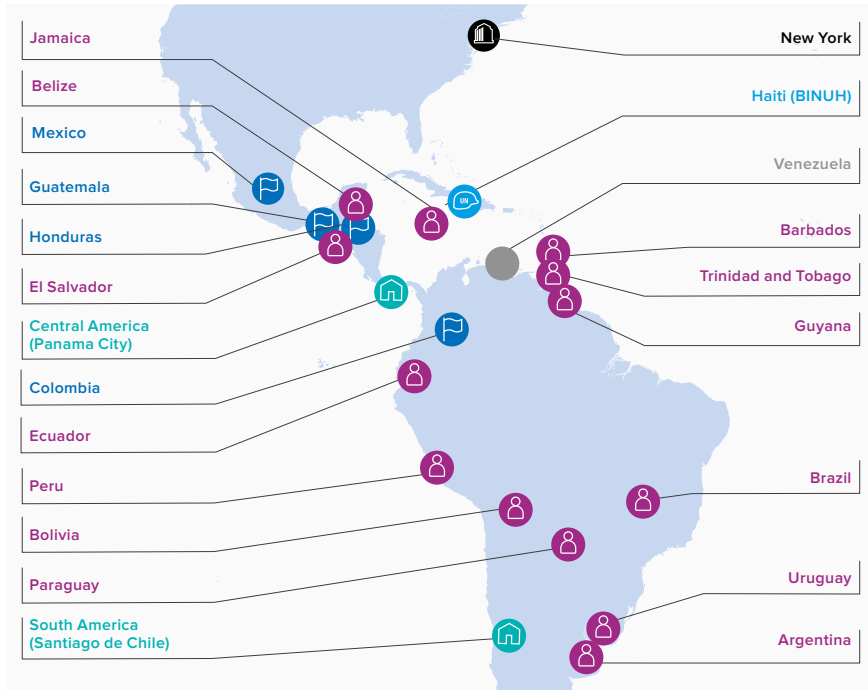


UN HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE AMERICAS



TYPE OF PRESENCE

	Headquarters
	Country/Stand-alone Offices/ Human Rights Missions
	Regional Offices/Centres
	Human rights components of UN Peace/Political Missions
	Human Rights Advisers deployed under the framework of the UNSDG
	Other types of field presences

LOCATION

New York
Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico
Central America, Panama and Dominican Republic (Panama City, Panama)
South America (Santiago de Chile, Chile)
Haiti (MINUJUSTH until 15 October 2019; BINUH as of 16 October 2019)
Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Jamaica, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay
Venezuela

LEGEND:

Spotlights:

- Disabilities
- Youth
- Women

Shifts:

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

SDGs:



The work of OHCHR in the region covered 35 countries. The Office supported two regional offices (Central America based in Panama City and South America based in Santiago de Chile); four country offices (Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico); one Human Rights Adviser (HRA) in Jamaica; and nine Human Rights Advisers/Officers in Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, El Salvador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay; and one human rights component in a United Nations Peace Mission in Haiti (MINUJUSTH until 15 October/BINUH as of 16 October). In 2019, the Office led operations towards the establishment of a new field presence in Venezuela.

The year was marked by social grievances that were exacerbated by persistent inequalities and weak institutional trust due to corruption, discriminatory policies and, in some places, by violence generated by organized crime and drug-trafficking. In the last four months of 2019, several countries in the region experienced an increase in social protests and observed patterns of excessive use of force against protesters. Despite some progress that had been made in recent years, impunity related to past and present human rights violations prevails and access to justice remains limited. Amnesty laws, a lack of independence of the judiciary and ongoing corruption continue to be obstacles to justice, redress and reparation.

The defence of human rights continues to be extremely perilous in the region. An alarming number of human rights defenders (HRDs) are reported to have been victims of homicides, attacks, threats, harassment, stigmatization and judicial persecution. There are more HRDs and journalists reportedly killed in this region than anywhere else in the world. Those involved in environmental rights, land

conflicts and members of marginalized groups, such as indigenous peoples, Afrodescendants, peasants and LGBTI activists, are among those who are most at risk. OHCHR continued supporting authorities to strengthen national protection mechanisms and accountability.

During the reporting period, OHCHR continued supporting State institutions, civil society organizations and national human rights organizations (NHRIs) to adopt a human rights perspective to strengthen accountability systems, improve access to justice and reparations for victims of gross human rights violations, expand civic space and support technical cooperation and institution-building. OHCHR's early warning, monitoring and reporting mandate enabled it to identify and assess human rights protection gaps and shortcomings and make appropriate recommendations.

Given the important impact of non-State actors on the human rights situation in the region, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), OHCHR implemented the project "Responsible business conduct in Latin America and the Caribbean." The overarching objective of the project is to promote inclusive and smart economic growth by creating enabling conditions for sustainable businesses and supporting target countries to make responsible business conduct a policy priority. Country-specific activities were implemented in nine countries of the region, namely, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru.

In addition, OHCHR continued to closely monitor and report on the deteriorating human rights situation in Venezuela. In June, the High Commissioner conducted

an official visit to Caracas. In September, OHCHR and the Government of Venezuela signed a Letter of Understanding to establish a framework for cooperation and a presence in the country, including through the deployment of two Human Rights Officers to the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO). In compliance with Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution 39/1, the High Commissioner presented a comprehensive report on the human rights situation, in June. Oral updates were delivered in March and September. HRC resolution 42/4, which was adopted in September, requested that the High Commissioner present another report to the HRC in 2020. HRC resolution 42/25, which was also adopted in September, requested the presentation of a second report in June 2020 and the establishment of an independent international fact-finding mission on Venezuela.

The Regional Office for Central America continued to remotely monitor and report on the human rights situation in Nicaragua and engage with the State and national institutions. In line with Human HRC resolution 40/2, the High Commissioner presented a comprehensive report on the human rights situation in Nicaragua, in September. Oral updates were delivered in June 2019 and March 2020. Monthly bulletins on the human rights situation were also issued by OHCHR. The High Commissioner and the Office maintained a dialogue with senior government officials to obtain access to the country, address specific situations and provide technical assistance, including to the NHRI and National Preventive Mechanism (NPM).

During the period leading up to the 2019 general elections in Bolivia, OHCHR increased its remote human rights monitoring and reporting activities in the country. In response to increased violence and information received about human rights violations and abuses occurring in the electoral context, OHCHR deployed a small team to the country, on 11 November. The team continues to operate under the global OHCHR mandate and as part of the UN system's Peace Consolidation Initiative for Bolivia. OHCHR is working towards ensuring a sustained presence in the country in order to contribute to conflict prevention and the national dialogue.

The Office responded to emerging crises by strengthening early warning and prevention responses. Surge capacity was provided to respond to emerging situations in the Bahamas, Bolivia, Chile and Ecuador. Surge capacity was also provided to OHCHR-Mexico to assist in monitoring and documenting the rapidly evolving human rights situation for people on the move and to the OHCHR presence in Haiti to support the transition of the UN presence. OHCHR actively contributed to prevention mechanisms under the umbrella of the Human Rights up Front (HRuF) Initiative, including in regional monthly reviews, meetings of the Deputies Committee on Prevention and meetings of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. It identified situations in the Americas where there was a potential risk for the deterioration of the protection of human rights and recommended appropriate UN integrated responses.

The region experienced an unprecedented movement of migrants and asylum seekers from different countries/subregions, particularly Central America, Haiti and Venezuela, placing untenable pressure on already stretched resources and services. OHCHR continued to monitor the

impact on human rights of new migration policies, such as the “Safe Third Country Agreements” between the United States of America and several Central American countries. The Office coordinated the work on migrant rights of OHCHR presences, including to contribute to the Comprehensive Development Plan (Plan de Desarrollo Integral) developed by El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, with the support of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and other UN entities in the region. With regard to migration from Venezuela, OHCHR conducted missions to assess the human rights challenges being faced by Venezuelans on the move and the impact of national migration policies. It also cooperated with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on the implementation of capacity-building activities with civil society and NHRIs to address protection issues.

OHCHR maintained close contact with regional organizations, especially the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. This collaboration led to strengthened monitoring and reporting by and capacity-building of HRDs in the region, including two extended press releases on the situation of HRDs in the Americas, three joint meetings with CSOs during the HRC sessions and cooperation on the monitoring of the human rights situation in Nicaragua. During the reporting period, OHCHR also strengthened its partnership with ECLAC, focusing on two main areas. With regard to environmental rights, the Escazú Agreement (on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean) gained 22 signatures and 8 ratifications. The Office and ECLAC also launched a joint publication on *Climate change and human rights: Contributions from Latin America and the Caribbean*. With regard to

migration, a Comprehensive Development Plan is being developed in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador with partners from the UN system under the auspices of ECLAC, to address the root causes of forced human mobility by improving the economic and human rights situation in countries of origin. OHCHR advocated and provided input for the integration of a human rights-based approach (HRBA) into this plan.

BARBADOS

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser for English-speaking Caribbean
Countries of engagement	Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago
Year established	2012
Field office(s)	Bridgetown
UN partnership framework	UN Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework (UN MSDF) in the Caribbean 2017-2021
Staff as of 31 December 2019	1

XB requirements 2019 **US\$125,000**

Key OMP pillars in 2019



PILLAR RESULTS:

Mechanisms (M)

M1 – At least four Caribbean countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Jamaica) have established mechanisms for human rights reporting and follow-up.

16 17

The Office advocated for the establishment of a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF) on the implementation of the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, including by raising awareness and building capacity on human rights reporting and implementation.

Building on 2018 efforts to establish and strengthen the NMRF, OHCHR convened a series of workshops for over 200 government officials working in

social services, the judiciary, law enforcement, finance, child protection and gender affairs in Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The focus of the workshops included human rights mechanisms and human rights reporting, examining recommendations from human rights mechanisms, methodologies for drafting reports to the human rights treaty bodies, good practices in establishing and managing the NMRF, linking human rights recommendations to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national development plans and developing human rights action plans. These workshops resulted in the completion of reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Committee

on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and, in the case of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the development of an action plan to implement human rights recommendations. Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines requested support from the Office in developing a National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD).

