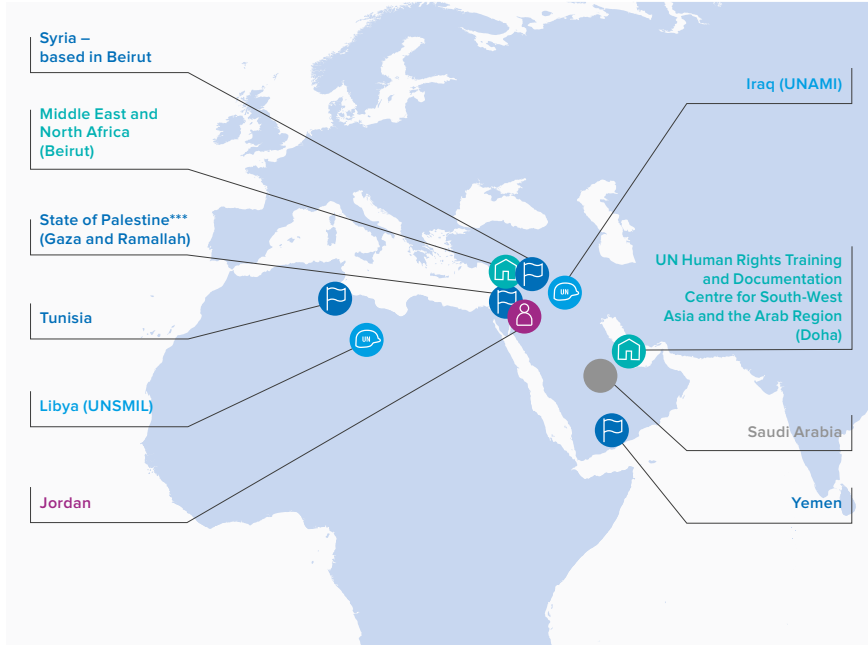







# UN HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA



## TYPE OF PRESENCE

## LOCATION

 Country/Stand-alone Offices/ Human Rights Missions	State of Palestine***, Syrian Arab Republic (based in Beirut, Lebanon), Tunisia, Yemen
 Regional Offices/Centres	Middle East and North Africa (Beirut, Lebanon), UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha, Qatar)
 Human rights components of UN Peace/Political Missions	Iraq (UNAMI), Libya (UNSMIL)
 Human Rights Advisers deployed under the framework of the UNSDG	Jordan
 Other types of field presences	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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

## LEGEND:

### Spotlights:



### Shifts:



### SDGs:



The work of OHCHR in the Middle East and North Africa region covered 19 countries. The Office supported two regional offices/centres, the Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (ROMENA) and the UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region; four country offices (State of Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen); one Human Rights Adviser (HRA) in the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Jordan; two human rights components in UN Peace Missions in Iraq and Libya; and a project presence to build national capacity in human rights-related fields in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Office provided support to two special procedures country mandates, namely, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967 and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. It also served as the Secretariat to the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, mandated by the General Assembly.

During 2019, human rights abuses and violations and breaches of international humanitarian law continued to be reported in a number of States in the region within the context of violence and armed conflicts, including mounting civilian casualties, damage to civilian infrastructure and large-scale displacements. Concerns regarding the administration of justice remained a key issue in some States in the region in light of multiple reports of arbitrary arrests, torture and ill-treatment, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and trials, which do not meet the standards for a fair trial. The death penalty was applied in a

number of States, including for juvenile offenders. Restrictions on the freedoms of opinion, expression, religion or belief, assembly and association continued to have a negative impact on civic and digital space and generated serious concern, particularly in relation to protests that took place in 2019 in a number of States.

Discrimination in law and in practice continued to be reported against women and groups in vulnerable situations, including people on the move, ethnic and religious minorities and the LGBTI community. Concerns also persisted in relation to incidents of incitement to hatred and violence. Restrictions on economic, social, and cultural rights were also documented in the context of access to social services, education and employment leading to the marginalization of women, youth and minority communities across the region.

During the course of the year, OHCHR field presences supported regional governments, civil society organizations, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and other actors to prevent violations and strengthen the protection of human rights. To this end, the Office continued to monitor, publicly report and ensure strategic advocacy on the human rights situation, in parallel with increased engagement, technical cooperation and capacity-building with States. In this regard, the Office called for the promotion of human rights and the protection of civilians in situations of armed conflict, including through the preparation of reports and briefings to the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council.

In the context of encouraging increased engagement with and providing capacity-building support to key partners, the Office organized four study visits that

were attended by more than 50 government representatives from over 15 States from the Middle East and North Africa, as well as civil society and NHRIs. The study visits sought to increase their understanding of and engagement with the human rights mechanisms and the work of OHCHR. The Office also provided grants to 10 NGOs working on projects that reach a total of 13,000 rights-holders in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, oPt, Tunisia and Yemen. These projects contributed to achieving the priorities set out in the OHCHR Management Plan (OMP), such as raising awareness about gender equality in classrooms, promoting the participation of persons with disabilities in local, regional and national political life and advocating for the rights of minorities, preventing violent extremism and promoting peacebuilding based on respect for human rights, raising awareness about the linkages between the realization of human rights and the protection of the environment, improving the reintegration of former women detainees and building the capacity of journalists to report on international human rights mechanisms. In cooperation with the Police Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPO), OHCHR undertook an initial human rights training for the peacekeeping training center of the Public Security Directorate in Jordan.

Dialogue and engagement with new and existing partners continued in 2019. Examples include supporting a training for 60 lawyers in Morocco, organizing a multi-stakeholder dialogue on business and human rights in the MENA region, supporting workshops for women human rights defenders (WHRDs) in Morocco, organizing an expert workshop for faith actors on human rights education, as well as a regional workshop on civic space and hate speech in social media, in Tunis,

and coordinating a project on the protection of religious minorities in the region (see textbox on the “Faith for Rights” framework on p. 47).

Further engagement with regional organizations was undertaken. MENA partnered with the League of Arab States (LAS), including by supporting a workshop that was organized by the Doha Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region for 45 officials of the LAS, in Cairo, on engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

With the aim of facilitating region-wide dialogue and engagement, MENA co-organized an international conference on national, regional and international mechanisms to combat impunity and ensure accountability under international law, in Doha, in April, with the Qatari National Human Rights Committee, the European Parliament and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). The conference brought together more than 200 governmental and non-governmental organizations and international experts to discuss mechanisms that could be used to combat impunity for gross violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law and ensure accountability. Recommendations focused on the need to have a victim-centred approach in all processes related to ensuring accountability, including access to information and adequate dissemination of this information at the national and international levels.

In April, a one-day retreat was organized with the High Commissioner and Arab Group Ambassadors, in Geneva, in order to discuss human rights issues, challenges and opportunities

for engagement. During her visit to Tunisia, in June, the High Commissioner delivered keynote speeches at the RightsCon Summit on the need to keep digital spaces open, inclusive, safe and just and at an event to commemorate the 1857 Fundamental Covenant “Ahd El Aman” and the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Prior to the High Commissioner’s visit, the Office and Access Now co-facilitated an interactive session with the UNCT to raise awareness about the issue of human rights in the digital space and the relevance of taking part in RightsCon. The Office briefed the UNCT on the UN’s global contribution to RightsCon and facilitated its access to the Conference. Following the Conference, Access Now held regular briefings for OHCHR, the Resident Coordinator (RC) and representatives of the international community in Tunisia on internet governance and human rights in the country. Moreover, the Office supported a visit of the Deputy High Commissioner to Iran to promote enhanced engagement with relevant institutions, including the judiciary and relevant government ministries in order to bring an end to executions of child offenders. These efforts were strengthened through advocacy initiatives and public reporting, including two Secretary-General reports on the situation of human rights in Iran.

## IRAQ: UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR IRAQ (UNAMI)

<b>Population size<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Surface area<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Human Development Index<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>NHRI (if applicable)<sup>3</sup></b>
39.31 million	435,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.689 (rank: 120/188 in 2018)	Status B, 2015
<b>Type of engagement</b>	Peace Mission		
<b>Year established</b>	2004		
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Baghdad, Basra, Erbil, Kirkuk, Mosul		
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	n/a		
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2019</b>	44		

**XB requirements 2019** **US\$494,000**

**Key OMP pillars in 2019**



<sup>1,2,3</sup> Please refer to data sources and notes on p.208.

### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Participation (P)

P1 – Iraq citizens have full and equal access to basic services, including clean water, electricity, healthcare, housing, and education. The rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly are fully respected and protected in law and policy. The role of journalists and media professionals is respected and protected by law and policy, and they are protected from threats, intimidation or violence when they carry out their professional duties. Parliamentary and democratic procedures are consultative and participatory, notably with respect to women, youth, ethnic and religious minorities, persons with disabilities, and LGBTI persons.

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The Office contributed to increasing the protection space related to freedom of

expression and freedom of peaceful assembly, minority rights and the right to life by documenting and publicly reporting on human rights violations.

As part of its efforts to preserve civic space and protect civil society, including human rights defenders (HRDs), journalists and media outlets, the Human Rights Office (HRO) of UNAMI engaged in extensive monitoring, documenting and reporting of serious human rights violations, particularly regarding the abovementioned rights and freedoms.

Widespread demonstrations started in central and southern Iraq on 1 October. From 1 October to 31 December, the HRO documented at least 436 deaths and 8,761 injuries, including among members of the Iraqi security forces. The injuries include those who were injured by live ammunition, rubber bullets, tear gas

canisters, shrapnel or any projectiles in attacks that were recorded by the HRO. This does not, however, include the thousands of demonstrators who received 'on the spot' medical treatment for tear gas inhalation and those with minor injuries. The numbers, primarily of persons treated for excessive tear gas inhalation, are estimated to have reached 19,000 by the end of 2019. The deaths and injuries were caused by the excessive use of force by security forces, which included live ammunition to disperse demonstrators, the inappropriate use of less lethal means, such as tear gas, and deliberate shootings by armed elements. There were also circumstances of less lethal means that were used appropriately, including as crowd control and self-defence by security forces who were attacked by demonstrators with Molotov cocktails and rocks. During the first wave of demonstrations, unidentified gunmen (who were believed to be politically-affiliated armed groups) targeted peaceful demonstrators in multiple locations, with no effective intervention by State security forces.

The HRO issued three special public reports confirming human rights violations and abuses, including of the rights to life, freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. In addition, the HRO's engagement with the special procedures led to the issuance of two urgent appeals that in turn resulted in the release of two civil society activists. The activists had been allegedly abducted by the Government of Iraq and militias in the context of demonstrations. In 2019, the HRO provided information to the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED), resulting in 10 urgent actions that were issued by the Committee. The HRO's monitoring, public reporting and advocacy activities were supplemented by respective statements issued by OHCHR and UN human

rights experts, in October, which may have resulted in a reduction in the use of live ammunition by Iraqi security forces, in Baghdad, from late October onwards. Moreover, Internet access was restored and criminal charges that were brought against demonstrators, which carried a mandatory death sentence under the Federal Anti-Terrorism Law, were instead brought under the Criminal Code.

