

Peace and Security (PS)

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



Peace and Security in numbers



12 out of 14

UN peace missions have a human rights component

32

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



524

human rights staff serve in UN peace missions



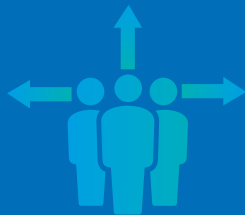
The Declaration of Shared Commitments under the Action for Peacekeeping initiative endorsed by

152

Member States and

4

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



2

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

HRDDP implementation advanced in

8

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

2

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



At least

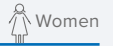
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public reports issued by human rights components of peace operations (MINUSCA, MINUSMA, MONUSCO, UNAMA, UNAMI, UNIOGBIS, UNMISS, UNSMIL, UNSOM) highlighted the human rights situations in

9

countries

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LEARNING ABOUT DIGNITY

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

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

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

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

COLLECTIVE AWARENESS FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Guinea-Bissau is now experiencing a societal shift.

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



Lieutenant-Colonel Jorge Gastao Na Sulnate. © OHCHR

Highlights of pillar results

Peace and Security (PS)

PILLAR RESULTS / SHIFTS / SDGs

PS1

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



RESULTS / SPOTLIGHTS

Spotlights: Youth Disabilities Women

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

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

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

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

PS2

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



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

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

PS3

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



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

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

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

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

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

PS4

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



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

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

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

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

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


PS5


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



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

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

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

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

PS6

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



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

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

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

PS7

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



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

INFORMATION DRIVES PREVENTION

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

WHY NOW?

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

WHAT IS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT?

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

HOW DID WE MEET THE NEED?

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

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



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

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

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

A1

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



With support from the Office, the Government of the **Central African Republic** gradually deployed defence and security forces and administrative and judicial authorities beyond the capital, in an effort to enhance its capacity to protect civilians and address impunity. OHCHR applied the United Nations Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) in response to 132 requests for support from the defence and security forces. This resulted in the production of risk assessments and proposals for mitigating measures to prevent human rights violations. UN Human Rights screened 4,399 members of the defence and security forces who were to benefit from UN support. A total of 74 of those who were screened were excluded when it was determined that they were responsible for human rights violations. UN Human Rights continued to provide technical support for the integration of human rights into security sector reform through trainings, workshops and expert advice. It notably organized 60 training sessions and 10 workshops on international human rights law and international humanitarian law for 1,796 defence and security officers, including 287 women, in Bangui and across the country.

P6

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



Building on its support in 2018, in **Colombia**, OHCHR implemented strategies to increase the capacity of victims, their families, civil society organizations and national and regional collective processes to participate in the mechanisms of the System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Recurrence (SIVJRNR). UN Human Rights provided technical assistance to nine of the 10 organizations that attended the “Space for strategic litigation” workshop to facilitate their participation in the SIVJRNR mechanisms, thus increasing their capacity to present reports to the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP). As a result, the organizations prepared one report for the JEP on 23 cases of extrajudicial executions that were carried out in Cesar, between 2007 and 2009, and one report on 158 cases of extrajudicial executions that were carried out in Antioquia. Furthermore, the Office strengthened the capacity of the Coalición contra la vinculación de niños, niñas y jóvenes al conflicto armado en Colombia (COALICO) to actively participate in the SIVJRNR mechanisms. COALICO subsequently presented one report to the JEP, which in turn contributed to the opening of Case No. 007 on recruitment and the use of children in the Colombian armed conflict.

SUPPORTING KEY TRANSITION PROCESSES IN A NEW DEMOCRACY IN THE GAMBIA

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

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

From the beginning, UN Human Rights supported nationwide consultations

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

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

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

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

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



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

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