Non-discrimination (ND)

ND1 – In at least three countries (Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago), laws and policies protect the rights of women, persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV, LGBTI persons and religious minorities.

5 10 16 

The Office contributed to increasing the level of compliance of legislation and policy with international human rights norms and standards in relation to the rights of LGBTI persons and persons with disabilities in three countries of the subregion.

Building on previous efforts to support the rights of LGBTI persons and persons with disabilities in Barbados, the Office supported the first joint consultation on the socio economic and cultural inclusion of LGBTI persons in the Caribbean region, which took place in Bridgetown, Barbados, in October. The consultation was led by Mr. Victor Madrigal-Borloz, the UN Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and Ms. Flavia Piovesan, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights Rapporteur on the rights of LGBTI persons. The consultation provided an opportunity for the experts to become familiar with good practices and many of the barriers people face in gaining access to education, housing, health,

employment and justice. It also provided a forum for LGBTI persons and other stakeholders to share their perspectives and experiences on these issues. In addition, OHCHR participated in the Global Convening on the Decriminalization of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, in Barbados, during which international participants discussed various litigation strategies that have been used to challenge anti-LGBTI legislation across the world. In Saint Kitts and Nevis, the Office provided technical assistance and advice to the USAID/UNDP project entitled “Being LGBTI in the Caribbean: Reducing inequality and exclusion experienced by LGBTI people.” The project addressed LGBTI issues in the region from a development perspective. It also contextualized these issues against the backdrop of civil society capacity-development, community mobilization and government engagement.

In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, OHCHR provided training to government officials on their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and their implementation at the national level. In Barbados, the Office conducted a workshop for government officials and civil society representatives on CRPD, the rights of persons with disabilities and SDG implementation, with an emphasis on reforming discriminatory laws and practices. Regrettably, no progress was made in relation to the draft disabilities policy, which has been pending before the Cabinet in Saint Kitts and Nevis since the end of 2018. Similarly, no progress was reported regarding the pending legislation on disabilities in Barbados and Suriname.

Finally, OHCHR organized a photo competition for young people, in Barbados, to celebrate Human Rights Day. Young people were invited to submit a photo

that depicted what the “Leaving No One Behind” (LNOB) principle meant to them within the human rights context of their respective countries in order to explore anti-discrimination and inclusion. The competition received over 40 entries from participants ranging in age from 10 to 19 years. Their photographs touched on the themes of racism, gender inequality, social exclusion, the rights of persons with disabilities and the elderly.



Accountability (A)

A1 – In at least one country (Jamaica), law enforcement authorities and the judiciary have adopted in-house training on human rights. Barbados, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have taken steps to provide human rights training to law enforcement officials.

16



OHCHR supported the institutionalization of human rights training in key human rights areas.

Within the framework of a larger effort to sensitize law enforcement officials about gender equality issues and to assess progress made in Saint Lucia and in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to address domestic and gender-based violence (GBV), OHCHR conducted capacity-building workshops for over 30 police officers and immigration officials on gender equality in national legislation and law enforcement. The workshops enabled participants to reflect and provide feedback on some of the cultural and institutional challenges faced in addressing family and domestic violence, sexual harassment and marital rape.

CENTRAL AMERICA, PANAMA AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama
Year established	2007
Field office(s)	Panama City, Panama
Staff as of 31 December 2019	16

Total income	US\$939,557		
XB requirements 2019	US\$1,990,000		
Total XB expenditure	US\$1,147,333		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ¹	
68%	21%	11%	
\$776,205	\$239,417	\$131,711	
Total RB expenditure	US\$1,052,858		
Personnel	Non-personnel		
90%	10%		
\$949,098	\$103,760		

Key OMP pillars in 2019



¹ Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.208.

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability (A)

A2 – The Attorney General’s Office increasingly investigates and prosecutes cases of human rights violations to combat past and present impunity.

10 **16** 

Through capacity-building, technical assistance and an exchange of experiences with public prosecutors offices, OHCHR contributed to the enhanced capacity of the Attorney General’s Office in **El Salvador** to investigate and prosecute human rights violations as a means to combat past and present impunity, in

compliance with international human rights norms. This was evidenced in a number of emblematic cases, such as the “Mozote’s Massacre case.”

In El Salvador, following the 2018 adoption of the Policy on the Investigation and Criminal Prosecution of Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes Constituting Serious Violations of Human Rights Committed in the El Salvador Armed Conflict by the Attorney General, in 2019, the Office developed an Action Plan to facilitate its implementation. This road map for the Attorney General’s Office has

been crucial in combating impunity and guaranteeing redress for victims.

OHCHR also provided advice and technical assistance on transitional justice issues to CSOs through a “Platform to combat impunity” in order to coordinate efforts to address impunity and increase their capacity to represent the interests of victims in criminal matters.

Throughout 2019, OHCHR provided technical assistance and advice to the Legislative Assembly in the context of the consultation process on the proposed National Reconciliation Law to ensure its legitimacy and compliance with international human rights instruments. The draft has been the subject of public criticism, including in two statements issued by the High Commissioner for Human Rights. This was followed by a series of other statements from international/national human rights organizations that indicated that the draft violated the decision of the Supreme Court’s Constitutional Chamber and was not in line with international human rights law. The Legislative Assembly was granted an extension to revise the draft, until 28 February 2020, providing it with a second chance to fully address the concerns raised in the Court’s rulings.

The visit of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence generated opportunities for significant advancements in the area of transitional justice. Following meetings with authorities, victims and CSOs, the Special Rapporteur issued a preliminary report with recommendations for State institutions. The report highlights that transitional justice is not an issue of the past, that violence and impunity in the present has its roots in impunity of the armed conflict and that the only way to build a society that is free of violence and to consolidate the rule

of law is through the implementation of an adequate comprehensive policy on truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence. It also addresses necessary institutional reforms.

The Public Forum entitled “Unearthing the truth: The search for disappeared persons in the context of the armed conflict in El Salvador,” organized by OHCHR, in May, provided an opportunity to present and validate the National Plan for the Search for Disappeared Persons.

OHCHR’s report on the *Forced disappearance of persons in El Salvador in the context of the armed conflict*, which was published and presented in January 2020, constitutes one of the main tools to enhance accountability for grave human rights violations. The report provides essential input to the elaboration of more effective plans, strategies and working methodologies related to the search for and identification of disappeared persons and the dignified return of the remains of those who are deceased to their families.

A1 – A mobile monitoring team has been established that strengthens OHCHR’s capacity to gather information on the human rights situation in countries of the region and report on cases and situations; its work enables the international community to make more effective representations to Government on a wide range of concerns.

16

OHCHR conducted remote monitoring on the human rights situation in **Nicaragua** and issued bi-monthly bulletins and regular updates to the HRC, in accordance with resolution 40/2. It also presented a public report to the forty-third session of the HRC and

addressed urgent individual cases and situations with the Government.

In **El Salvador**, OHCHR conducted a study on due process and human rights violations linked to the rights of women facing trials for crimes related to abortion. As a follow-up to observations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, OHCHR systematized information on the situation of HRDs, journalists, LGBTI activists, internally displaced persons (IDPs), migrants, persons in detention and other individuals and groups in situations of vulnerability.

OHCHR reviewed 20 judicial files regarding the cases of women serving long prison sentences for homicide convictions after suffering obstetric emergencies. It also engaged with key stakeholders to advocate for the release of women in cases where there is a lack of sufficient evidence and shortcomings related to international standards of due process. Due to coordinated efforts, five women were released after the Supreme Court of Justice commuted their sentences.

A3 – The decisions of judicial institutions increasingly reference international human rights standards and principles of gender equality in cases of femicide and violence against women.



OHCHR promoted the use of national protection systems in compliance with international human rights norms and standards through capacity-building and advocacy efforts.

In **Costa Rica**, OHCHR cooperated with the Attorney General’s Office to strengthen the capacities of public prosecutors, forensic experts, psychologists, police officers and social

workers to identify negative gender stereotypes and refrain from applying those stereotypes while conducting their investigative functions. These interventions paved the way for the development of a guide on national protocols for judges on judicial gender stereotyping, which was undertaken in coordination with the Gender Secretariat of the Judiciary and the National Bar Association of Judges.

In **El Salvador**, the Office collaborated with UN Women to support the Attorney General’s Office in the elaboration of a draft Investigative Protocol on Femicide to ensure the effective investigation of femicide cases. The Protocol will constitute a new tool in tackling these cases and envisions increased cooperation between key institutions in charge of the investigation of these crimes, including public prosecutors, the police and forensic personnel. The final version of the Investigative Protocol is expected to be concluded during 2020.

During 2019, the Office continued to promote the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of the gender-related killings of women. Virtual training courses were available in **Costa Rica** and **El Salvador** to reinforce the capacities of key judicial authorities in the investigation of femicide cases. OHCHR continued its advisory role in UN regional inter-agency settings and in national inter-agency groups on gender in **Costa Rica, El Salvador** and **Panama**.

Non-discrimination (ND)

ND5 – States, civil society and the public increasingly recognize that hate speech, disseminated via digital platforms such as social media, fuels discrimination and other human rights abuses, undermining efforts to achieve the SDGs.

9

OHCHR contributed to a significant improvement of the narrative on selected human rights issues.

OHCHR supported the global campaign #IStandWithHer to highlight the work of women's human rights defenders (WHRDs). A particular focus on women defenders of sexual and reproductive health rights in the Central America region, as well as women indigenous leaders in **Panama**, enhanced their visibility and contributed to their empowerment and leadership.