Over the course of the year, the HRO continued to promote and protect the human rights of minorities. In support of the Government's efforts to implement the recommendations that were issued by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), in January, the HRO organized 12 round-tables, between March and August, to address various issues facing minority communities. The round-tables brought together government officials, the Independent High Commission for Human Rights, NGOs and representatives of minority communities across the country.

As a result of the HRO's advocacy and engagement initiatives and a commitment to implementing the concluding observations issued by CERD in November 2018, the Government issued a directive to issue identification cards for members of the Roma community in Iraq. The issuance of these unified identification cards, which began in March, marks the end of decades of discrimination against the Roma community in Iraq and grants them equal access to the rights to education, health and other basic services. Additionally, in August, the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers established a seven-member committee that is mandated to establish plans and policies to remove the negative effects on the Faili Kurds (who were stripped of their citizenship in the early 1980s by the Ba'athist regime) and guarantee that their rights are reinstated, including

through compensation for the properties they lost, the review of all cases and complaints related to their claims and finding suitable solutions. The recommendations proposed by the committee include: (1) the review of laws and policies that negatively affect Faili Kurds; (2) the appointment of the Faili Kurds in ministries and other governmental entities; and (3) rebuilding and developing the conflict-affected areas of the Faili Kurds. The Ministry of the Interior will facilitate the re-instatement of their citizenship.

### Accountability (A)

**A3 – Women and children who are the victims of SGBV/CSRV or honour crimes (including women from Iraq's ethnic and religious minority communities) have access to justice and appropriate support services.**



To promote accountability and judicial and legal reform, the HRO significantly increased its engagement with the High Judicial Council on fair trial standards. The HRO monitored 794 investigative and trial hearings in criminal courts, including juvenile courts, across Iraq, focusing primarily on trials of those charged under Iraq's counter-terrorism laws. Continued concerns about violations of fair trial standards include over-reliance on confessions often obtained under duress, the fairness of hearings, ineffective legal representation, a lack of adequate time and facilities to prepare cases and excessive numbers of death or lifelong imprisonment sentences in terrorism cases.

In 2019, the HRO closely collaborated with the Ministry of Justice, including by establishing a systematic detention monitoring programme that included 49

visits to places of detention across Iraq since mid-2019. The programme aims to support the Government's efforts to strengthen the protection of the rights of persons in detention and identify avenues to effectively prevent torture and ill-treatment.

The HRO provided technical expertise to ensure the increased compliance of the draft Yazidi Survivors Law, which calls for conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) crimes committed against Yazidi women and girls to be considered as genocide and for the perpetrators to be held accountable. The draft also outlines the payment of reparations and calls for 3 August to be recognized as a national day of remembrance.

Furthermore, the draft addresses the issue of children born of sexual violence. While this is a welcome development and a clear indication of the Government's commitment to seeking accountability for the atrocities committed against the Yazidi community, the draft fails to mention survivors of CRSV from other communities and does not extend to boys or men. Finally, the draft's definition of sexual violence does not cover the full range of CRSV crimes, such as forced marriage and sexual slavery.

On 7 April, the Iraqi Presidency submitted the draft to the Council of Representatives of the Iraqi Parliament for review and adoption. The draft had the first reading on 2 July and it is currently pending in Parliament.

The HRO strengthened the documentation of CRSV cases, particularly in North-Central Iraq, in order to improve victims' access to justice and support services. The HRO documented past CRSV cases from January to November, particularly in the North-Central region. The reported incidents included 13 incidents that took place in 2015, three in

2016 and five in 2019. Most of the survivors are internally displaced persons (IDPs) residing in camps located in the Kirkuk Governorate.

To promote the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and CRSV, the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) and the Monitoring Analysis Reporting Arrangements (MARA) Working Group signed an addendum on information-sharing, in October, which retroactively came into effect on 1 January. The purpose of the addendum is to provide guidelines on the sharing of information between the GBVIMS and the MARA Working Group regarding incidents of CRSV. The addendum complies with the 2015 Provisional Guidance Note on intersections between the GBVIMS and MARA.



### Non-discrimination (ND)

ND3 – The Law on domestic violence and other relevant laws and policies protect and provide care for women and children who are victims of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. The Government holds to account those responsible for SGBV and CRSV.



The HRO contributed to the increased compliance with international standards on the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) of the draft Anti-Domestic Violence Law and other legislation by providing technical expertise and facilitating dialogue between relevant stakeholders.

The draft law, however, remains pending and has two competing versions. One version was submitted to the Council of Representatives by the President's

Office, in September, while the other from the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers is awaiting submission to the same body. During the review of the second version by the Shura Council, at the end of 2019, the HRO supported consultations with civil society, women's organizations, government and relevant UN partners to ensure that the views of all relevant stakeholders were included. The HRO also provided technical expertise to the High Judicial Council during the review of the draft. With support from other UN partners, the HRO and OHCHR-MENA co-facilitated a technical workshop in Beirut, in September, with members of the Council of State to ensure that the draft conforms to the Iraqi Constitution and international human rights standards and norms to protect victims of domestic violence and those at risk. This enabled the inclusion of provisions that relate to safe shelters, protection orders, restrictions on the entry of perpetrators into the family home and the prosecution of perpetrators.

In September 2016, the Government and the UN signed a Joint Communiqué on the Prevention and Response to CRSV (the Joint Communiqué), which is a framework through which the UN can help strengthen the Government's capacity to address CRSV. As part of the implementation of the Joint Communiqué, the HRO facilitated a two-day workshop for representatives from NGOs in Kirkuk City, on 29 April, which focused on their role in furthering the implementation of the Joint Communiqué. A total of 15 participants (11 women, four men) attended the event. Over two days, the participants engaged in interactive discussions about the challenges facing survivors of sexual violence in conflict, including the difficulties they encounter in reintegrating into society.

In 2019, the Gender-Based Violence Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Prevention and Response, which were endorsed in 2018 by the Government, with the UN's support, continued to be rolled out across Iraq, including in the Kurdistan region. The aim of the GBV SOPs is to strengthen the Government's capacity to address GBV issues in a manner that complies with international good practices. At the federal level, the initial roll-out took place under the leadership of the Women Empowerment Department, together with related ministries and the GBV Sub-Cluster. The document serves as a reference for guiding principles, referral mechanisms and the roles and responsibilities for each sector in preventing and responding to GBV. The HRO engaged with UN partners, including the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), to organize a series of training workshops on GBV prevention and response for uniformed and armed actors across Iraq.

ND7 – Public support for equal, inclusive and diverse societies, without discrimination, increases.



OHCHR contributed to strengthening the narrative on the rights of ethnic and religious minority communities through awareness-raising and research initiatives.

In 2019, the HRO continued implementing a two-part project aimed at promoting protection for the human rights of religious minorities, with a particular focus on prevention through non-discrimination.

Between March and August, the HRO organized a 3By3 Film Festival on Minorities and Human Rights to support

efforts for ending discrimination. A total of 36 short film festival events were held in 17 of the 19 governorates and were attended by 4,158 Iraqis (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHRVJNYTINQ>). Social media and television coverage ensured that the event reached thousands more. The film festival events played a critical role in facilitating discussions, promoting the rights of minorities and supporting measures to end discrimination against minorities. Furthermore, the 3By3 events empowered Iraqi writers, filmmakers, directors and actors to showcase their talents by drawing attention to challenges faced by religious minorities and raising awareness about human rights issues.

The HRO conducted research that highlighted the situation of the Sunni Arab community, which was subject to the ISIL occupation. The research focused on access to education by adolescents and documented the experiences of persons who had lived in territories formerly controlled under ISIL, and are perceived to be affiliated with ISIL. Following the research, the HRO published one report, *The right to education in Iraq, Part One: The legacy of ISIL territorial control on access to education*, which was released in February 2020. The report serves as an advocacy tool to find practical solutions for the identified challenges by first, ensuring that all children have access to civil documentation necessary for formal school enrolment and second, by providing quality education.

Also, in September, the HRO produced a comprehensive review of the Bill on Protection of Persons from Enforced Disappearance that was first tabled at the Council of Representatives (Iraqi Parliament) in June. It was shared with a wide range of legislative bodies and officials, including the Speaker, the Parliamentary Human Rights

Committee, the Ministry of Justice and the Secretariat to the Council of Ministers to promote its compliance with the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances (ICPPED).



### Peace and Security (PS)

**PS1 – Civilians are protected to the greatest extent possible from the effects of armed conflict. They can leave areas affected by conflict in safety and dignity, they can return to their homes in full compliance with humanitarian principles (voluntarily, and in dignity and security when it is safe to do so), and they can access basic humanitarian assistance at all times.**

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The policies of the Government and the Iraqi security forces that combat terrorism, armed violence and conflict fully respect and protect human rights at all times and in all circumstances and comply with international humanitarian law standards.

The Office contributed to monitoring and reporting on violations of human rights by producing and disseminating relevant information on these violations and abuses in order to inform the responses of key stakeholders.

The HRO continued to monitor the impact of security-related incidents causing harm to civilians and other protection concerns caused by the actions of armed groups or pro-Government militias in Iraq. In 2019, the HRO documented 754 security-related incidents that resulted in 907 civilian casualties (341 deaths, including 39 children and 14 women, and 566 injuries, including 65 children and 21 women), representing a 39 per cent decrease compared to the same period in 2018.

The HRO also engaged with the Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights and government institutions to promote accountability for enforced disappearances, one of the most pressing human rights issues in Iraq, and to secure reparations for the families of victims. In addition, the HRO initiated a pilot monitoring project in the Anbar governorate, which focused on documenting the extent of enforced disappearances. Based on its monitoring, the HRO prepared an internal report about enforced disappearances by pro-Government forces in the Anbar governorate, which was completed in September. The report aims to promote accountability for alleged enforced disappearances in Iraq, the provision of reparations to victims and the adoption of a comprehensive and institutional approach to address past disappearances and prevent their recurrence in the future. The HRO has now extended its monitoring to the Mosul, Sallah Al Din, Kirkuk and Diyala governorates where high numbers of enforced disappearances took place during the campaign to recapture territory from ISIL.

As part of its efforts to enhance engagement between the international human rights mechanisms and the Government, the HRO interacted with CED and the Secretariat of the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances, in October, to promote accountability for enforced disappearances and support measures to determine the fate of those disappeared. This engagement helped to enhance communications with the human rights treaty bodies and special procedures mandate holders, resulting in the timely submission of petitions related to enforced disappearances and the transmission of at least 10 urgent appeals from the Committee to the Government, including in the context

of demonstrations in Iraq that began in early October. Subsequently, six of the disappeared persons who were the subject of urgent actions were located. One of the individuals was found in detention and the other five were released. While the Government has yet to investigate the circumstances of the abductions and disappearances, available information suggests that the alleged perpetrators in the majority of cases were armed men described as militia.

