presences to relevant institutions. In 2019, UN Human Rights participated in 58 sessions of the CERREM and presented a total of 7,214 cases for risk assessment to determine the level of risk (extreme, extraordinary, ordinary).

P3

Business, policy-makers and the public at large increasingly value and support civic space.



Multi-stakeholder dialogues on HRDs and civic space took place during specific sessions of the Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights, in Geneva, in November, and at regional consultations. Providing guidance for business on engaging, respecting and supporting human rights defenders in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (in coordination with the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders) is in progress.

P4

Civil society assistance to victims of human rights violations is strengthened. .



In October, OHCHR and the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR), in Morocco, co-organized a workshop entitled "Towards legal protection for the safety and protection of women's human rights defenders." For several years, OHCHR worked closely with a group of 40 WHRDs from the Arab region to build their capacity to engage with the international human rights mechanisms. This work resulted in the establishment of the Regional Network for Women Human Rights Defenders in 2019. This year's workshop included a group of female and male lawyers who were encouraged to collaborate with the WHRDs and use the international human rights complaint systems. The WHRDs were also introduced to two human rights activists who use art as a means to communicate messages about women's rights.

The UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture are providing financial (and substantive) support to CSOs that provide assistance to victims of human rights violations. In 2019, for example, the directors of two organizations supported by the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, Trial International and Legal Action Worldwide, highlighted that the Voluntary Fund is a crucial partner in assisting them to obtain judicial decisions guaranteeing redress for victims of international crimes, which is essential for victims in the long term. In 2019, Legal Action Worldwide has received support from the Fund for projects throughout South Asia, the Middle East and the Horn of Africa, including in **South Sudan** and for Rohingya victims from **Myanmar**. In 2019, Trial International has received support from the Fund for projects assisting victims from a number of countries, including the **DRC**, the **Gambia**, **Nepal** and the **Syrian Arab Republic**.

P5

More systematic monitoring of the environment for civic space, including threats to it, takes place.



With support from the special procedures, UN Human Rights conducted a human rights analysis of the draft amendments to legislation “On audio-visual media in the **Republic of Albania**.” Recommendations from UN Human Rights and other UN agencies were presented by the Resident Coordinator to the Albanian Parliament on 25 November. This advocacy effort helped to prevent the adoption of amendments with the potential to limit freedom of expression and human rights activism.

Many human rights violations committed in the **DRC** in the context of restrictions on democratic space were documented before, during and after the December 2018 elections. Following commitments made by President Tshisekedi to improve the human rights situation, there was a widening of democratic space. The most visible sign of this positive development was the release of political prisoners, the return of political exiles and the holding of several peaceful demonstrations. In this context, UN Human Rights observed a 26 per cent decrease in the number of human rights violations related to democratic space compared to 2018 (from 1,054 in 2018 to 778 in 2019).

P6

The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard.



In the **Republic of Moldova**, UN Human Rights created a network for a group of 15 mothers of children from across the country with various types of disabilities, empowering them to advocate both for the rights of their children and for their own rights as caregivers. The mothers supported by UN Human Rights benefited from psychological counselling sessions with a professional psychologist to help them process any difficulties of having a child with disabilities and to feel empowered for conducting advocacy actions. Several capacity-building events that were conducted by UN Human Rights further enhanced their capacity to advocate for the rights of children with disabilities. The group of mothers became a platform for promoting human rights by engaging in dialogue with State authorities, making television appearances and drafting advocacy documents to raise key issues faced by children with disabilities and their family members. In particular, the members of the platform highlighted some of their challenges in exercising the right to health at an event that included participants from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection and 11 mass media outlets.

In **Serbia**, over 30 OPDs and CSOs contributed to public discussions on the drafting of the new National Strategy on Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities 2020-2024. The drafting of the new Anti-Discrimination Strategy relied on inputs from CSOs through discussions and questionnaires; consultations that were held between CSOs and the Government on the draft Anti-Discrimination Law in 2019; consultations that were held between the Government, CSOs and women's organizations on the parameters of the new Strategy on Eradicating Domestic Violence; and the coordination and framing of the critical inputs of OPDs to the Family Law amendments regarding the legal capacity regime. UN Human Rights contributed to achieving this result by helping to create space for CSOs in policymaking processes.