Similarly, under the UN Free & Equal campaign, the Office launched a sub-regional campaign, in May, that was aimed at raising awareness about the human rights concerns of LGBTI persons in Central American countries and advocating for the adoption of adequate public policies and legislation to tackle discrimination, stigma and violence against this population in **Costa Rica**, **El Salvador** and **Panama**. Furthermore, OHCHR partnered with EFE to produce and disseminate four videos that feature the stories of LGBTI activists from **Costa Rica**, **El Salvador**, **Honduras** and **Panama** and promote their work in their respective countries.

The Regional Forum on emerging challenges to the human rights of LGBTI persons, which was organized by Fundación Iguales with OHCHR's support, highlighted the need to address the situation of LGBTI persons in the context

of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the importance of the inclusion of LGBTI persons in public development policies for the achievement of all SDGs under the LNOB principle.

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

ND6 – Official migration policies and programmes recognize the need to protect the human rights of migrants, especially those who are in situations of vulnerability, and have taken steps to do so.



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

Through monitoring activities, in cooperation with the Defensoria del Pueblo, the Office documented the dire humanitarian situation of migrants in transit and their lack of access to health, food, water, sanitation and adequate shelter in the region. In addition, although migrants were regularly victims of robbery, assaults,

killings and sexual abuses during their transit in the deep rainforest bordering **Colombia** and **Panama**, the cases were not promptly investigated. OHCHR advocated with authorities for the human rights of migrants, including their fundamental right to access to justice. The Office also shared its findings with the UN Country Team (UNCT) to ensure the integration of a human rights perspective into the humanitarian response.

OHCHR enhanced access to justice for migrants who were victims of crimes during their transit in **El Salvador**. Specifically, the Office facilitated the engagement of CSOs and families of disappeared migrants with the Attorney General's Office, the National Migration Institution and the NHRI to raise awareness about the human rights violations that were committed against migrants and to involve them in the investigations and searching process of disappearance cases in the region.

In **Costa Rica**, OHCHR contributed to preventing the adoption of a draft bill that could have negatively affected the rights of migrants. It submitted a technical note detailing international human rights standards on migration and the Resident Coordinator (RC) presented the document to the Parliament.

The Office also contributed to raising the awareness of the international human rights mechanisms and special procedures about the human rights situation of migrants and asylum seekers in the region. The High Commissioner for called on the States in Central America to enhance the protection of migrants in transit and ensure the inclusion of international human rights standards in legislation and policy.

OHCHR strongly advocated for the inclusion of an HRBA in the Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) for **El Salvador**,

Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, which is being prepared with the technical support of ECLAC. The Office collaborated with other UN agencies to develop a strategy to support the implementation of the CDP.

Peace and Security (PS)

PS5 – The Regional Office has increased its capacity to gather, analyse and manage information relevant to early warning, advocacy and response to critical situations of violence and insecurity; as a result, it has contributed significantly to key regional and national processes and discussions. Relevant security institutions receive political and technical advice enabling them to protect citizens' security in a manner that complies with international human rights standards.

3 5 8 10 13 16 17 

OHCHR worked to significantly improve the level of compliance of legislation and policy with international human rights norms and standards in specific policy areas, including by monitoring and reporting on human rights situations, providing technical advice and promoting human rights issues.

In **Nicaragua**, the Office issued monthly bulletins to inform the international community, Nicaraguan authorities and CSOs about patterns of human rights violations. This contributed to actions that were undertaken by the international community to prevent further violations, including the adoption of HRC resolution 40/2, in March. Remote monitoring activities provided essential inputs to oral updates and the drafting of a High Commissioner's report on the human rights situation in Nicaragua to the HRC. The information was used by the special procedures to initiate a number of

targeted actions, including communications that were sent to the Government requesting information on specific cases, and informed a joint public statement. In addition, information was provided to the human rights treaty bodies, including in the context of the adoption of lists of issues prior to reporting. Based on this information, the High Commissioner and OHCHR publicly expressed concerns about particular issues, including an amnesty law and the rights of victims of gross human rights violations, through three press releases and at three press briefings.

Mechanisms (M)

M2 – Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and UN Country Teams have increased by at least 25 per cent the number of contributions they submit to the UN human rights mechanisms.

17

OHCHR contributed to increasing the number of substantive reports submitted to the human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) by the NHRI, CSOs, individuals and UN entities.

OHCHR reinforced its cooperation with the United Nations Development Coordination Office's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (DCO LAC) to strengthen the capacity of the UN to effectively prevent and respond to human rights violations and crises by supporting the mainstreaming of human rights into the work of DCO LAC with regional coordinators and UNCTs in the region. Specifically, OHCHR participated in the Peer Support Group to UNCTs to provide the necessary tools to introduce an HRBA into their planning and integrate

international human rights recommendations into their planning processes, namely, the Common Country Analysis (CCA) and cooperation frameworks.

The Office also participated in the drafting group to update the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Common Learning Package to ensure that an HRBA is integrated into development so that it is in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This update is crucial as the Guidance for the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) identifies an HRBA as one of its six guiding principles.

In **Belize**, the Office provided inputs on the 2019 revision of the national implementation programme, with the aim of strengthening the capacities of key stakeholders to improve the compliance of legislation and policies with human rights obligations and standards.

In **Panama**, OHCHR supported civil society organizations and indigenous peoples' organizations to participate in the country's third UPR cycle by building their capacity to effectively use this mechanism and create spaces for dialogue and coordination in the preparation of CSO contributions. The NHRI of Panama was also trained on how to contribute to and participate in the third UPR cycle.

In **El Salvador**, the Office facilitated the process of discussing recommendations issued during the second UPR cycle with the UNCT, the Office of the Procurator for the Defence of Human Rights (the NHRI of El Salvador) and CSOs on issues related to citizen security, justice, women's rights and the LGBTI population. These three stakeholders submitted contributions to the third UPR cycle and actively participated in the follow-up to the interactive dialogue.

Furthermore, the Office contributed to the participation of non-traditional actors (organizational structures of indigenous peoples and committees of relatives of missing migrants) through the submission of information to the human rights treaty bodies and special procedures.

In **Costa Rica**, OHCHR, through the Regional Gender Adviser's participation in the UNCT's Interagency Gender Working Group, supported the UNCT to report to CEDAW, under the follow-up procedure related to the Committee's 2017 concluding observations on Costa Rica (under article 18 of the CEDAW Convention).

In the **Dominican Republic**, the Office strengthened the capacity of the Government and CSOs to prepare and submit reports to the Committee against Torture (CAT) and CEDAW and take better advantage of the UPR follow-up process through a workshop organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

COLOMBIA

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
50.34 million	1,142,000 km ²	0.761 (78/188 in 2018)	Status A, 2017

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	1997
Field office(s)	Bogotá, Barrancabermeja, Barranquilla, Cali, Cúcuta, Florencia, Medellín, Mocoa, Neiva, Quibdó, Villavicencio; Apartadó, Buenaventura, Montería, Tumaco (satellite offices); Arauca, Amazonas (presences)
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2015-2019
Staff as of 31 December 2019	66

Total income	US\$7,746,815	
XB requirements 2019	US\$14,543,000	
Total XB expenditure	US\$9,028,750	
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴
70%	19%	11%
\$6,315,078	\$1,694,305	\$1,019,366

Key OMP pillars in 2019



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

PILLAR RESULTS:

Peace and Security (PS)

PS4 – Transitional justice mechanisms increase accountability for conflict-related violations of human rights and humanitarian law.

16

The Office contributed to strengthening the capacity of the transitional justice mechanisms to incorporate international standards on the participation of victims into the different procedures they have established.

Building on its cooperation with the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) in 2018, the Office continued to strengthen the internal operations of the JEP and its capacity to respond to the demands and expectations of victims. It did so by providing technical assistance to the JEP, which included reinforcing its analytical and methodological capacities to address and process serious human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law that constitute international crimes.

In addition, OHCHR continued to support the JEP Chamber for the Acknowledgement of the Truth and Responsibility in its preparations to open hearings on Case No. 003 relating to the practice of the Colombian Army to present extrajudicial executions as combatants killed in combat. OHCHR is currently working with four magistrates and their teams as they document cases in various military brigades and prepare their case management strategy. This support will help to strengthen their capacity to process serious human rights violations in prioritized cases.

Following the groundwork laid during the last reporting period for the substantive and operative implementation of the Commission for the Clarification of Truth, Coexistence and Non-Recurrence (CEV), OHCHR promoted and increased the capacity of the CEV to use analytical and methodological tools to comply with the State's international obligations and the mandate of the Commission through 17 technical assistance meetings. Furthermore, the Office provided risk maps, stakeholder mapping and context analysis from 27 regional meetings for the preparation of updated contexts and stakeholder maps that will enable the CEV to conduct more accurate risk assessments before undertaking activities and interventions in the regions. OHCHR periodically met with the CEV's regional and national teams in Arauca, Cesar, Cucuta, Magdalena and Meta.

OHCHR 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 its analytical capacities 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, the Office 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.

To support the work of the regional UBPD teams, OHCHR conducted a stakeholder mapping and context analysis exercise. To this end, it accompanied teams in the documentation of cases of disappeared persons and obtained contextual information from former FARC-EP members who are being held in reclusion centres.

OHCHR also contributed to improving the UBPD's strategy on prevention and protection by hiring an expert consultant to formulate relevant guidelines, develop procedures to guarantee safe conditions for the field operation and establish partnerships with other UN agencies, services or departments (UNMAS and UNDSS).

Participation (P)

P2 – Institutions that are responsible for the protection of human rights defenders investigate and prosecute crimes against human rights defenders that are brought to their attention by OHCHR.



Relevant actors positively addressed an increasing proportion of human rights violations cases that were identified by OHCHR.

During the reporting period, there was a reported increase in the violations of the rights of HRDs that often led to their deaths. At the same time, the institution responsible for protecting

these groups has not demonstrated an increase in the delivery of effective protection measures.