### Mechanisms (M)

**M1 – Iraq develops a plan to implement the recommendations of treaty bodies and UPR recommendations that it accepts. By the next reporting deadline, Iraq is implementing all Treaty Body and accepted UPR recommendations.**

**16 17**

The HRO continued building the capacity of the Iraqi Parliamentary Human Rights Committee, other relevant government entities and CSOs to ensure their increased engagement and compliance with international human rights norms and standards.

In 2019, HRO organized 13 capacity-building sessions with at least 230 participants representing CSOs, networks and HRDs in the Baghdad, Basra, Erbil, Kirkuk, Mosul, Najaf, Ninewa, Sulaymaniya governorates. The sessions increased the engagement of the participants with the international human rights mechanisms with a focus on drafting stakeholder reports for the human rights treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

In September, the HRO collaborated with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Foundation to organize a UPR pre-session dialogue, in Baghdad.

The event, which was attended by 26 CSOs, provided an opportunity for dialogue with representatives of 12 UN Member States on critical human rights issues in Iraq. It also facilitated the formulation of specific and targeted recommendations in advance of Iraq's third UPR cycle.

Finally, in September, the HRO organized a technical workshop with Kurdistan regional members of the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee and other parliamentary committees, in Erbil. The workshop strengthened the capacity of the Committee to engage with the human rights treaty bodies and special procedures with the objective of improving the implementation of the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in relation to Iraq.



## LIBYA: UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT MISSION IN LIBYA (UNSMIL)

**Population size<sup>1</sup>** 6.78 million    **Surface area<sup>1</sup>** 1,676,000 km<sup>2</sup>    **Human Development Index<sup>2</sup>** 0.708 (rank: 111/188 in 2018)    **NHRI (if applicable)<sup>3</sup>** Status B, 2014

<b>Type of engagement</b>	United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL)
<b>Year established</b>	2011
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Tripoli and Tunis, Tunisia
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	UN Strategic Framework 2019-2020
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2019</b>	13

**XB requirements 2019**

**US\$ 390,000**

**Key OMP pillars in 2019**



<sup>1,2,3</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.208.

### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### **Peace and Security (PS)**

PS6 – The Human Rights Due Diligence Policy is used to conduct risk assessments of all the main national security forces (as well as non-State actors and de facto authorities where applicable). The UN provides support and appropriate mitigation measures are adopted and acted on.

#### **16**

The UNSMIL Human Rights, Rule of Law and Transitional Justice Service (HRS) continued to monitor the impact of the armed conflict on civilians, with at least 287 civilians killed and at least 369 others who were injured in the last year alone. Airstrikes accounted for 60 per cent of those casualties.

OHCHR contributed to the enhanced integration of international human rights norms and standards into the work of UNSMIL by providing technical expertise

on the implementation and monitoring of the United Nations Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) on UN support to non-United Nations security forces and approved mitigation measures related to the Libyan Directorate for Combating Illegal Migration and the Libyan Coast Guard.

In 2019, the Human Rights Service continued implementing the HRDDP by providing advice and assistance to Libyan security forces in order to mitigate identified risks of grave violations of international humanitarian law, international human rights law or international refugee law by non-United Nations security forces that received United Nations support.

Within the framework of the UNSMIL-United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Joint Programme's support to the Ministries of Justice and of the Interior, the UNSMIL HRS provided technical

assistance to the judicial police to organize a training for 14 police trainers, in March. The objective of the training was to review the latest curricula for new recruits to ensure their relevance and practicality.

In relation to United Nations support to the Libyan Coast Guard and the Libyan Directorate for Combating Illegal Migration, the Libyan Task Force on HRDDP endeavoured to review relevant risk assessments and related mitigation measures, particularly in light of ongoing reports of grave violations and abuses of the human rights of migrants and refugees.

In this regard, under the auspices of the Task Force on HRDDP, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) initiated a risk assessment, in November, in accordance with the HRDDP, on a planned project that seeks to dismantle criminal networks in Libya that are involved in migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, including by building the capacity of non-UN security forces to undertake this work.

#### **Participation (P)**

P1 – National and international stakeholders strengthen their networking and coordination. Civil society organizations provide assistance, including legal aid, to human rights defenders and victims of torture and other violations.

#### **16**

OHCHR contributed to enhancing the participation of rights-holders, especially women and members of discriminated groups, in selected public processes. This was achieved by building networks and alliances to extend human rights promotion and protection and advocating for changes to relevant legislation.

In April, UNSMIL organized a consultative meeting, in Tripoli, bringing together 30 human rights activists and civil society actors to discuss ways to address key protection concerns affecting them in Libya. The discussions focused on proposed revisions to the legal framework concerning CSOs and the development of a protection strategy in response.

UNSMIL advocated with authorities regarding the Regulations of the Presidential Council on the Civil Society Commission, issued in March, to express its concerns about burdensome registration and notification requirements. This includes the requirement to have all documents inspected by the Commission and its extensive powers to maintain stringent controls over foreign funding, which may result in the cancellation of the registration and work permits of foreign civil society organizations on seven broad grounds. All of these provisions are inconsistent with Libya's international human rights obligations on freedom of association.

## Accountability (A)

**A1 – Detention centres operate legally and under the control of the State. Trained judicial police officers and procedures are in place to prevent torture and ensure that individuals who are unlawfully detained are released.**



The HRS contributed to advancing oversight and accountability for unlawful and arbitrary detention by advocating for the implementation of the recommendations in its report on detention and providing training on international norms and standards.

## UNSMIL AND OHCHR TRAIN LIBYAN WOMEN ACTIVISTS ON THE INTEGRATION OF A GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW<sup>1</sup>

In collaboration with OHCHR, UNSMIL completed a three-day training on the integration of gender into the UPR process. The training targeted 15 geographically diverse women activists working on issues related to gender equality, combating gender-based violence and promoting human rights. It aimed to maximize knowledge among participants about undertaking gender-sensitive analyses, monitoring and formulating tailor-made and action-oriented recommendations to address gender-related human rights violations. On the last day, participants conceptualized a robust advocacy and outreach campaign strategy to build momentum for the upcoming UPR cycle review of Libya's human rights record, which is scheduled for May 2020.

Libya's third UPR cycle represents a key opportunity for the Government to provide a frank assessment of the human rights situation and challenges it faces and the steps it has taken since 2015 to address these challenges. Civil society organizations, human rights and women's rights defenders play an essential role in standing up for human rights and gender equality, including monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the commitments made by the Government at the previous UPR cycle and Libya's international human rights law obligations.

Dr. Saliha Sdaga, a law professor at the University of Omar Al-mukhtar, Al-bayda, noted that "despite my extensive knowledge in human rights mechanisms, this training delivered crucial information and provided participants with tools on how to amplify engagement and the use of international human rights mechanisms to promote human rights and gender equality."

Libya's recent election to the Human Rights Council creates an additional responsibility on the State of Libya to uphold human rights standards.

<sup>1</sup>This article was published on the UNSMIL website at <https://unsmil.unmissions.org/unsmil-and-ohchr-train-libyan-women-activists-integration-gender-perspective-universal-periodic> in December 2019.

In 2019, UNSMIL continued to provide advice to and advocate with the Government of National Accord, the judicial police and armed groups on how to improve the judicial process, including by ending arbitrary detention, transferring detainees from unlawful places of detention to official prisons, ensuring due process rights and granting human rights monitors unimpeded access to places of detention.

In particular, UNSMIL and UNDP expanded their tripartite cooperation with Libya to support the prison reform efforts of the Ministry of Justice and the judicial police. In August, the Ministry of Justice reopened the Derna and Ain Zara A prisons, with a view to addressing overcrowding, and established a new prison in Mellitah, Tripoli. The Ministry also established a clinic in the Al-Jdaida prison to improve the healthcare conditions for prisoners.

Finally, under the Mechanisms pillar, UNSMIL collaborated with OHCHR to organize two separate workshops on the UPR process for civil society representatives and government officials from the Ministries of the Interior, Justice and Foreign Affairs.

## MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Regional Office
<b>Countries of engagement</b>	Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates
<b>Year established</b>	2002
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Beirut
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	n/a
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2019</b>	33

<b>Total income</b>	<b>US\$1,908,319</b>		
<b>XB requirements 2019</b>	<b>US\$4,377,000</b>		
<b>Total XB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$2,347,588</b>		
Personnel		Non-personnel	PSC*
<b>70%</b>		<b>18%</b>	<b>11%</b>
\$1,654,262		\$424,530	\$268,797
<b>Total RB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$128,178</b>		
Personnel			
<b>100%</b>			
\$128,178			

### Key OMP pillars in 2019



\* Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.208.

### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Participation (P)

P1 – National and international stakeholders strengthen their networking and coordination. Civil society organizations provide assistance, including legal aid, to human rights defenders and victims of torture and other violations.



The Office contributed to improving the level of compliance of legislation and policies with international human rights norms and standards related to the protection of civic space.

In March, the Office collaborated with the Maharat Foundation to organize a round-table on “Renewing adherence to international standards of the right to freedom of opinion, expression and the press.” The event brought together parliamentarians, academics, media professionals and civil society representatives and was covered by 16 national media outlets. It concluded with a set of recommendations that were outlined in the “Beirut Affirmation,” which has proven to be a useful advocacy tool

for OHCHR and other actors seeking to strengthen the rights to freedom of opinion, expression and the press.

On the occasion of International Youth Day, the Office organized a seminar on “Political participation and decision-making” at the UN House. Participants included 110 university students from across Lebanon. The seminar encouraged students to engage in a dialogue about how to interact with the international human rights mechanisms and provided a safe space for them to build a youth network for future partnerships and cooperation. They also had an opportunity to interact with the youngest Member of Parliament.

During the reporting period, the Office cooperated with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA) and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) to produce a study examining women’s presence in judicial institutions in Arab countries. The study’s regional analysis was complemented by case studies that were conducted in five countries with a comparatively high ratio of women in the judiciary (**Jordan, Lebanon, the State of Palestine, Sudan and Tunisia**). The study establishes a base line for women’s presence in the judiciary and will be a useful advocacy tool for increasing the number of women judges in order to develop strong, independent, accessible and gender-sensitive judicial institutions and, more broadly, to help achieve gender justice within society.

**P4 – Further strengthened network of Women Human Rights Defenders in the region who have increased their capacity to address areas of concern and to participate.**



The Office continued to build the capacity of a network of WHRDs from the Arab region to increase women’s participation in human rights defence and engagement with international human rights mechanisms.