In **Guinea-Bissau**, UN Human Rights significantly contributed to the meaningful participation of rights-holders, especially women and discriminated groups, in selected public processes. Following the mentoring efforts of UN Human Rights, which targeted a core group of 41 HRDs, including 19 women, on human rights monitoring and elections and early warning, the Human Rights Defenders Network monitored the presidential elections in all regions of the country, in November and December, to identify and address threats of human rights violations. In addition, six networks of CSOs were mobilized with the assistance of the European Union, UN Women, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNIOGBIS. The networks received support from the Peacebuilding Fund for the joint development and monitoring of an electoral Code of Conduct for the presidential elections, to establish a situation room to identify and monitor possible risks and to provide early warning on threats to the electoral process. The situation room was set up during the first and second rounds of the presidential elections, in November and December. The

civil society initiatives were lauded by stakeholders for their significant contribution to a peaceful environment for the presidential elections and the reduction in post-electoral social conflicts. Those capacities were also developed in relation to the legislative elections held in early 2019.

P7

Public recognition that human rights and accountability make important contributions to effective responses to violence, including terrorism and violent extremism, increases.



Under the MoU between UN Human Rights and the **Tunisian** Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA) and through engagement with the Independent High Authority of Elections (ISIE), UN Human Rights sensitized approximately 800 imams who are responsible for Friday prayers regarding their obligation to maintain a principle of neutrality during electoral campaigns. In August, UN Human Rights organized a series of regional meetings aimed at enhancing the role of religious actors to facilitate free, honest, transparent and peaceful elections in 2019. UN Human Rights organized four interactive sessions on free speech in the context of countering hate speech and the partiality of imams in the electoral context. The MoRA and the ISIE have since reported that, thanks to the sensitization discussions that were conducted with UN Human Rights' support, they observed no major violations of the principle of neutrality of mosques or incitement to hatred by imams during the electoral period. Through two additional workshops and bilateral meetings that were undertaken within the same framework, UN Human Rights and the MoRA consulted with the trade union of imams and the Tiili Foundation, a local CSO with expertise in the education of imams, in order to develop a three-year strategic plan to implement the MoU.

JOB SHADOWING AT THE REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA



© Mostafa Hakawati

Mostafa Hakawati, 17

"Human rights in Lebanon are viewed as a dead end. I remember the look in my parents' eyes when I told them I wanted to pursue a career in human rights and law. They were proud to have a son who wanted to make things right, but they were worried about the practicalities.

For my school's job shadowing day, I had the opportunity to visit the UN. I didn't think I'd be lucky enough to be placed in my field of interest, but I was chosen to shadow at the UN Human Rights Regional Office for MENA. When I arrived, I had low expectations that I would take part in anything significant, but the UNV working on Bahrain gave me an immediate crash course on international human rights mechanisms. I was mesmerized! As I interacted with the team, I realized that this was the world where I belonged. I was struck by the productivity that was generated in the span of a day! From 8-9 March, I witnessed the closure of a three-year project and several officers working on individual cases.

What resonated with me the most, however, took place at a panel discussion on Lebanon's Law No. 105 for the missing and forcibly disappeared. While

there, I looked up and saw a picture of Mehieddine Hashisho, my father's uncle, who was kidnapped during the Lebanese Civil War. Although the Office didn't know about this when I was selected, I was deeply touched to see his picture on display. I knew that he hadn't been forgotten and that his rights and those of his family hadn't been abandoned. I listened in on the discussions and talked to people who were engaged in the rights of the forcibly disappeared, including human rights officers from the UN Human Rights headquarters, international experts, heads of international and local organizations, ministers and deputies.

These experiences helped me to decide that I want to strive for a better future through human rights. I look forward to joining the community that is working to make this dream a reality."