OHCHR's contributions to the Committee for Risk Assessment and Recommendation of Measures (CERREM) during the reporting period aimed to strengthen the Pathway for Collective Prevention, which would enable government institutions to adopt informed measures in response to threats being faced by HRDs. To date, OHCHR has conducted 23 workshops for 952 leaders and HRDs across the country to explain and disseminate the legislation and characteristics of the protection route (requirements, procedures and responsibilities) to local authorities and communities. In addition, OHCHR continued to provide assistance related to requests for individual protection. The CERREM submitted information provided by the field presences to relevant institutions. In 2019, the Office participated in 58 sessions of the CERREM and presented a total of 7,214 cases for risk assessment to determine the level of risk (extreme, extraordinary, ordinary).

Between January and December, OHCHR received reports regarding 186 cases of homicides of HRDs. OHCHR confirmed that 103 of these victims were HRDs. In 73 cases, the victims were not carrying out human rights work when they were killed and 10 cases are being verified. The cases were reported to the Office of the Attorney General, prioritized by the Delegate for Public Safety and assigned an assistant prosecutor from the Special Investigative Unit. These actions were part of a strategy to promote the prosecution of cases of the homicides of HRDs.

P1 – Relevant national, regional and local institutions apply a human rights-based approach in public policies and programmes that result from implementation of the Peace Accords; they emphasize participation and accountability in particular.

16



OHCHR contributed to improving the level of compliance of legislation and policy with international human rights norms and standards through technical assistance, guidance and monitoring activities.

Although the drafting of the National Action Plan on Human Rights (NAPHR) first began in 2018, under the direction of the Presidential Council on Human Rights and with support from OHCHR, the process has yielded limited results. The joint drafting of the document was suspended at the beginning of 2019. The Presidential Council then prepared its own document, in coordination with different ministries and other public institutions, which was presented to civil society organizations and OHCHR, in September. OHCHR reiterated its commitment to working with the State to improve the human rights situation in the country and will continue to offer technical assistance to the Government and civil society in the development of the NAPHR.

The Ministry of the Interior led the formulation of the “Public policy on respect and guarantees for the work of human rights defenders in Colombia.” During the year, the Ministry convened 11 monthly meetings with human rights platforms and public officials from different government and State institutions. At the request of the parties, OHCHR provided advice during the process. Regrettably, the regional processes that were supported by the Ministry of the Interior did not guarantee broad-based participation.

Consequently, the human rights platforms (i.e., the primary Colombian NGO coalitions) withdrew from the process and the Office decided to suspend its technical assistance until the dialogue is resumed between civil society and the Government.

The bills that were introduced in 2019 to revive the special transitory constituencies for peace suffered the same fate as those presented the previous year and the legislative process was not completed. The Office subsequently increased its support to the Office of the National Procurator, resulting in a joint analysis of the situation, which recommended that the Government guarantee the participation of victims in Congress. OHCHR will continue to monitor this issue.

OHCHR followed the social protests and mobilizations that took centre stage in the second half of 2019 and maintained contact with some of the protest leaders. The Office facilitated a unified front in response to the mobilizations, together with the country’s control entities (National Procurator, National Ombudsperson, Municipal Ombudsperson), to generate increased protection and deter further violence. The Office is closely monitoring some of the paradigmatic cases involving allegations that the State response included acts of violence and an excessive use of force.

P6 – Victims, indigenous peoples and women participate more fully in decisions that concern them.



OHCHR strengthened the establishment of spaces for the meaningful participation of rights-holders, especially victims, ethnic groups, women and LGBTI

persons, in various public processes through advocacy, technical assistance and capacity-building.

Building on its support in 2018, 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). In this regard, the Office supported spaces and opportunities for direct dialogue with the SIVJRNR mechanisms, including through participatory assessments and collective and individual interviews. It also advocated for the establishment of additional spaces for training and a reflection on the scope and content of the SIVJRNR mechanisms, including through regional workshops. More concretely, OHCHR 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 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, OHCHR 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.

OHCHR provided technical assistance to the indigenous round-table of Putumayo that was organized to prepare

15 indigenous peoples from Putumayo to participate in the SIVJNR. This enabled the participants to directly engage with the JEP and learn how the ethnic approach is being incorporated into its work, thereby providing them with tools and methodologies to present recommendations to this organism.

Building on the results achieved in 2018, the protocols of indigenous peoples on interactions with third parties were further consolidated as tools to guarantee the rights of indigenous peoples and Afrodescendant communities to participate in the decisions that affect them and to strengthen the special indigenous jurisdiction. More specifically, after two communities of indigenous peoples and one community of Afrodescendant persons presented these protocols to the Ministry of the Interior as a viable option that would guarantee their rights, the Ministry provided support to the three communities for the formulation of the protocols. This action was in compliance with recent recommendations issued by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the UPR to promote the implementation of the protocols.

OHCHR promoted and strengthened six processes with women's organizations and two with LGBTI organizations to improve their capacity to engage with the State and society to demand the realization of their rights and overcome the barriers stemming from discrimination and gender-based violence in the departments of Antioquia, Bolívar, Córdoba, Huila, Putumayo and Tolima. In Bolívar and Meta, municipal and departmental institutions took steps to guarantee the participation of women in amending procedures to access and uphold the rights of women who are victims of sexual violence and/or enforced disappearance.

Development (D)

D4 – The policies and programmes of the comprehensive health assistance system (MIAS) and the comprehensive indigenous intercultural health system (SISPI) increasingly comply with human rights standards.

3 **5**

OHCHR supported the Government to ensure that SISPI and the model for integration action in the territories (MAITE), which replaced MIAS, in October, increasingly comply with human rights standards, therefore enabling populations in situations of vulnerability to more fully participate in realizing their right to health.

The Ministry of Health presented a draft resolution on MAITE as the framework for the integrated health care policy. This change in policy raises concerns, including with regard to the transition of some projects from one system to the other and the lack of coordination of MAITE with SISPI in ethnic territories, such as Chocó.

OHCHR has been working with indigenous peoples and Afrodescendant communities in Amazonas, Chocó and Putumayo to document the impact of MAITE on the right to health, drinking water and the environment. It has also been providing technical assistance to develop strategies to address the negative consequences. In particular, OHCHR has sought to ensure that this information is reflected in different public policies, such as SISPI, MAITE, the National Mercury Plan and the Mercury Plan for the Health Sector.

In addition, OHCHR has coordinated with the regional offices of the Office of the Ombudsperson and the Delegate Ombudsperson on Collective and

Environmental Rights to monitor and make recommendations on compliance with judicial rulings, which ordered the adoption of measures to address environmental damage. These decisions include the Constitutional Court rulings T-730/2017 and SU 128/18 on contamination caused by hydro-carbons and Sentence 2018-00319-01 (4360), of 5 April 2018, of the Supreme Court Cassation Chamber, which declared the Amazon region as a subject of rights.

OHCHR conducted an assessment of the implementation of MAITE in Bolívar and Meta in relation to women's rights, especially women victims of sexual violence and/or enforced disappearance. On the basis of this assessment (lack of basic knowledge of proceedings, conflict of competencies, barriers to women in rural areas reporting incidents of GBV), OHCHR proposed a plan to work with the Fundación Saldarriaga Concha to disseminate MAITE among authorities and advance the implementation of the RIAS (pathways for integrated health care).

GUATEMALA

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
17.58 million	109,000 km ²	0.651 (rank: 127/188 in 2018)	Status A, 2018

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	2005
Field office(s)	Guatemala City
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2015-2019
Staff as of 31 December 2019	29

Total income	US\$5,266,379	
XB requirements 2019	US\$5,133,000	
Total XB expenditure	US\$4,291,918	
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC⁴
68%	21%	11%
\$2,910,781	\$909,274	\$471,863

Key OMP pillars in 2019



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

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability (A)

A1 – The Attorney General’s Office, the Public Defence Institute, the judiciary, the Constitutional Court, Congress, and key State institutions increasingly integrate human rights standards in their policies and decisions. National and international civil society organizations, the Congress, and other actors, advocate for abolition of the death penalty and ratification of the second optional protocol of the ICCPR.

16

OHCHR contributed to the compliance of five State institutions with international human rights norms and standards.

In 2019, OHCHR strengthened the capacities of the judiciary and prosecutors on transitional justice. Specifically, the Office assisted the Judicial Studies School to finalize the development of a training module on transitional justice. This module aims at building the capacity of justice system operators, primarily judges and prosecutors, to tackle systemic issues of impunity for human rights violations that occurred during the internal armed conflict.

In addition, the Office monitored the first hearings of two emblematic cases on genocide committed during the internal armed conflict. OHCHR provided technical assistance to justice operators

and victims’ legal representatives on relevant international human rights standards. OHCHR closely cooperated with the Attorney General’s Office (AGO), the National Human Rights Commission (the NHRI) and NGOs to promote the right of victims to access to justice. This has increased the capacities of victims to claim their rights to justice, truth and reparation and to fight for guarantees of non-recurrence.

OHCHR collaborated with the NHRI, the AGO and NGOs to support the preservation and protection of the Historical Archives of the National Civil Police, which contains over 80 million documents and critical information on severe human rights violations that were committed during the internal armed conflict. The Archives are crucial for both the litigation of transitional justice cases and the historical memory of the country.

OHCHR organized a series of training courses for the AGO, the Constitutional Court, the Public Defence Institute and the judiciary, thereby enhancing the capacities of the participants to effectively apply international human rights standards in cases involving indigenous peoples, women and vulnerable groups.

With technical assistance from OHCHR, the Court and the Ministry of Education developed and implemented a training programme for teachers and children about the human rights of the child in the Constitution. The Court also collaborated with OHCHR to present a child-friendly version of the Constitution in the Garifuna language in Livingston, Izabal. Following up on this work, the Court developed and launched a policy for access to constitutional justice for populations in situations of vulnerability.