In October, the Office 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 and the Doha Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region 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 2019 establishment of the Regional Network for Women Human Rights Defenders. 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.

## **Non-discrimination (ND)**

**ND3 – At least two Governments enhance legal and policy frameworks that address gender-based violence (GBV) and promote women and girls’ autonomy and choice. They eliminate legal provisions that discriminate against women in matters of inheritance, nationality, employment, and access to credit, legal standing or other matters.**



Throughout the year, OHCHR undertook advocacy efforts related to women’s rights that were founded on a human rights-based approach (HRBA), launched capacity-building initiatives for authorities and activities to address legislative gaps and revised legislation that promoted SGBV and discriminated against women.

On the occasion of International Women’s Day, the Office launched a campaign entitled “Giving my nationality to my spouse, daughter and son is my right.” The campaign, which lasted for the month of March, focused on inequalities between women’s and men’s nationality rights in the region. The campaign was promoted through visual materials, such as posters and videos, that were published on the ROMENA website and its social media platforms, and during an interview with the regional representative of one of the leading TV stations in the Middle East. The campaign was supported by civil society and resulted in two reform proposals that were presented to the Lebanese Parliament.

In **Morocco**, the ROMENA Regional Gender Adviser collaborated with the NCHR and the Presidency of the Public Prosecution, in Rabat, to organize a workshop entitled “Law on combating violence against women in Morocco:

Between reality and prospects.” The workshop sought to strengthen the legal protection of women who are victims of violence in Morocco. To this end, several topics were discussed, including the effective implementation of Law No. 103.13 on violence against women in Morocco, the importance of strengthening measures to prevent violence against women in the public and private spheres, the extent to which this Law can be used to combat violence against women and its compatibility with international standards. Participants also learned which international standards relate to combating violence against women.

Furthermore, in anticipation of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (on 25 November), the Office participated in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign. OHCHR collaborated with UN partners to develop regional and country-specific public messages to address this year’s theme of “Orange the world: Generation equality stands against rape!” Social media platforms were used to ‘boost’ some of these messages. One of these messages, which addressed constitutional provisions that criminalize violence against women (VAW) in Egypt and Tunis, reached more than 70,000 people and resulted in 4,000 engagements. It also triggered discussions on related laws and procedures that could be put in place to help end VAW. The entire campaign reached more than 1.4 million individuals and created thousands of engagements.

**ND1 – National laws, policies and practices combat discrimination more effectively, particularly discrimination against religious, ethnic and national minorities, persons with disabilities, migrants, and women. Authorities in at least three countries work actively to “leave no one behind”, addressing the root causes of inequality, and linking implementation of the SDG agenda with human rights.**



Two governments in the subregion promote and defend freedom of religion and religious diversity among ethnic minorities, in accordance with articles 5 and 6 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD).

The Office initiated a comprehensive study of the standards and practices across the region to identify the root causes of discrimination and inequalities faced by various ethnic and religious groups. The study also seeks to address gaps in their protection, participation and access to rights.

In September, the Office began another study to provide a legal and sociocultural mapping and analysis of the current situation of ethnic and religious groups in the Middle East and North Africa. It specifically applies a gender lens to identify forms of intersectional discrimination and inequalities faced by women and girls belonging to ethnic and religious groups in accessing their rights and participating in society. The study contains an assessment of constitutional and legislative provisions on the protection of ethnic and religious groups and an analysis of the practices and jurisprudence of domestic courts in ensuring adherence with international human rights standards. The study will include recommendations for amendments of existing national laws,

policies and practices to ensure the protection of ethnic and religious groups. The findings and recommendations of the study are expected to be finalized and launched in 2020.

**ND6 – Three countries take steps to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW). Member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) take steps to abolish the Kafala (sponsorship) system.**



OHCHR supported selected State institutions and programmes to significantly improve their compliance with international human rights norms and standards on migration.

The Office translated into Arabic the OHCHR 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.

The Office 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 assisted OHCHR to further to engage with GS and relevant UN entities to uphold the rights of people on the move.

In November, the Office participated in one of the sessions of the second

“Regional dialogue on counter-trafficking response in humanitarian settings across the Levant region” that was organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in Turkey. The meeting brought together delegations from four countries, including representatives of governments, the judiciary and CSOs, as well as representatives of the UN system. Participants in the meeting validated the draft framework to develop SOPs for crisis-sensitive anti-trafficking responses across the Levant region. The SOPs will provide useful guidance and reference the OHCHR Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders.

In December, the Office contributed to a capacity-building workshop on migration governance that was organized by ESCWA, IOM and the League of Arab States, in Cairo. The workshop served to sensitize government participants about the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) and emphasized how OHCHR can better advise and support States in implementing the GCM in line with its guiding principles, all of which are grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the core international human rights instruments.

Finally, the Office continued its close collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the wider UN system and the International Committee of the Red Cross to raise concerns with authorities about cases of detention and impending deportations and the Government’s non-refoulement obligations in relation to Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

## Peace and Security (PS)

**PS2 – Steps are taken to improve compliance of civilian and military efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism with international human rights law.**

**16**

OHCHR supported NHRIs, CSOs, UN entities and individuals as key stakeholders by raising awareness and building their capacity for meaningful engagement with international human rights norms and standards.

In **Saudi Arabia**, the Office provided technical assistance through a three-day training workshop on “Protecting human rights while countering terrorism,” for various State actors from the security sector and representatives from the Saudi Human Rights Commission (SHRC). The workshop was held to promote the importance of respecting and protecting human rights and the rule of law while countering terrorism and to raise awareness about the need to apply international human rights standards in the context of countering terrorism. To do so, the workshop focused on a wide variety of issues, including the international legal framework for respecting human rights while countering terrorism, the definition of terrorist crimes, restrictions on the use of force and arms, detention and investigation practices that respect human rights, rights that can be restricted during a state of emergency and special investigative techniques.

In Lebanon, the Office established contact with the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW), which aims to enhance the status of women and ensure equal opportunities between women and men in Lebanon. The Prime Minister assigned the NCLW to act as

the focal point in preparing the report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). At the request of the NCLW, the Office provided advice for the preparation of the national report that was submitted to the Committee in compliance with the submission guidelines. The Office also engaged with the NCLW to develop Lebanon’s first National Action Plan on Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, which was endorsed by the Government on 12 September.

Furthermore, the Office organized a panel discussion, in May, to capitalize on the momentum created by the Lebanese Parliament’s adoption of Law No. 105 on Missing and Forcibly Disappeared Persons, in November 2018. The panel brought together parliamentarians and representatives of families of missing and forcibly disappeared persons, NGOs, academics, the Government and members of the UN Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances to examine the provisions of the Law and requirements for the effective functioning of a new National Commission for the Missing and Forcibly Disappeared, in compliance with international norms and standards. The event was live streamed and a video of the event was broadcasted via social media and regional contacts. Follow-up steps are being discussed with residing UN agencies and the Lebanese Government in order to move forward with the establishment of the new Commission and support efforts to promote national reconciliation.

**PS6** – In two countries, United Nations’ support to national and regional security forces and law enforcement agencies, and to non-State actors, integrates human rights and complies with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.



OHCHR contributed to the increased application of UN guidelines and an HRBA to specific programmes of UN entities.

The Office continued to provide technical assistance to the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) in developing a Code of Conduct on Human Rights, which was 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, the elderly, refugees and victims of human trafficking in all law enforcement-related tasks. Following the launch, the 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.

As Chair of the UNCT Human Rights Working Group, the Office took the lead in coordinating and finalizing a document that sets out the HRDDP Coordination Mechanism for Lebanon. It is also facilitating the regular updating of joint risk assessments under the HRDDP.

## Mechanisms (M)

**M1** – National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow up (NMRFs) are established and strengthened in three countries in the sub region; their mandates are comprehensive and clear.



OHCHR contributed to strengthening the effective functioning of NMRFs by providing technical support through its Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme (TBCBP).

In April, the Office supported a training course for Kuwaiti diplomats on the international human rights system, with a focus on the third UPR cycle and the role of NMRFs. The Office continues to liaise with the Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO), in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for the establishment of a follow-up mechanism. Furthermore, OHCHR supported CSOs in Kuwait to provide information to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) for the pre-sessional Working Group to elaborate its list of issues prior to reporting.

In November, the TBCBP hosted a three-day training workshop for members of the national Standing Committee for Reporting and the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD). The overall purpose of the workshop was to support the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) to strengthen its national capacity to effectively report to different human rights mechanisms and suggest ways to reconstitute and strengthen the Standing Committee for Reporting. The workshop also aimed at enhancing Saudi Arabia’s capacity to implement the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms that have been linked to

the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular through improving the information management capacity of the NMRF and use of the NRTD. Workshop participants prepared a draft Plan to Implement Recommendations, based on one of the recommendations that was issued by the UPR in relation to Saudi Arabia. The data was then inserted into the NRTD.

Furthermore, in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, OHCHR held a two-day training workshop on the “Development of national indicators for human rights.” The workshop targeted key staff members of the SHRC to enhance their capacity to use indicators to measure the progress made by the KSA in realizing its human rights obligations.

In Jordan, in June, the SHRA developed a proposal for the Prime Minister, upon his request, regarding the strengthening of the NMRF. In December, the SHRC, ESCWA and the Danish Institute for Human Rights co-organized and facilitated a workshop for government liaison officers and the Office of the Government Coordinator for Human Rights. In following up on Jordan’s third UPR cycle, the SHRC facilitated discussions on the implementation of the supported recommendations with government, civil society and international stakeholders and the development of a process to prepare a national action plan on the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

## STATE OF PALESTINE\*\*\*

<b>Population size<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Surface area<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Human Development Index<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>NHRI (if applicable)<sup>3</sup></b>
4.98 million	6,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.690 (rank: 119/188 in 2018)	Status A, 2015
<b>Type of engagement</b>	Country Office		
<b>Year established</b>	1996		
<b>Field office(s)</b>	East Jerusalem, Gaza, Hebron, Ramallah		
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2022		
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2019</b>	26		
<b>Total income</b>	<b>US\$1,407,463</b>		
<b>XB requirements 2019</b>	<b>US\$3,684,000</b>		
<b>Total XB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$1,977,661</b>		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC <sup>†</sup>	
<b>75%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>10%</b>	
\$1,484,373	\$293,434	\$199,854	
<b>Total RB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$2,308,119</b>		
Personnel	Non-personnel		
<b>82%</b>	<b>18%</b>		
\$1,902,150	\$405,969		

## Key OMP pillars in 2019



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

<sup>123†</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.208.

## PILLAR RESULTS:

 **Accountability (A)**

**A1 – Palestinian duty-bearers have agreed and sustained a de facto moratorium on the death penalty in the oPt, and have made progress towards a formal moratorium.**

16

The Office continued its efforts to engage with and facilitate dialogue between diverse stakeholders with a view towards the declaration of a formal moratorium

on the death penalty through awareness-raising, monitoring and advocacy.

A de facto moratorium on the death penalty was upheld in the West Bank and no new death sentences were handed down by courts in the West Bank in 2019. In Gaza, OHCHR continued monitoring death sentences handed down by Gaza courts and engaged with Gaza authorities advocating for a formal moratorium. In a positive development, no

death sentences were carried out during 2019. OHCHR also continued to liaise with human rights organizations on the death penalty, including in relation to sharing information and implementing joint outreach activities. To commemorate the World Day against the Death Penalty, in October, OHCHR partnered with local CSOs to commission an art exhibition regarding the death penalty. The exhibition illustrating the impact of the death penalty on communities and families was shown in various locations around the West Bank and Gaza and served as a background for discussions with duty-bearers and traditional religious and community leaders on the death penalty in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt).

**A1 – Member States, and international and regional actors, take account of OHCHR's information, analysis and recommendations when they demand accountability for Israeli violations of IHL and IHRL in the oPt.**

16

OHCHR contributed with timely and high-quality information to raising critical human rights issues in international forums by monitoring and reporting on human rights and international humanitarian law violations by Israel and ensuring that the findings are effectively disseminated.

During the reporting period, the Office continued to carry out regular monitoring work on ongoing human rights and humanitarian law concerns, which was supported by strong legal analysis in particularly vulnerable areas, including Gaza, Hebron's H2 and East Jerusalem. As was the case in 2018, the Office produced five mandated reports (three for the Human Rights Council (HRC) and



two for the General Assembly) to inform Member States about key messages and recommendations based on their monitoring. The Office also provided timely, high-quality inputs to other mandated UN reports, including from the Security Council, the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). It also continued to actively engage in the context of the UNCT and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), ensuring strong and legally accurate messaging on violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

Information and analysis produced by the Office contributed significantly to a number of advocacy initiatives carried out by the Office, the UNCT and the HCT, generating significant interest from the diplomatic community, the UN and NGO partners.

### Non-discrimination (ND)

ND3 – Israeli practices (as the occupying power) and Palestinian laws, policies and practices increasingly comply with international human rights standards with respect to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and other discriminatory practices against women, as a first step towards the promotion of women's equality.



The Office continued to build its monitoring and knowledge-base on women's human rights and its advocacy efforts on women's rights through activities and initiatives for authorities and CSOs to address legislative gaps and increase the compliance of existing laws with international human rights norms. The Office

also strengthened the integration of gender equality and women's rights into its own programming.

Throughout 2019, OHCHR-oPt was one of two pilot field offices in the OHCHR Gender Accreditation Programme. The objective of the Programme is to review the Office's activities and build its internal capacities to integrate gender into all aspects of the internal and external work of the Office in a sustainable manner. On 29 January 2020, after successfully completing the one-year pilot phase of the Programme, the High Commissioner awarded OHCHR-oPt with UN Human Rights Gender Accreditation.

As a result of the work undertaken within the framework of the Gender Accreditation Programme, the monitoring of women's rights improved both quantitatively and qualitatively during the year, as evidenced by an increase in monitored cases wherein women, girls or LGBTI individuals were the primary victims. Furthermore, the Office undertook enhanced gender analysis and an assessment of the impact of discrimination and violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law against women, girls or LGBTI individuals in the oPt. Their findings and analysis were strongly reflected in advocacy documents and mandated reports. For the first time, a whole section on SGBV and gender-related killings was included in the High Commissioner's Annual Report, which will be published in 2020.

The Office continued its advocacy work on women's rights, including in events marking International Women's Day, in March. Specifically, OHCHR organized TEDx talks in Ramallah and Gaza with Palestinian women who shared their stories about tackling discrimination in their personal and professional lives. It also worked closely with national and

international partners to organize the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign entitled "Together against violence" and called for the prompt adoption of the Family Protection Bill and better access to services for GBV survivors in Palestine. The campaign gathered a record-breaking 68 national and international partners, who rolled out more than 100 coordinated activities throughout the West Bank, including in East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

### Peace and Security (PS)

PS3 – Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection.

#### 16

As the Protection Cluster lead in Palestine, the Office contributed to improving the compliance of selected policy areas and legislation with international human rights norms and standards through legal analysis and advice.

In 2019, OHCHR's legal and protection analysis continued to guide the HCT's advocacy approach and the humanitarian response to violations being committed in the context of Gaza's Great March of Return protests, the recurrent escalation of hostilities in Gaza and the increasingly coercive environment in the West Bank. Particular attention was placed on women and vulnerable groups, such as children and persons with disabilities.

Moreover, under the leadership of OHCHR, the Protection Cluster supported the HCT Advocacy Working Group in conducting a series of advocacy events on the excessive use of force in different locations in the West Bank and coordinated the engagement of key protection actors. Notably, the Protection Cluster collaborated with the Health Cluster, led

by WHO, to organize a workshop in Gaza and the West Bank to discuss ways to better protect healthcare workers, the facilities of healthcare organizations and the Ministry of Health from attacks. This led to the development of an action plan. Implementation of the action plan has begun through a training on protection under international humanitarian law for healthcare workers.

**PS5 – Human rights are integrated in the Humanitarian Programme Cycle, including its strategy, planning and programming, and in advocacy by the Humanitarian Coordinator and Humanitarian Country Team.**



The Office contributed to the integration of international human rights norms, standards and principles and the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms into humanitarian operations by providing legal analysis to the HCT.

Throughout 2019, OHCHR collaborated with the Areas of Responsibilities (AoRs) to strengthen coordination among protection partners to identify the most vulnerable individuals and groups in need of protection services. This collaboration resulted in directing resources towards responding and scaling up the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support response to the Great March of Return protests and supporting GBV multi-sectorial responses and child protection services for women and children at risk.

In parallel to the 4W system in Gaza (a coordination and monitoring database detailing who does what, when and where), the Protection Cluster and OCHA initiated an online interface for an operational presence mapping in order to map

the operational protection actors in the West Bank in four thematic areas (child protection, mental health and psychosocial support, legal aid and mine action).

## Mechanisms (M)

**M1 – The interministerial committee charged with coordinating implementation of Palestine’s international human rights obligations reports consistently to international human rights mechanisms and implements their recommendations. It operates in an integrated and participatory manner and includes civil society in its work.**

### 16 | 17

OHCHR contributed to improving the capacity of the Palestinian NMRF to comply with international human rights norms and standards.

In 2019, the Office 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, as well as the Independent Commission for Human Rights, which sits on the NMRF as an observing member. 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, the NRTD was introduced to members of the NMRF as a tool for effective follow-up on relevant concluding observations/recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

Finally, to support the work of the NMRF, the Office produced two guidance

documents (in Arabic and in English). The first is a reference manual for government officials on Palestine’s accession to the human rights treaties and the second is a user manual on the NRTD. Both were widely disseminated to government officials.

Finally, OHCHR-oPt worked towards the integration of international human rights norms, standards and principles, as well as the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms into the UN common country programmes, such as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework under the Development pillar.

## SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

**Population size<sup>1</sup>** 17.07 million    **Surface area<sup>1</sup>** 185,000 km<sup>2</sup>    **Human Development Index<sup>2</sup>** 0.549 (rank: 154/188 in 2018)    **NHRI (if applicable)<sup>3</sup>** NA

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Country Office
<b>Year established</b>	2018
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Based in Beirut, Lebanon with presence in Gaziantep, Turkey and Amman, Jordan
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	n/a
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2019</b>	34

<b>Total income</b>	<b>US\$5,185,928</b>		
<b>XB requirements 2019</b>	<b>US\$2,940,000</b>		
<b>Total XB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$2,040,272</b>		
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>Non-personnel</b>	<b>PSC<sup>4</sup></b>
	\$1,502,490	\$380,229	\$157,553

### Key OMP pillars in 2019



<sup>1,2,3,4</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.208.

### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Participation (P)

**P4 – The civic space in Syria has expanded, allowing civil society actors and victims' groups to defend human rights in a safe and enabling environment.**



The Office enhanced its engagement with CSOs working inside and outside the Syrian Arab Republic by facilitating a consultation to determine key parameters for future engagement and programming.

Building on the mapping and consultation process that the Office undertook in 2018, OHCHR organized a series of

capacity-building activities for a core group of 50 targeted Syrian CSOs that are working inside and outside the country. This included the organization of three day-long round-tables on rights-based programming and inclusive approaches to advocacy. The activities culminated in a three-day workshop that was focused on a victim-centred approach to human rights advocacy and included the participation of CSOs from across the geographic and political spectrum. As a result of these events, participating CSOs adopted a victim-centred approach in their advocacy and campaigning activities and expanded the civic space to enable more connections

between organizations working on different issues. A robust coalition was set up with a joint vision for advocacy. Since then, the coalition has undertaken a common campaign in the context of UDHR71 that promotes social cohesion, including by countering hate speech.

A report outlining some of the lessons that have been learned in victim-centred advocacy activities will be issued and shared with civil society partners in early 2020.

#### Peace and Security (PS)

**PS3 – The humanitarian response in Syria integrates human rights in planning, strategy, and operations.**



OHCHR contributed to further integrating human rights protection into all areas of the Office's programming in order to better prevent and respond to conflict.

During the reporting period, OHCHR contributed to the development and implementation of a project as part of the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan. In line with this project, Protection, Health and other Cluster meetings were organized to ensure that human rights concerns were regularly raised and incorporated, in collaboration with humanitarian partners.

In addition, the Office trained Syrian civil society partners on the integration of human rights into their work during four three-day trainings that were organized in different humanitarian centres of operation (namely Amman/Jordan, Gaziantep/Turkey, Damascus/Syria and Beirut/Lebanon) on applying an HRBA. These trainings resulted in the adoption of new methodologies by Syrian CSOs with a victim-centred approach. On a less formal level, OHCHR supported civil society

partners in strengthening the monitoring methodologies being used in their documentation work.

OHCHR's technical advice on necessary changes to ensure effective human rights protection was outlined in two forthcoming publications. The first publication identifies the recommendations that were issued during Syria's second UPR cycle and can be used by CSO partners in their engagement and advocacy activities. The second publication focuses on the recommendations emanating from the international human rights mechanisms in relation to Syria from 2015-2019 and from the special procedures, human rights treaty bodies and the UPR in January 2020. Both publications will be issued in Arabic and English and will serve as resources for CSOs seeking to identify strategic entry points for engagement with the international human rights mechanisms and develop HRBA programming.

Finally, OHCHR's work on HRBA programming, together with the forthcoming publications on the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, will serve as a basis for supporting the effective engagement of civil society organizations in Syria's third UPR cycle in 2020 and 2021.