OHCHR closely monitored the election process of judges to the High Courts and provided technical assistance to

relevant actors, including members of the nominating commissions and CSOs on international human rights standards. OHCHR supported the Judicial Career Council on international standards related to the performance evaluation of judges.

Furthermore, OHCHR monitored congressional discussions on various law initiatives and raised awareness at the national and international levels about serious risks of regression if certain bills under consideration were adopted due to their lack of compliance with international human rights standards. In January and March, the High Commissioner issued public statements denouncing the proposed reforms to the National Reconciliation Law, which would grant general amnesty for crimes committed during the internal armed conflict. The Office similarly denounced amendments to the Law on Non-Governmental Organizations for Development, which would introduce requirements and administrative controls for NGOs that could be applied in a discretionary or arbitrary manner to limit the activities of CSOs and curtail their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly. Other bills of concern would place limits on the sexual and reproductive rights of women and the right to freedom from discrimination based on sexual orientation. Finally, the Office monitored the discussions of the 2020 budget in light of serious concerns about a further reduction in the allocation of resources for the social sector. The budget was not adopted.



Non-discrimination (ND)

ND1 – Indigenous peoples, women, and other groups subject to discrimination make use of strategic litigation to demand their rights and hold to account individuals and institutions that violate human rights.



OHCHR provided expert methodological and legal support to increase the knowledge of 37 organizations working on the rights of indigenous peoples, Afrodescendants, women and girls and persons with disabilities about relevant international human rights standards and the potential for strategic litigation.

The Office also developed and shared a practical tool for lawyers on strategic litigation based on emblematic cases related to the defence of the rights of indigenous peoples to land, territory and natural resources. As a result of these efforts, organizations and communities initiated legal proceedings to claim their rights. For example, the National Council of Women Weavers brought a claim against the Guatemalan Tourism Institute, in February, for cultural appropriation and the misrepresentation and inappropriate use of the imagery of indigenous peoples and their cultures in advertising.

Following the tragic volcano eruption in 2018, OHCHR provided technical assistance on access to housing and land to the victims of the affected indigenous communities. In coordination with the victims' lawyers, the Office provided support on the integration of international human rights standards into reparation agreements.

OHCHR continued providing technical assistance to the three organizations working with the families and survivors of the tragic 2017 orphanage fire, "Hogar

Seguro Virgen de la Asunción," in order to prepare legal, psychosocial and communication strategies for the case. The Office monitored the public hearings of the case throughout the year and met with survivors and their families to enhance their knowledge of human rights and ensure their active and informed participation in all decision-making processes.

Building on work it had undertaken in previous years, OHCHR provided technical assistance to 11 indigenous organizations, including those representing indigenous women and communities, with regard to litigation cases on the rights to land, territory, natural resources, intercultural education, health and collective intellectual property. This support contributed to favourable judicial decisions being handed down in all 11 cases. Three of the cases led to positive policy changes. In all 11 cases, OHCHR's technical assistance helped to strengthen the capacity of rights-holders to advocate with relevant State institutions at the national and local levels and ensure their participation in the implementation of judicial decisions.

For example, after the Constitutional Court recognized the right of the community of San José Poaquil to administer their own land and territories, OHCHR worked with the Indigenous Authorities of San José Poaquil to strengthen and enhance their capacities to fully exercise this right, including through the development of a census and a community-led cadastre.

Furthermore, OHCHR contributed to building a network of community radios, while strengthening their advocacy skills and developing strategies to prevent criminalization. Technical assistance was provided on legislative reforms to ensure the right to freedom of expression of indigenous peoples.

INDIGENOUS MIDWIVES IN GUATEMALA: DEFENDERS OF LIFE

Indigenous midwives in Guatemala play a fundamental role in the integral health and ancestral health system of indigenous women, their families and communities. Indigenous peoples account for 43.6 per cent of the population.

The Ministry of Health estimates that the maternal death rate of indigenous women is more than double that of non-indigenous women. They face multiple challenges due to linguistic and cultural barriers, extreme poverty and long distances to public health services.

It is within this context that midwives provide culturally relevant family planning services, prenatal, childbirth, postpartum and neonatal care, in their own languages.

“The beneficiaries are women, children and the general population because the public health system does not reach them,” says Fermina López, coordinator of Asociación Ixmucané, an indigenous women’s NGO.

Despite their crucial role, indigenous midwives have documented multiple human rights concerns, including discrimination, ill-treatment and disqualification by the public health system. Their patients have reported acts of obstetric violence in that system.

Since 2014, with financial support from Canada and Norway, OHCHR has strengthened the capacities of indigenous midwives to claim their rights.

In 2016, indigenous midwives initiated strategic litigation to demand the sexual and reproductive rights of indigenous women, recognition and respect for their work and an end to the discrimination and violence they face in the public health system. They also requested basic care materials, such as alcohol, scissors and stethoscopes.

On 27 March, the Constitutional Court established nine reparation measures to be implemented by the Ministry of Health, in consensus with midwives, to ensure the customs, languages and traditions of indigenous women are fully integrated into maternal health care services in their communities. OHCHR is working closely with the NHRI and midwives organizations to promote the implementation of the ruling.

Finally, with OHCHR’s support, indigenous midwives of the Quiché and Totonicapán regions developed an advocacy plan on protocols and procedures to facilitate their inclusion in the provision of obstetric and gynaecological and neonatal care in the public health system. In 2020, the strategy will be piloted in Quiché and Totonicapán before being implemented across the country.

ND1 – National laws, policies and practices take a human rights-based approach, and in particular respect the rights of indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, women, LGBTI persons, and other groups that experience discrimination.



Through technical assistance, OHCHR contributed to increasing the capacity of 14 key State institutions to apply international human rights standards in relation to the collective rights of indigenous peoples and the rights of persons with disabilities, women, LGBTI persons and vulnerable groups and to eliminate all types of discrimination.

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

OHCHR provided technical assistance and capacity-building to the Congress Board on Indigenous Peoples (CBIP), including the revision of proposed legislation on the collective intellectual property rights of indigenous women weavers. The CBIP is composed of representatives from the Presidential Commission against Discrimination

and Racism, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of the Economy, the NHRI and indigenous women weavers. The legislation was introduced in response to a decision handed down by the Constitutional Court in a strategic litigation case that was brought by indigenous women weavers, in 2017, with the support of OHCHR. Throughout 2019, the Office provided technical assistance for the revision of the legislation and strengthened the knowledge of the CBIP on international human rights standards and collective property rights. In order to ensure their effective participation in this process, OHCHR supported the national movement of women weavers, strengthened the local councils of women weavers and built alliances with indigenous authorities at the local and national levels.

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

In June, OHCHR prepared guidance on the international standards related to decent work and the labour rights of persons with disabilities (PwDs). This document is a practical tool designed to assist public servants. In addition, the Office conducted a survey on access to work for PwDs, in August, to identify good practices and gaps within the NHRI, the Ministry of Labour and the National Council for Persons with Disabilities. A specific assessment was prepared for each institution on the basis of the survey results, which in turn formed the basis for suggestions and recommendations on internal reforms to improve accessibility for workers with disabilities.

Development (D)

D3 – Selected State institutions incorporate international human rights standards more consistently in their interventions and policies on land, housing, poverty and related rights.



OHCHR contributed to improving the compliance with international human rights norms and standards of five policy areas.

OHCHR provided technical assistance to the AGO, the Presidential Commission on Human Rights (COPREDEH) and the NHRI to develop their institutional protocols on forced evictions, in line with international human rights standards, and to carry out an assessment of the human rights impact of forced evictions, with a focus on serious human rights violations.

With OHCHR's technical assistance, the NHRI and national organizations developed a strategy to monitor the implementation of a judicial decision on the violation of the right to food

of five children affected by malnutrition in Camotán, Chiquimula (<https://bit.ly/2M9uCOo>). In October, the first follow-up joint report on monitoring the implementation of the judicial decision was presented to relevant State authorities.

Throughout the year, OHCHR documented eight cases, involving at least 4,000 agricultural workers, of labour exploitation in the agricultural sector (particularly in palm tree plantations). The Office provided technical assistance to local organizations in the presentation of complaints to the International Certifiers Organization. Likewise, the Office documented child labour cases in the coffee and sugar sectors, as well as other possible violations of human rights and labour standards in monoculture plantations of the western regions of the country. OHCHR followed up on these cases with relevant State authorities. In addition, OHCHR documented 47 cases of the contamination of rivers caused by the activities of the agricultural industries.

D7 – The SDG strategies of UN entities, the evaluation of the 2014-2019 UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), and the design of its successor (2020-2024), integrate a human rights-based approach.

OHCHR contributed to the extent to which specific programmes of UN entities apply the UN's Common Understanding on a Human Rights-Based Approach to Development Cooperation.

As the lead of the Inter-Agency Human Rights Group in 2019, OHCHR provided inputs, suggested substantive revisions and advocated for the application of a human rights-based approach through the analysis and planning of the CCA.

The Office developed a specific section in the CCA about the rights of indigenous peoples and relevant international human rights law and standards. In coordination with other UN agencies of the Human Rights Group, a section on migration and people on the move was included in the CCA to raise awareness about the significant protection needs of all people on the move and to enhance the work of the UNCT in this regard.

OHCHR substantively contributed to the drafting of the new UNSDCF 2020-2024. Between October 2018 and December 2019, the Office participated in at least 15 multisectoral meetings and events with government officials, as well as consultations with the UNCT and various sectors of society, including six consultations that were held to discuss the application of an HRBA with rights-holders and CSOs, such as indigenous peoples, youth and CSOs working with people on the move. The Office and the UNCT participated in the presentation of the UNSDCF to over 30 members of the Government. Furthermore, OHCHR contributed to the review of several drafts of the theories of change and suggested the inclusion of specific human rights considerations, issues and priority population groups.