**PS5 – Early warning actions issued by OHCHR are regularly used by the international community and UN actors in the context of preventive action.**



The Office supported the international community in raising specific human rights issues with the Government by providing data and information on human rights concerns and key protection messages and bringing it to the attention of key stakeholders.

Throughout the year, OHCHR provided extensive information and analysis on human rights issues to humanitarian, political and policy partners working on the Syrian context. The Office issued over 65 flash reports that included OHCHR reporting and early warning analysis. The reports were disseminated to over 100 humanitarian, diplomatic and donor partners and the data was used by humanitarian and policymaking partners in their work, as reflected in public statements and briefings.

In addition, OHCHR contributed regular analysis and reports on the human rights situation in Syria, which were included in the Secretary-General's monthly reports to the Security Council, in accordance with various Security Council resolutions. OHCHR contributed to six such reports in 2019 compared to 11 in 2018.

Furthermore, human rights concerns were highlighted in seven public statements and press briefing notes that were translated into Arabic and issued by the High Commissioner and in one thematic digest. All of these documents served as early warning tools to highlight current and possible future geographic or thematic human rights concerns in Syria. They were shared with over 400 contacts, including humanitarian agencies, diplomats, policymakers and Syrian and international civil society organizations working inside and outside of Syria.

In addition to the written outputs, the Office provided frequent ad hoc briefings to diplomats, humanitarian partners and policymakers. Given the highly complex situation in Syria, appreciation was expressed to OHCHR for its verified data and analysis.

## Development (D)

**D7 – The reconstruction and development efforts of the UN and the Government integrate human rights standards.**



The Office contributed to the integration of international human rights norms, standards and principles into the UN's reconstruction and development assistance.

In 2019, OHCHR focused on issues relating to medical units and personnel in its monitoring and advocacy work as part of the UN's reconstruction and development assistance, including by supporting the protection and health sectors. Specifically, the Office's work included sharing verified data with humanitarian partners on incidents affecting healthcare and health facilities. This information was reflected in OHCHR statements and press briefing notes throughout 2019 and was included in more than half of the statements issued on Syria during that time. For example, in August, the Office supported five special procedures that submitted a joint allegation letter to the Syrian Government regarding airstrikes and ground-based strikes in Syria, which damaged and destroyed medical facilities and killed medical personnel between March 2011 and July 2019.

While incidents involving medical units remain an ongoing and significant concern in Syria, OHCHR's reporting and advocacy contributed to increased attention and political pressure to address this issue. On 1 August, the General Assembly established a United Nations Headquarters Board of Inquiry to investigate a series of incidents that took place in northwest Syria after the September 2018 signing of the Russian/Turkish

Memorandum on Stabilization of the Situation in the Idlib De-escalation Area. The investigation will cover destruction or damage that was caused to medical facilities that were on the deconfliction list and to UN-supported facilities in the area. The Office supported the Board's data collection efforts by providing lists of OHCHR-verified incidents and supporting data.

## TUNISIA

Population size <sup>1</sup>	Surface area <sup>1</sup>	Human Development Index <sup>2</sup>	NHRI (if applicable) <sup>3</sup>
11.69million	164,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.739 (rank: 91/188 in 2018)	Status B, 2009
<b>Type of engagement</b>		Country Office	
<b>Year established</b>		2011	
<b>Field office(s)</b>		Tunis	
<b>UN partnership framework</b>		United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2015-2019	
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2019</b>		12	

<b>Total income</b>	<b>US\$1,443,194</b>		
<b>XB requirements 2019</b>	<b>US\$3,005,000</b>		
<b>Total XB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$1,787,668</b>		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC <sup>4</sup>	
<b>49%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>11%</b>	
\$884,744	\$ 700,109	\$202,815	

### Key OMP pillars in 2019



<sup>1234</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.208.

## PILLAR RESULTS:

### Development (D)

**D2 – The Government adopts and applies the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.**

**1 2 3 5 8 9 13 16 17**



The Office contributed to the increased compliance of corporate policies with international human rights norms and standards by facilitating workshops and sharing guidance and advice.

At the request of the Tunisia Local Network of the Global Compact, the Office delivered a training on the UN

Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) to 38 participants (11 women, 27 men) from private and public enterprises, CSOs and academia who are current or pending members of the Tunisia Global Compact Network. A representative from a major public enterprise from the chemical industry and a representative from a major private company producing cement presented their experiences and lessons learned following their OHCHR-supported participation in the seventh International Forum on Business and Human Rights, which was held in November 2018.

As a result of this training, two participating enterprises requested further in-house training for their staff members that are based in the southern region of the country. Five enterprises from various sectors with a high risk of human rights violations, including construction and public works, chemicals and mining and water distribution, expressed an interest in undertaking human rights impact assessments of their operations. To support these efforts, the Office facilitated a three-day mission to Tunis of an international expert in human rights impact assessments to discuss the assessments with the CEOs of these companies.

**D7 – National stakeholders adopt a human rights-based approach when monitoring and evaluating realization of the SDGs. Local elected representatives and public servants at local and regional levels are aware of their obligations with respect to economic, social and cultural rights.**



OHCHR helped to improve the level of compliance of State institutions and programmes with international human rights norms and standards through awareness-raising, human rights education and mainstreaming.

More specifically, the Office initiated discussions with the Centre for Training and Decentralization Support to build the capacities of local authorities regarding an HRBA and economic, social and cultural rights. The objective was to enable them to apply their knowledge when designing local development plans. Sessions were conducted in 18 municipalities of the southern and northern regions, which are the most marginalized areas of the country, to test the two economic, social and cultural rights-related modules that will be replicated in 2020.

The modules were tested during the first training which took place in nine municipalities of the south (Medenine, Remeda, Tataouine, Ben guerdane, Houm Soukt, Midoun, Ajem, Zarzis, and Gabes).

The Office undertook vigorous advocacy activities related to the application of an HRBA in Tunisia's first Voluntary National Report (VNR) and to ensure the integration of members of the NMRF into the VNR's drafting committee. The VNR integrates the results of the Human Rights Rapid Integrated Assessment, which was conducted, in 2018, on linkages between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their targets and the human rights commitments undertaken by Tunisia through its Constitution and the ratification of international human rights treaties. Moreover, it includes a section on "Leaving No One Behind," for which the Office had advocated, and features a list of vulnerable groups. Finally, the report includes the Office's recommendation regarding the adoption of an HRBA in relation to data collection and disaggregation on vulnerable groups, in accordance with relevant guidance on data collection in the context of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

### **Accountability (A)**

**A3 – Judges assigned to cases that involve gender-based violence are equipped to apply national legislation in compliance with international human rights standards.**



OHCHR built the capacity of the judiciary to ensure that accountability mechanisms dealing with GBV conform to international human rights standards.

Since 2017, in the context of the joint programme of the UN system and the

Government, the Office continued to enhance the capacity of judges assigned to GBV cases to interpret and apply new national legislation in accordance with international human rights standards.

The Office engaged in a series of activities designed to help advance the effective implementation by the judiciary of General Law No. 2017-58 on violence against women. In March, the Office 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. Their participation was supported by the Office. The conference identified key issues and produced recommendations for relevant ministries regarding each "P" of the law, namely, protection, prevention, prosecution and integrated policies.

Furthermore, the Office cooperated with the Centre for Judicial and Legal Studies of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to hold a workshop, in November, on protective orders, which was one of the main innovations of the Law. OHCHR enabled the participation of family law judges from all 28 national courts of first instance to discuss the obstacles they face in four specific areas, namely, procedures, gathering evidence, drafting and protective measures, in order to identify and harmonize good practices and compile case law and decisions taken.

The Office continued training the judiciary regarding VAW. Accordingly, 246 judges were trained in four sessions at the High Judicial Training Institute (ISM),

at the request of the Ministry of Justice. In July, the Office carried out a training of trainers session on the judicial management of VAW cases to enable the justice system to investigate and prosecute GBV crimes in compliance with international standards, respect the rights of victims and address gender stereotypes. The training was organized in partnership with the International Development Law Organization and enhanced the capacity of 16 practicing judges and trainers from the ISM. The training cycle consisted of sessions on Law No. 2017-58 on the prevention of VAW and good practices and basic principles in dealing with GBV victims. With the support of the Office, the trainees will be expected to deliver “application workshops” to their peers in 2020.

To support these capacity-building efforts in 2019, the Office finalized the Arabic translation of a 174-page training guide, which is available in hard and electronic copies for wider dissemination. Once clearance is received from the MoJ for the Arabic translation, the guide will be used during events planned by the Office in 2020.

## Participation (P)

**P2 – The new national human rights institution is established and functions in accordance with the Paris Principles and other relevant international standards.**

OHCHR supported the initial stages of setting up the NHRI, in December 2018, in compliance with the Paris Principles.

Following the adoption of the NHRI Law in November 2018, the Office advocated for a transparent and inclusive selection process of NHRI members. In addition, the Office and UNDP held a joint hearing with the Parliamentary Pre-selection Commission and organized a press

conference regarding the Commission’s selection process, which was followed by an open public debate. To widen the constituency of applications to the NHRI membership, including from women, the Office conducted advocacy visits to Tunisian professional organizations of doctors, journalists, lawyers and judges and sensitized eligible professional organizations to encourage women to apply for membership.

A shortlist of 25 prospective applicants, released in June, respected gender parity by including 12 women. Although the selection process was postponed pending the election of the new Parliament, the Office is committed to resuming advocacy for a transparent and inclusive selection process in 2020. A study day will be held with the elected Members of Parliament to discuss the Paris Principles and selection criteria.

**P7 – There is increasing public recognition of the importance of human rights education. Public education helps to develop effective responses to violence, including terrorism and violent extremism.**



OHCHR strengthened the narrative on select human rights issues through awareness-raising and capacity-building.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Office and the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA) and through engagement with the High Independent Authority of Elections (ISIE), the Office sensitized approximately 800 imams who are responsible for Friday prayers regarding their obligation to maintain a principle of neutrality during electoral campaigns. In August, the Office organized a series of

regional meetings aimed at enhancing the role of religious actors to facilitate free, honest, transparent and peaceful elections in 2019. The Office 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 OHCHR’s 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, the Office and the MoRA consulted with the trade union of imams and the Tlili Foundation, a local CSO with expertise in the education of imams, in order to develop a three-year strategic plan to implement the MoU.

In the context of the “Faith for Rights Initiative,” the Office cooperated with the MoRA to bring together three influential religious actors from the Muslim, Jewish and Christian communities (a mufti, a chief rabbi and a bishop), as well as members of the media and artists on the occasion of an interfaith “iftar” (the evening meal that breaks the fast during Ramadan). The Initiative was organized to provide space for religious leaders to spread a message of tolerance and non-discrimination, thereby fostering a peaceful society based on understanding, compassion and solidarity.