As part of the Inter-Agency Group on Economic and Financial Statistics, OHCHR strengthened the capacities of the Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the Government and the National Statistical Institute to present disaggregated data, with a focus on human rights, in the second Voluntary National Review (VNR) (2019) of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

Finally, the Office provided extensive contributions for a confidential report to the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW) in its review of Guatemala's

second periodic report, in coordination with a number of UN agencies.

Peace and Security (PS)

PS3 – The policies and conduct of State institutions that are responsible for the security of citizens increasingly comply with international human rights standards; they give special attention to the rights of indigenous peoples, women, children, migrants and other groups subject to discrimination, as well as civil society organizations.

16

OHCHR worked to increase the capacity of State institutions to comply with international human rights norms and standards by providing technical assistance and support and documenting human rights concerns.

The Office provided technical assistance to the National Civil Police (PNC), in coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and COPREDEH, 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. The Office 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.

Furthermore, OHCHR provided support to the PNC through capacity-building workshops and the development of three additional protocols on public demonstrations, road blockages and evictions.

Specifically, OHCHR coordinated with the PNC's Division on the Protection of Persons and Security to implement protection measures for HRDs. The Office monitored cases of allegations of human rights violations and intervened with the PNC to help de-escalate conflict situations, including in the context of forced evictions.

Moreover, the Office documented the internal situation of the PNC, with the arrival of new authorities in the Ministry of the Interior, which resulted in the dismissal of more than 180 staff members and the irregular promotion of 80 staff members, in August.

Finally, OHCHR monitored legislative activities related to proposals on pretrial detention and the penitentiary system, in coordination with civil society, the NHRI and the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala, to ensure their compliance with international human rights standards.

HAITI: UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR JUSTICE SUPPORT IN HAITI (MINUJUSTH)

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
11.26 million	28,000 km ²	0.503 (rank: 169/188 in 2018)	Status A, 2013
Type of engagement	Peace Mission		
Year established	2004 as MINUSTAH; as MINUJUSTH since 2017; BINUH since July 2019		
Field office(s)	Port-au-Prince		
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2016-2021		
Staff as of 31 December 2019	5		

XB requirements 2019

US\$1,534,000

Key OMP pillars in 2019



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

PILLAR RESULTS:



Accountability (A)

A1 – The Inspectorate General for Police and the Conseil Supérieur du Pouvoir Judiciaire (CSPJ) function effectively and consistently investigate and prosecute serious violations.



OHCHR supported the General Inspectorate of the Haitian National Police (IGPNH) to further improve its compliance with international human rights norms and standards in its investigation and prosecution of human rights violations.

The Human Rights Service (HRS) of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) supported the IGPNH in its ongoing efforts to standardize criteria for the definition of human rights violations committed by the national police in order to improve

accountability. In cooperation with the HRS, the IGPNH regularly followed up on human rights violations allegedly committed by officers of the Haitian National Police (HNP) and on actions taken, including investigations and the implementation of administrative sanctions levied against HNP officers. The IGPNH conducted administrative investigations in about 76 per cent of reported cases of alleged human rights violations. A total of 12 per cent of the investigations were transferred to the judiciary.

In addition, the HRS provided expertise and financial support for the creation of a database to enable the IGPNH to more effectively manage the investigation of cases. The HRS will monitor the use of the database in the context of the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH).



Participation (P)

P1 – The Office de la Protection du Citoyen (OPC) retains its legal standing and receives the resources it requires to operate independently in all departments.



By providing technical assistance, MINUJUSTH contributed to the effective functioning of the OPC, in conformity with international standards.

The HRS continued to provide technical assistance to the OPC, including by deploying two expert consultants to support the institution in the preparation of a manual on internal rules and regulations and the elaboration of its 2019-2024 strategy. The strategy aims at improving the management of cases received by the NHRI and identifies the broad lines of its thematic priorities, such as economic and social rights, with a view to developing national and international partnerships.

In April, the OPC retained its “A” status under the Paris Principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, the benchmarks for assessing NHRIs that was developed by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI).

The OPC released a report on the November 2018 events of La Saline, highlighting the positive actions taken by the national police and the judicial system. It also issued its annual report in 2017-2018. The report includes 20 recommendations to State authorities on a broad range of human rights issues, including prolonged pretrial detention, the protection of detainees and LGBTI rights. The report is the first of its kind produced by the OPC since 2012.

The head of the OPC attended the fortieth session of the Human Rights Council and intervened in the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities.



Non-discrimination (ND)

ND1 – Laws criminalize sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). No laws are discriminatory with respect to LGBTI persons. Incidents of SGBV and acts of violence against LGBTI persons are investigated and prosecuted. Women's groups and associations that represent LGBTI persons and children are entitled to advocate on behalf of those they represent.



To reduce discrimination, the Office endeavoured to improve the compliance with international human rights norms and standards of legislation and policies relating to the rights of women, LGBTI persons, persons living with disabilities and other minorities.

The HRS provided capacity-building activities to CSOs representing persons living with disabilities, the voodoo community and LGBTI persons. This enabled CSOs to engage in a range of advocacy activities, including promoting the rights of women living with disabilities, access to justice for LGBTI persons, the participation of women in political life and assistance for women who are victims of GBV. Although State authorities participated in these advocacy activities, particularly the Ministry of Women's Affairs, which was actively involved in initiatives to fight gender discrimination, this has not translated into concrete outcomes at the policy or legislative levels.

Furthermore, the HRS supported the OPC in the organization of a national

contest on human rights essays for youth and journalists.



Peace and Security (PS)

PS6 – Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) implementation mechanisms and procedures have been established; these ensure that the HRDDP is implemented fully.



MINUJUSTH increasingly integrated international human rights norms, standards and principles into its work.

The HRDDP, in compliance with the standard operating procedures adopted in 2018, proved to be an effective tool for accountability and protection in the context of the peacekeeping mission and within the work of the UNCT.

The HRS contributed to the assessment of the support that the UN mission, agencies and programmes provided to national security forces, thereby placing the HRS in a strategic position to help ensure the accountability of UN interventions with national partners.



Mechanisms (M)

M1 – The Inter-Ministerial Committee meets regularly and, basing itself on a national action plan, takes action to implement recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms.



OHCHR enhanced the capacity of the NMRF by providing specialized training.

The HRS organized a workshop for members of the Interministerial Committee on Human Rights (IMCHR) and representatives of other national institutions,

including the OPC and the IGPNH, to draft a government implementation plan on recommendations that were accepted during Haiti's second UPR cycle, in 2016. This implementation plan was included in a national human rights action plan, which was finalized by the IMCHR, in December. The HRS also trained CSOs on the vulgarization of UPR recommendations and access to judicial remedies in order to make them more accessible.

In addition, the HRS delivered training sessions for NGOs on human rights monitoring in seven departments. As a result, national NGOs provided reliable and critical information on human rights violations that were committed during the social and political unrest between September and November. This enabled the HRS to provide an accurate analysis of the human rights situation at the national level through a press briefing that was widely covered by national and international partners.

HONDURAS

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
9.75 million	112,000 km ²	0.623 (rank: 133/188 in 2018)	Status B, 2016

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	2015
Field office(s)	Tegucigalpa
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2017-2021
Staff as of 31 December 2019	16

Total income	US\$3,125,129	
XB requirements 2019	US\$3,446,000	
Total XB expenditure	US\$2,332,100	
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC⁴
73%	15%	11%
\$1,708,137	\$359,310	\$264,653

Key OMP pillars in 2019



¹²³⁴ Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.208.

PILLAR RESULTS:

Development (D)

D2 – The Government and businesses take steps to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

1 2 3 5 8 9 13 16 17

The Office contributed to increasing the level of compliance of the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Labour and the business sector with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) through capacity-building and the establishment of channels for technical cooperation and advocacy.

In 2019, within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed

by OHCHR and the Ministry of Human Rights, in December 2018, the Office continued to promote the implementation of the UNGPs in Honduras by using the multi-actor approach to build the capacities of State institutions, unions, CSOs, the private sector and staff members of the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Labour. The country visit of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, in August, which was facilitated by the Office, provided an excellent opportunity to continue advocating for the prioritization of this topic on the national agenda.

For instance, OHCHR and the Ministry of Human Rights successfully organized a national forum on business and human rights that was attended by over 200 participants, including CSOs, indigenous peoples, environmentalist groups, the business sector and government representatives. Furthermore, OHCHR provided ongoing technical assistance to the Ministry of Human Rights to conduct several multi-actor workshops to discuss and propose strategies to implement the recommendations emanating from the Working Group on business and human rights, especially on how to build trust among relevant actors. These workshops, attended by 95 participants (62 women, 33 men) were conducted in coordination with the Danish Institute for Human Rights and key stakeholders from CSOs, the private sector, academia and the Government.

OHCHR continued to closely monitor social unrest caused by the lack of consultation with indigenous communities in the approval and execution of hydroelectric and other types of development projects, such as the construction of a dam in Reitoca. The Office held regular meetings with “Espacio ACI,” a network of CSOs working on business and human rights to ensure an exchange of information. OHCHR held bilateral meetings with key stakeholders, such as unions and the private sector, to gather their perspectives on opportunities and challenges presented by the upcoming National Action Plan (NAP) on business and human rights and to review comparative experiences from the region.

Finally, OHCHR started preparing a report on the accountability of business associations, which will be published in 2020. The report will assess the current legal framework and identify gaps in the response to conflicts arising in the area of business and human rights.

It will also provide important guidance for the elaboration of a baseline for the NAP on business and human rights.

Mechanisms (M)

M1 – An effective national monitoring and reporting mechanism is established.

16 17

The Office continued supporting preparations for the establishment of the NMRF.

Although the Ministry of Human Rights continued to reaffirm the Government's interest and readiness to rapidly set up the NMRF throughout 2019, the NMRF was not formally established during the reporting period. OHCHR continued providing legal advice on the draft decree for its establishment and provided technical cooperation to help develop the capacity of the institutions that will form part of the NMRF to enable them to effectively assume their responsibilities once it is in place.