To contribute to improved social cohesion in 2019, the Office collaborated with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to prevent violent extremism among youth through education (PVE-E). More specifically, the Office and UNESCO developed a joint project on “Empowering the education system and

school communities through the promotion of human rights, global citizenship education and media and information literacy,” which falls within the Ministry of Education’s strategy on counter-terrorism. The project aims to set up a national network of experts on PVE-E, based on human rights education, that specifically targets youth educators and leaders of the school community. The Office also participated in the project “Research Fund on violent extremism,” which was led by UNDP, the National Anti-Terrorism Commission and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. The project outcome, the “Charter of Ethics for research activities in the field of violent extremism,” establishes a regulatory mechanism to prevent and treat potential risks of human rights violations while conducting research in this field. It further provides for ethical principles and values of human rights that should guide researchers in their work.

During the year, the Office continued to participate in the UN Task Force on Human Rights Education and Citizenship. With the support of the Office, the Task Force used the opportunity of the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education to discuss challenges and priorities in the Tunisian education system. The Office advocated for and supported the inclusion of human rights education in the youth centres established by the Ministry of Youth across the country. In September, the Office and the Ministry provided capacity-building trainings on human rights education for 240 youth educators from 24 regions to strengthen their capacities in relation to international human rights standards.



### Non-discrimination (ND)

**ND1 – National laws, policies and practices combat racial discrimination more effectively, including discrimination against ethnic and national minorities, persons of African descent, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, migrants, women, and LGBTI individuals.**



OHCHR took steps to improve the compliance of legislation and policy with international human rights norms and standards in the areas of access to social security and the rights of persons with disability by building the capacity of duty-bearers and rights-holders. In April, the Government enacted the legal reform that the Office had strongly advocated for since 2016. The reform ensures that women agricultural workers have greater access to social security due to more flexible eligibility requirements. To inform these women about their rights, the Office organized training sessions in seven regions for 104 outreach workers (83 women, 21 men) and 81 representatives from the institutions involved in the new scheme. Overall, 2,086 women were found to be eligible for the programme, 788 submitted a request for affiliation to the Caisse Nationale de Sécurité Sociale and 233 were duly registered. A total of 45 members of nine local municipalities received training on gender and an HRBA.

During the reporting period, the Office launched a study analysing the domestic laws that protect the rights of persons with disabilities in Tunisia. The purpose of this analysis was to identify gaps and weaknesses and develop recommendations aimed at increasing the compliance of national legislation with international standards. The recommendations will serve as an advocacy tool for civil society and be compiled into a practical guide that

is available to parliamentarians to guide legislative revisions that are in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Furthermore, the Office engaged in constructive dialogue with the Ministry of Social Affairs on how to better implement CRPD provisions in Tunisia. Finally, the Office and UNDP organized a “Parliamentary Academy” sensitization workshop for parliamentarians and representatives of the Ministry regarding the rights of persons with disabilities to social integration and rehabilitation. As a result, the parliamentary committee for persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups has identified the priorities of persons with disabilities in terms of revising national laws.

The National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) organized several workshops on the rights of vulnerable populations in detention with a focus on LGBTI rights. To this end, the Office contributed to the workshops and sensitized members of the General Directorate of Prisons. It also provided assistance to an LGBTI organization in proceedings regarding freedom of association through interventions from the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.



### Peace and Security (PS)

**PS2 – The State develops and implements policies and practices to counter terrorism and violent extremism that comply with international human rights standards and relevant UN resolutions and guidelines, and ensures that civil society participates meaningfully in this process.**





OHCHR supported the Tunisian National Commission on Counter-Terrorism (NCCT) to increase the compliance of its procedures and decisions with international human rights norms and standards.

In 2019, OHCHR worked with the NCCT and focused on mainstreaming human rights into its work while countering terrorism. In order to better inform the public about the work of the NCCT, the Office facilitated a training workshop for journalists and civil society. The workshop strengthened the knowledge of civil society and the media about international standards for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the fight against terrorism and sensitized the media on journalistic principles and good practices when covering events related to terrorism and violent extremism.

The Office also organized a workshop for NCCT members on good practices related to gender mainstreaming in the context of countering violent extremism. After assessing expectations and gathering recommendations from NCCT members, the Office facilitated the development of a common understanding of gender mainstreaming.

**PS4 – Specialized Chambers, the Government, Parliament and civil society are equipped to fulfil their respective mandates and roles with regard to the transitional justice process.**

**16** 

The Office contributed to the strengthening of transitional justice mechanisms that conform to international human rights norms and standards by building their capacity to monitor and contribute to transitional justice processes.

During the reporting period, the Office continued to maintain and strengthen contacts and dialogue with civil society organizations and victims' groups by convening meetings and exchanging information, expertise and experiences. The Office organized several meetings with CSOs to advise them on the ways forward in supporting the transitional justice process, including the mandate of the Specialized Criminal Chambers (SCC), particularly during a time when this accountability mechanism of transitional justice was targeted by an amnesty law. CSOs and victims' groups played a key role in supporting the implementation of national transitional justice mechanisms and disseminating the final report and recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (Instance Vérité et Dignité (IVD)). They also closely monitored hearings of the SCC and engaged in constructive dialogue with the Ministry of Justice and the High Judicial Council in order to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the SCC's mandate and work.

The Office provided extensive technical assistance and support to the 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 the structure, content and drafting of the IVD's recommendations. The report's 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 of the IVD 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 but has not yet been published.

In 2019, the Office continued to engage in advocacy to support the dissemination of the IVD's final report and translated the Executive Summary (approximately 522 pages) into English. The IVD transmitted 69 indictments to the SCC with regard to 1,120 cases of torture, rape and 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 on more than 100 cases of gross violations of human rights. The Office 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. OHCHR continued to monitor hearings throughout the year

## Mechanisms (M)

**M1 – The NMRF, the NHRI, civil society organizations, and the UN Country Team engage with international human rights mechanisms.**

**16** **17**

The Office strengthened the capacity of NHRIs, CSOs, UN entities and individuals that made substantive submissions to the human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR.

In 2019, thanks to the support of the Office, the NMRF submitted mid-term review reports to the Human Rights Committee and the UPR and began

working on an alternative report to CEDAW.

The Office trained NMRF members on reporting against the SDG indicators to better enable them to implement the recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR and to include human rights and SDG indicators in their reports. The training also included information on enhancing follow-up to these recommendations by involving CSOs in State reporting. With the support of the Office, it has become a common practice to organize a national and a regional consultation in Tunis prior to the drafting of each report. The Office helped the NMRF to incorporate the work being undertaken by independent bodies on specific human rights issues, such as the independent body fighting human trafficking and the NPM's report on civil and political rights.

OHCHR supported the NMRF to improve its work on follow-up to the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms and continued its capacity-building support on human rights indicators and SDGs, particularly for the new members of the NMRF. As part of the development of the NMRF's website, the Office worked with the NMRF to embed a human rights database into its website. This will serve as a communication tool for the Tunisian NMRF and its civil society partners undertaking advocacy and for its international partners working on specific human rights issues. It is anticipated that the database will be operational by the end of 2020.

## YEMEN

<b>Population size<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Surface area<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Human Development Index<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>NHRI (if applicable)<sup>3</sup></b>
28.16 million	528,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.463 (rank: 175/188 in 2018)	NA

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Country Office
<b>Year established</b>	2012
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Sana'a, Aden and 22 human rights field monitors in 17 governorates
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Strategic Framework for Yemen 2017-2019
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2019</b>	11

<b>Total income</b>	<b>US\$4,987,038</b>	
<b>XB requirements 2019</b>	<b>US\$7,615,000</b>	
<b>Total XB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$4,654,548</b>	
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC <sup>4</sup>
<b>53%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>10%</b>
\$2,487,741	\$1,680,497	\$486,311

### Key OMP pillars in 2019



<sup>1,2,3,4</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.208.

## PILLAR RESULTS:

### Participation (P)

**P5 – The capacity of civil society organizations to protect and promote human rights is strengthened.**



The Office contributed to establishing systems for protection from human rights violations, including by raising awareness and enhancing the understanding of CSOs about the international human rights mechanisms.

During the reporting period, the Office conducted six awareness-raising sessions and workshops targeting local

CSOs and vulnerable groups (IDPs, persons with disabilities, women) and youth across 11 governorates. These activities enabled 258 participants (117 women, 141 men) to increase their knowledge and understanding of the UN system, UN human rights protection mechanisms and other protection mechanisms for victims of human rights violations. As a result, civil society actors are better equipped to support victims of human rights violations and those in need of protection, including by referring them to relevant humanitarian and protection service providers across Yemen and submitting

relevant cases to the Country Office and to the special procedures. These workshops strengthened the relationship between CSOs and OHCHR, resulting in information-sharing and joint responses to alleged human rights violations.

P4 – Civil society assistance to victims of human rights violations is strengthened.



OHCHR contributed to increasing the awareness and capacity of CSOs and relevant actors to identify human rights concerns, utilize the existing humanitarian and protection service providers and referral systems and develop networking opportunities.

During the reporting period, the Office conducted seven awareness-raising sessions and workshops targeting local CSOs and vulnerable groups (IDPs, persons with disabilities, women) and youth across 11 governorates. These activities enabled 262 participants (97 women, 165 men) to increase their knowledge and understanding about available protection for civilians and victims of human rights violations. As a result, civil society actors are better equipped to support victims of human rights violations and those in need of protection and to refer them to relevant humanitarian and protection service providers across Yemen. In addition, these CSOs regularly engaged with the Country Office, as well as with the special procedures, on specific cases of alleged human rights violations. They also coordinated among themselves and with OHCHR to provide support to victims.

## Accountability (A)

A1 – National institutions, including the Ministry of the Interior’s Corrections and Rehabilitation Authority and the National Commission of Inquiry to Investigate Alleged Violations to Human Rights (NCIAVHR), curb human rights violations.



The Office increased the level of compliance of the NCIAVHR with international human rights standards by providing it with specialized training and technical advice.

The Office provided ongoing capacity-building activities for members of the NCIAVHR and enhanced their knowledge and skills regarding international human rights standards and operational capacities. Thanks to OHCHR support, an increased number of field monitors were able to record 2,644 allegations of human rights violations and investigate 1,424 human rights violations between February and July.

In March, an OHCHR training workshop was held on “Principles of monitoring and documentation of international human rights and humanitarian laws.” The workshop enhanced the knowledge of 32 field monitors from the NCIAVHR (four women, 28 men), based in 15 governorates, about international human rights law and CRSV and GBV.

In April, the Office provided technical support to the NCIAVHR to strengthen its database and information technology capacities. This was undertaken following an assessment mission conducted by the Office to identify potential gaps in the NCIAVHR’s information-gathering, storage and management system.