To this end, OHCHR continued implementing a training programme for government officials nominated as agency focal points for the NMRF. The programme was organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Human Rights between November 2018 and May 2019, and was attended by 50 participants (34 women, 16 men). It was comprised of 10 modules on human rights and public policy topics, including international human rights mechanisms, a human rights-based approach to budgeting, human rights indicators and training of trainers. In June, 36 out of the 50 focal points had completed the course and received a positive evaluation of their work.

In order to strengthen the capacity of the focal points to participate in the third

UPR cycle of Honduras, scheduled for May 2020, a two-day workshop was conducted to focus on the preparation of the national report and link recommendations with public policies and indicators.

In an effort to link the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with human rights obligations, OHCHR worked with the Ministry of Human Rights to develop an online platform that connects the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in relation to Honduras with the National Agenda for Sustainable Development (adopted in December) and the National Action Plan on Human Rights, which are included in SIMOREH, a software system developed to monitor the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms that is not yet functional. The link between SIMOREH and public policies represents an innovative practice in the region to promote the human rights-based development agenda.

In addition, OHCHR provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Human Rights in developing guidelines, mainly with regard to the technical criteria for reviewing human rights and the National Agenda or Sustainable Development. Authorities agreed to promote dialogue among different stakeholders in the context of a dialogue group that is composed of 17 CSOs and supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The establishment of the dialogue is pending finalization of the SIMOREH software platform.

M2 – The national human rights institution, civil society organizations, and UN agencies send information to UN human rights mechanisms and use their recommendations, guidance and jurisprudence in advocacy.

17

The Office contributed to the increased engagement of relevant stakeholders with the international human rights mechanisms by raising awareness, building capacity and providing technical support.

In 2019, OHCHR continued to raise awareness, provide technical support and promote engagement with international human rights mechanisms by relevant stakeholders. To strengthen the capacity of civil society partners to contribute to the third UPR cycle of Honduras, OHCHR convened an information session for approximately 25 CSOs on the 2030 Agenda and its links with international human rights standards. Participants discussed challenges related to the monitoring of and follow-up on UPR recommendations and ideas for advocacy actions.

To prepare stakeholders for the upcoming CAT review, in August 2020, OHCHR organized a workshop for civil society organizations, CONADEH (the NHRI) and CONAPREV (the NPM) to explain the reporting process and their respective roles in reporting to the human rights treaty bodies. Additionally, OHCHR provided advice and practical information on how to prepare written submissions for the lists of issues prior to reporting.

Nearly 80 young students from the National University of Honduras increased their knowledge and capacities in relation to international standards on the rights of LGBTI persons at a workshop that was co-organized by OHCHR

and the CATTRACHAS lesbian network, in August. At the workshop, OHCHR presented the students with information about international standards, including relevant recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in relation to Honduras. In the framework of the commemoration of International Day against Violence against Women, in November, OHCHR and the Embassy of Canada organized a dialogue with 11 women journalists working in the local media. During the event, the Office shared its analysis on violence against women in Honduras and highlighted the international recommendations on violence against women that have been issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

In addition, OHCHR organized a round-table on “A rights-based approach to monitoring and evaluation of public policies implementing the 2030 Agenda.” The 32 participants (18 women, 14 men) included UN agency leads and UNDAF focal points. The round-table linked the UNDAF with relevant SDGs and human rights standards and provided examples of good practices of the application of an HRBA to monitoring and evaluating public policies. OHCHR also facilitated a working session on the UPR for 18 representatives of UN agencies and UNDAF focal points. The objective of the working session was to elaborate a plan of action for preparing the UNCT report prior to the third UPR cycle of Honduras. As a result, a joint UN Working Group was established to develop the report, with the support of OHCHR. The report was completed and submitted in September.

Participation (P)

P6 – Rights-holders, especially women, indigenous peoples and other under-represented groups, participate in selected public processes at local and national level.



OHCHR contributed to the meaningful participation of rights-holders, especially women and discriminated groups, in various public processes by accompanying rights-holders in social mobilization processes at the national and local levels.

Rights-holders, especially those who are often marginalized, such as women, LGBTI persons, indigenous peoples, Garífunas (Afrodescendants), rural populations and persons with disabilities, continued to face difficulties in effectively participating in public processes and spaces. To strengthen their capacities throughout the year, OHCHR designed a capacity-building strategy that included a national forum, training, missions and campaigns.

On 11 and 12 June, the first National Forum for Human Rights Defenders was organized by OHCHR and brought together more than 100 HRDs from across Honduras to exchange experiences and create a civic space agenda for future advocacy initiatives. Based on the agreements reached at the Forum, OHCHR began coordinating follow-up activities, including public forums, work meetings and joint missions with groups of rights-holders, particularly those in vulnerable situations because of multiple/intersecting identities such as women, indigenous peoples, LGBTI community members and youth. OHCHR will convene a follow-up forum in 2020.

From 1 September to 10 December, OHCHR conducted a campaign called “#SomosPersonasDefensoras.” The main objective was to raise public awareness about the work of HRDs and to encourage those who defend human rights to self-identify as defenders. The campaign included the dissemination of informative postcards/infographics on social media platforms, short videos and testimonies from HRDs, key messages that were communicated through radio broadcasts and press releases, participation in public events and joint activities that were undertaken in partnership with other stakeholders. OHCHR ensured the participation of underrepresented groups, such as WHRDs and LGBTI community members.

Non-discrimination (ND)

ND6 – The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.



OHCHR contributed to protecting the human rights of persons in the context of mixed migratory flows, particularly those in vulnerable situations, with a primary focus on disappeared migrants, monitoring missions and internal displacement.

OHCHR provided technical assistance to help strengthen the capacities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Human Rights and the five committees of the relatives of disappeared migrants to prevent and address the human rights violations of disappeared migrants. In April, a technical committee consisting of OHCHR and members of both ministries was established. In the context of this work, the Office focused on promoting

dialogue and conveying information between the different stakeholders. In collaboration with the ICRC, the Office advocated for the establishment and implementation of a protocol for relatives of disappeared migrants; participated in the working group for disappeared migrants established by the ICRC; provided technical assistance to the five committees of the relatives of disappeared migrants; and provided inputs into the *Information Guide for the Relatives of Disappeared Migrants*.

During 2019, OHCHR undertook eight missions to monitor the human rights situation of people on the move, including the mass migration to Mexico and the United States of America, and the returns and deportations of Hondurans. These missions enabled OHCHR to identify human rights trends and patterns relating to people on the move in the region, and provided important inputs for the OHCHR internal report on the situation of “migrant caravans.” Within the framework of the inter-agency response strategy that was adopted by the UN Honduras Protection Group to cover the departures, returns and deportation of migrants, OHCHR coordinated the monitoring of human rights violations, identified and referred people with international protection needs; prepared various analyses on the human rights of migrants; and monitored returns, deportations and public policies for returnees and their impact. In addition, the Office led the inter-agency coordination on dissemination of information to the general population. In cooperation with UNHCR, OHCHR developed key messages for CONADEH and the Directorate for Children, Youth and Family to promote the human rights of migrants and highlight key issues related to the migration route.

OHCHR and the Ministry of Human Rights agreed on a workplan to provide technical assistance to the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons Due to Violence (CIPPDV). This assistance was aligned with the four priorities identified in the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (GP 20) Plan of Action for Advancing Prevention, Protection and Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons. During 2019, OHCHR acquired a permanent adviser status before the CIPPDV and provided technical assistance to help develop and implement an advocacy plan for the approval of the draft Law on the Prevention and Care of and Protection against Forced Displacement. Furthermore, OHCHR provided technical assistance to the CIPPDV on integrating a gender perspective into actions related to forced displacement.

JAMAICA

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
2.95 million	11,000 km ²	0.726 (rank: 96/188 in 2018)	Yes
Type of engagement		Human Rights Adviser	
Year established		2013	
Field office(s)		Kingston	
UN partnership framework		UN Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework (UN MSDF) in the Caribbean 2017-2021	
Staff as of 31 December 2019		1	

XB requirements 2019 **US\$227,000**

Key OMP pillars in 2019



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

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability (A)

A1 – In at least one country (Jamaica) law enforcement authorities and the judiciary have adopted in-house training on human rights. Barbados, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have taken steps to provide human rights training to law enforcement officials.

16 

The Office supported the institutionalization of human rights training for the judiciary and the police in Jamaica by providing technical assistance to build and strengthen national capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights.

As part of its efforts to tackle police violence, and building on training support that was provided in 2018, OHCHR and the National Police College co-organized

three training sessions to educate 453 police officers (126 women, 327 men) on human rights approaches, standards and requirements that are pertinent to their roles in law enforcement. Additionally, these trainings aimed at challenging the attitudes and biases among police officers towards marginalized and vulnerable groups, such as LGBTI persons, persons living with HIV/AIDS and persons with disabilities.

In April, OHCHR collaborated with the Judicial Education Institute of Jamaica (JEIJ) and the Court Management Services to organize a workshop for the presentation of an online training platform on international human rights for the judiciary in Jamaica, which was developed and launched in 2018. The workshop presented the main elements of the training course and provided guidance on how trainers/judges can use the

online platform as a consultation tool. During the training, responsibility for the online course was officially handed over to the JEIJ, which will now manage the site and provide access to all members of the judiciary.

Development (D)

D7 – In all five Caribbean UN Country/Sub-regional Teams (Jamaica, Barbados and OECS, Trinidad & Tobago, Guyana, Suriname) a HRBA is integrated in MSDF CIPs/M&E framework, interpretation of SDGs.



OHCHR worked closely with other UN agencies to ensure that an HRBA is applied to and integrated into UN programmes and activities.

The Office participated in the development of Jamaica's Country Implementation Plan (CIP) 2019-2020, which was based on the UN MSDF, ensuring the full integration of human rights and gender considerations.