The Office provided solar system units, which are essential for Internet access and electricity, to 30 NCIAVHR field monitors, thereby facilitating their investigations and reporting tasks and enabling them to share reports in a timely manner, consequently contributing to their accountability efforts.

The Office organized a meeting to facilitate dialogue between 37 NCIAVHR field monitors with five NCIAVHR members, including the Head of the NCIAVHR. The meeting provided participants with an opportunity to exchange views and discuss challenges and good practices. The field monitors developed their knowledge and skills on several topics related to the monitoring and documentation of human rights violations. The NCIAVHR members discussed their work approaches, performance and ways to improve their operational capacities.

In November, OHCHR facilitated a consultative meeting of 38 field monitors NCIAVHR, deployed in 15 governorates (seven women, 31 men), to enhance their capacities and encourage information-sharing on various topics, including the proper approach to handling email accounts, the geographical distribution of work and discussions about human rights concerns and trends across governorates. The meeting also served to increase their understanding of the use of evidence-based human rights analysis in the context of prosecuting the perpetrators of human rights violations.


**Peace and Security (PS)**

**PS1 – Violations of international human rights and humanitarian law are monitored and reported; particular attention is given to abuses perpetrated by parties to the conflict, especially arbitrary detention and abuses that target civilians and civilian objectives. The information gathered informs UN responses.**

**5 16** 

The Office contributed to strengthening the judicial system by providing monitoring information on human rights violations in prisons and detention facilities to relevant authorities.

In 2019, OHCHR continued to monitor prisons and detention facilities and provided technical advice aimed at improving detention conditions and promoting compliance with international human rights standards. Despite challenges faced in gaining access to prisons, particularly in the northern governorates, the Office conducted 20 visits to prisons and detention facilities in nine governorates during the reporting period. It identified humanitarian needs, including lack of access to food, drinking water and medical care, as well as human rights concerns with respect to the conduct of law enforcement officials. The human rights concerns were documented and communicated to the responsible authorities to instigate correction measures and ensure accountability. OHCHR also raised concerns about the prisoners' needs with humanitarian actors in Yemen, including the Protection Cluster.

In responding to the conflict and crisis in Yemen, the Office continued monitoring the violations and abuses of international human rights law and international humanitarian law and deployed two additional field monitors focused on SGBV

and CRSV. During the reporting period, the Office drafted bi-weekly and monthly updates on the human rights situation in Yemen. The findings of human rights monitoring activities were shared with key protection actors, such as members of the Protection Cluster, the monitoring and reporting mechanism of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on grave violations of the rights of the child, the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) and the UNCT in Yemen. The Office's reports contributed essential background information on a variety of advocacy initiatives, including statements and press briefings that were released by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the RC/HC in Yemen, the High Commissioner's oral update on the human rights situation in Yemen during the HRC's fortieth session, the interactive dialogues on the second report of the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts and the High Commissioner's report on the implementation of technical assistance and capacity-building for Yemen during the HRC's forty-second session.

In 2019, OHCHR supported the establishment of two Community-Based Protection Networks (CBPNs) in the Abyan and Lahej governorates that helped identify human rights violations in their governorate, including SGBV cases. The CBPNs also enhanced the referral mechanism by referring victims/survivors to existing humanitarian and protection service providers in their governorates.

Finally, the Office organized four consultative meetings, in Sanaa, to strengthen the knowledge and understanding of OHCHR staff members, including translators, database personnel and field monitors on gender, SGBV, CRSV and women's economic, social and cultural rights.

## UN HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRE FOR SOUTH-WEST ASIA AND THE ARAB REGION

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Regional Centre
<b>Countries of engagement</b>	Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, State of Palestine***, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen
<b>Year established</b>	2009
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Doha, Qatar
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2019</b>	6

<b>Total income</b>	<b>US\$297,100</b>		
<b>XB requirements 2019</b>	<b>US\$310,000</b>		
<b>Total XB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$284,052</b>		
	Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC†
	<b>59%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>12%</b>
	\$167,208	\$84,166	\$32,679
<b>Total RB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$763,305</b>		
	Personnel	Non-personnel	
	<b>86%</b>	<b>14%</b>	
	\$657,367	\$105,938	

### Key OMP pillars in 2019



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

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

### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Mechanisms (M)

**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.**



17

The Office contributed to the enhanced engagement of NHRIs in **Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Oman, State of Palestine** and **Sudan** and CSOs in **Qatar** and **Sudan** with the international human rights mechanisms, including by raising awareness and building their capacity.

During 2019, the Centre provided support to various stakeholders to enhance

their knowledge and improve their engagement with the international human rights mechanisms. In cooperation with regional and national partners, the Centre organized 14 capacity-building and training programmes, including six regional training sessions that were attended by 527 participants (245 women) from various backgrounds and institutions.

In November, the Office and the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions organized a training on the role of NHRIs in human rights monitoring and reporting in Amman. The training was delivered by OHCHR staff and experts from the Jordanian NHRI to build the capacity of 18 participants (eight women) from NHRIs in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, State of Palestine, and Sudan and to increase their knowledge about human rights monitoring and reporting.

In November, the Office organized a training on the UN human rights system and the application of an HRBA, in Doha, for 15 participants (seven women) from the Qatar Social Work Foundation. The Foundation serves as a platform for discussions on social issues in the country and is composed of a number of affiliated centres that focus on protection and social rehabilitation, family counselling, orphan care, empowerment and care for the elderly, persons with disabilities and social development. The training provided the participants with practical knowledge on the international human rights system, including the functioning of the human rights mechanisms and ways that an HRBA can be applied in their work.

In December, OHCHR collaborated with the Regional Centre for Training and Development of Civil Society to organize a training, in Khartoum, on the UN human

rights system and an HRBA. The training brought together 40 participants from Sudanese NGOs and representatives of the Ministry of Youth and Sport and enhanced their knowledge about the international human rights system and its mechanisms.

## Participation (P)

**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.**



The Office helped to increase the extent to which the ongoing implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education is in compliance with international human rights norms and standards. This was undertaken by facilitating dialogue between relevant stakeholders to review lessons learned and exchange good practices in the context of planning the fourth phase of the Programme (2020-2024).

In addition, in April, the Office organized a round-table discussion with 12 experts from the Arab region to review prospects and exchange experiences related to working with youth in the field of human rights. The experts highlighted previous UN initiatives and plans focused on human rights education, emphasized their linkages with the previous three phases of the Programme and described the work that was undertaken to include human rights in formal and informal education, including through the adoption of legislation and policies, planning, programmes and unofficial activities.

In December, OHCHR organized a workshop on the fourth phase of the Programme, in Tunis, for more than 40

participants from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, State of Palestine, Qatar, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States. More than half of the participants were women and approximately half were youth representing various governmental institutions, CSOs and the National Human Rights Committee.

The participants exchanged ideas about good practices, initiatives, curricula, methods and tools in relation to human rights education for youth in the region. They also explored some of the specific challenges being faced, including in relation to equality, human rights, non-discrimination and respect for diversity and opportunities to address these issues. Moreover, participants discussed the roles of their respective institutions and suggested ways that they could help to advance the implementation of the fourth phase. The Centre indicated its intention to follow up with the participants and encouraged all stakeholders to play an effective role in implementing the fourth phase.

**P4 – Further strengthened the network of Women Human Rights Defenders in the region who have increased their capacity to address areas of concern and to participate.**



The Office contributed to increasing the level of meaningful participation of women in select public processes by building networks and alliances of WHRDs in the region.

In October, OHCHR and the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls organized a workshop entitled “Towards legal protection for the safety

of women’s human rights defenders” in Casablanca, Morocco. The workshop brought together approximately 30 WHRDs, activists and lawyers from Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, State of Palestine, Sudan and Tunisia to build on their common ground and exchange goals and experiences in the promotion and protection of women’s human rights.

The Office presented information on the international human rights mechanisms, the role of the human rights treaty bodies, the HRC, the special procedures and individual complaint procedures. The sessions emphasized the important role of HRDs in submitting written communications related to the violations of human rights.

**P5 – In two countries, OHCHR increases its monitoring and reporting on human rights violations committed against civil society.**



The Office contributed to increased monitoring and reporting on human rights violations by building the capacity of different stakeholders to address violations of freedom of speech, expression and assembly.

In April, on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, the Office organized a national seminar on “New media spaces: Opportunities and challenges” and a national training workshop on “Protection of human rights in new media spaces” in Rabat, Morocco. These activities were undertaken in collaboration with the Al-Shuruq Centre for Media, Democracy and Human Rights and the Al-Jazeera Public Liberties and Human Rights Centre.

The seminar was attended by 60 participants, government officials, academics, university students and researchers, 25 of whom were women. The seminar focused on the challenges and opportunities presented by new media and digital technology from a human rights perspective. More specifically, participants discussed freedom of speech and expression, freedom of assembly, how new media is being used to spread discrimination and incitement to hatred and innovative ways that previously voiceless groups can use new media for outreach. Various relevant initiatives were explored that dealt with emerging challenges, such as the phenomenon of terrorism, extremism and responsibilities of the Internet industry. Finally, participants discussed the fundamental risks for violations of the right to privacy due to the unprecedented capacities of governments to monitor users in digital spaces as a result of technological advancements.

The training workshop was attended by 32 journalists, half of whom were women from various media platforms, and media students. The training addressed guarantees of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the right to access and disseminate information and the right to participate in public affairs under international and regional human rights law. In addition, the training discussed the role of the media in promoting human rights and a human rights-based approach to journalism. The participants exchanged ideas on initiatives to counter the spread of speech advocating national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence.

### Non-discrimination (ND)

ND1— National laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination and in particular discrimination against religious, ethnic and national minorities, people with disabilities, migrants and women facing discrimination, and responsible authorities actively work to “leave no one behind”, including by addressing the root causes of inequality and couple the SDG agenda and HR.



The Office contributed to improving the human rights narrative regarding minority rights and religious freedoms by producing specialized guidance materials that were translated into Arabic.

During the reporting period, OHCHR issued two publications, in Arabic, on minority rights. The Compilation of Recommendations of the first 10 sessions of the United Nations Forum on Minority Issues: 2008 to 2017, which covers the right to education, political participation, economic rights, the rights of minority women, statelessness as a minority issue, religious minorities, minorities in the criminal justice system and minorities in situations of humanitarian crises. The reference guide Minorities’ rights: Standards and guidance reproduces the main documents related to minority rights, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, the Commentary of the Working Group on minorities to the Declaration, the relevant general comments/recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies, the Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on racial discrimination and protection of minorities and the mandate and methods of work of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues.

To enhance freedom of religion and facilitate the creation of harmony between religious values and human rights principles, the Office revised, edited, translated into Arabic and published the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence and the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights,” as well as other statements issued by the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Office will distribute the publications to the participants of the training programme, its partners and other OHCHR field presences.