In cooperation with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), OHCHR finalized an emergency preparedness and response plan for Jamaica. The plan focuses on hurricane and earthquake scenarios and the mainstreaming of human rights and gender, with the participation of other UN agencies, such as UNDP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in the implementation of the plan.

OHCHR cooperated with the UN Theme Group on Gender and Human Rights

and the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS to conduct a comprehensive review of four parliamentary acts, namely, the Sexual Offences Act, the Child Care and Protection Act, the Domestic Violence Act and the Offences against the Person Act. In December, the RC presented a memo to the Parliament and key government ministries in order to highlight key issues of concern, such as abolishing outdated definitions of sexual intercourse and rape, including marital rape, and the criminalization of HIV transmission and to propose a gender-neutral understanding of sexual offences.

OHCHR also organized a number of trainings for UN agencies on human rights, gender, migration and the rights of persons with disabilities.

database project. The database seeks to facilitate recording, tracking and reporting on the national-level implementation of human rights recommendations emanating from the international, regional and national human rights mechanisms. It is anticipated that the database will enhance the Government's capacity and efficiency in reporting to the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR. At its end-of-year meeting, the Interministerial Committee informed OHCHR that it had approved the database project, which is expected to be operational in 2020.

Finally, the Office continued to build the capacity of the Interministerial Committee through a training on the use of the Universal Human Rights Index (UHRI).



Mechanisms (M)

M1 – At least four Caribbean countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Jamaica) have established mechanisms for human rights reporting and follow-up.

16 17 

In Jamaica, OHCHR contributed to enhancing integrated and efficient reporting and follow-up on the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms by building capacity and raising awareness about existing tools.

In 2018, the Interministerial Committee on Human Rights was established as the official national entity of Jamaica for reporting and follow-up to the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. At the same time, OHCHR presented its NRTD. Since then, OHCHR continued to advocate with the Interministerial Committee to encourage Jamaica to join the pilot phase of the

MEXICO

Population size¹ 127.58 million **Surface area¹** 1,964,000 km² **Human Development Index²** 0.767 (rank: 76/188 in 2018) **NHRI (if applicable)³** Status A, 2016

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	2002
Field office(s)	Mexico City
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2014-2019
Staff as of 31 December 2019	24

Total income	US\$2,611,118	
XB requirements 2019	US\$2,997,000	
Total XB expenditure	US\$2,784,758	
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC⁴
62%	27%	11%
\$1,716,262	\$755,710	\$312,786

Key OMP pillars in 2019



¹²³⁴ Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.208.

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability (A)

A1 – Mexico has adopted a national regulatory framework on the use of force that complies with international human rights standards.

16

OHCHR contributed to the increased compliance of security sector authorities with international human rights norms and standards on the use of force.

During his visit to Mexico, in 2015, the High Commissioner recommended that Mexico adopt legislation on the use of force. Since then, several special procedures have issued similar recommendations. In addition, the Office

was fundamental in ensuring the constitutional reform on security. This led to the creation of the National Guard and established an obligation to draft a National Law on the Use of Force (LNUF), which was finally adopted, in May. An agreement signed by the Government and OHCHR following the High Commissioner's 2019 visit to Mexico, in April, which deals with the provision of technical assistance on capacity-building and operational protocols, as well as accountability mechanisms of the National Guard, was drafted at the beginning of the year.

Following the adoption of the LNUF, the Office began monitoring its

implementation, documented cases of human rights violations and advocated for the security forces to fully comply with the LNUF. During the congressional debates related to the preparation of the draft, OHCHR presented a document outlining the international standards that needed to be incorporated. Many of these standards were included in the final version. In May, the Office issued a statement acknowledging the positive aspects of the Law, while also underscoring its shortcomings, particularly regarding the lack of regulation on the use of lethal force and accountability.

Since the LNUF failed to comply with international standards in some areas, OHCHR shared its concerns with the NHRI, which later filed a constitutional challenge (acción de inconstitucionalidad) before the Supreme Court. Finally, the concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee on Mexico, issued on 7 November, reiterated some of OHCHR's concerns regarding the LNUF.

A2 – At least four public policies have been adopted that protect the rights of individuals who are subject to search and identification (with respect to search commissions, registries, protocols, national plans, etc.). At least three public policies have been adopted that address prosecution, sanction and reparation in cases of disappearances of persons, torture, and other human rights violations. These policies are implemented at federal and local level in compliance with international human rights standards.

10 16

The Office contributed to the establishment of oversight and accountability mechanisms on torture, the search for missing persons and exhumations and

the identification of human remains in compliance with international human rights standards.

During the reporting period, OHCHR collaborated with several NGOs to create a system to monitor the implementation of the General Law on Torture. In the first half of 2019, OHCHR coordinated with partner organizations to gather information that was used to develop 240 requests that were submitted to authorities. OHCHR and its partner organizations used that information to create a website, sintortura.org, which was launched, in November, to monitor the implementation of the General Law on Torture. The website includes information on the status and number of investigations; the number of convictions for torture and forensic torture exams. It is also used for advocacy before the authorities across the country.

OHCHR contributed to the planning and elaboration of the National Programme for the Prevention and Sanction of Torture and other Forms of Ill-Treatment, which was established in accordance with the General Law on Torture. OHCHR worked with CSOs and international partners to produce the final version of the National Programme, which has been reviewed by federal and local dependencies since August. It is anticipated that the National Programme will be published at the beginning of 2020.

Following the High Commissioner's visit to Mexico, the new Government requested additional cooperation, which led to the signing of an agreement that concerns cooperation with the newly established Commission for Truth and Access to Justice in relation to the Ayotzinapa case (the enforced disappearance of 43 male students from the Ayotzinapa Rural Teachers' School in 2014). In March 2018, OHCHR published

a groundbreaking report on the torture of detainees and other violations of due process. As of January 2020, more than 61,000 enforced disappearances have been reported in Mexico. The Government has committed to addressing enforced disappearances, including the Ayotzinapa case, as a priority issue.

To advance the implementation of the General Law on Disappearances, OHCHR supported the process the design of various tools established by the General Law, i.e., the National Search Programme, the Regional Search Programme for the Northeast, the Protocol for the Search of Missing Persons and the National Exhumations Programme. OHCHR supported these processes through meetings with authorities, providing international human rights standards and helping to maintain the dialogue between relatives of people disappeared, authorities and international experts, including the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the ICRC.

In addition, OHCHR provided technical assistance and political support to CSOs and victims' groups to promote the creation of an Extraordinary Forensic Mechanism, including by holding periodic meetings with government stakeholders and diplomatic missions to identify opportunities for collaboration. On the occasion of International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, in August, the President declared its commitment to creating this Mechanism. After several months of dialogue, an agreement was reached between the various actors involved in the process and the Extraordinary Forensic Mechanism was formally established on 5 December.

A3 – Relevant authorities take account of international human rights norms and standards in at least four prosecutions for violence against women, femicide, or denial of sexual and reproductive rights.



The Office contributed to the increased use of international human rights law and jurisprudence on violence against women by providing ongoing technical assistance to GBV alert mechanisms in eight states.

Following the assistance provided to the mechanisms in five states (Jalisco, Veracruz, Ciudad de México, Estado de México and Chiapas), in 2018, the Office assisted three additional mechanisms in the states of Nuevo León, Chihuahua and Guerrero, bringing the total number of supported mechanisms to eight. In addition to participating in the meetings of each alert mechanism, OHCHR introduced international women's rights standards and recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms as a foundation for analysis related to violence against women in the local context. The Office also helped the alert mechanisms to revise their public policies to ensure that they better integrate gender perspectives and women's rights obligations.

In 2019, OHCHR continued to accompany and assist victims and CSOs in relation to cases of violence against women, focusing on three femicide cases and one sexual violence case. During that time, two cases on femicide were concluded with the support of the Office. Additionally, OHCHR provided CSOs and judicial authorities with technical expertise on human rights standards, due process of law and sexual and reproductive rights with regard to a wide range of cases.

Furthermore, OHCHR collaborated with civil society partners to contribute to discussions on the modification of the General Law on Women's Access to a Life Free of Violence, which would strengthen the efficacy of the alert mechanisms. The initiative was approved by the Deputies Chamber, in December, and was discussed by the Senate, in January 2020, which included comments from OHCHR.

In partnership with the National Human Rights Commission, state-level human rights commissions and other partners, OHCHR coordinated a training course on substantive equality and the rights of indigenous women. In an effort to decentralize knowledge on human rights, the course was conducted over 10 sessions in eight states (Chihuahua, Ciudad de México, Estado de México, Veracruz, Jalisco, San Luis Potosí, Chiapas, Puebla), which were live streamed to all enrolled students.



Participation (P)

P1 – The relevant authorities take effective action to investigate and sanction attacks or reprisals against journalists and human rights defenders (HRDs) in at least 10 per cent of the cases raised by OHCHR-Mexico.

16



The Office contributed to investigating cases of human rights violations of HRDs and journalists with relevant judicial and executive authorities.

During 2019, OHCHR documented a significant increase in the number of suspects arrested with regard to cases of aggression against HRDs and journalists, especially against indigenous and WHRDs. OHCHR's public position and dialogue with authorities helped to maintain a high level of pressure.

Among the cases where some progress was achieved is the case of Isidro Baldenegro, an indigenous HRD who was awarded the Goldman prize in 2005. He was killed in 2017 and his assassin was finally sentenced in 2019. In the case of journalist Amir Ibrahim, an individual was sentenced for threatening him. This constitutes a landmark case as threat complaints are usually dismissed by authorities and because most grave human rights violations against HRDs and journalists take place within a context of complete impunity.

Moreover, all of the cases of HRD disappearances that were documented by OHCHR in 2019 have now received the attention of the National Search Commission. At least three disappeared HRDs were consequently located, two of whom were released by their kidnapers. The human remains of the third HRD were located and identified by authorities, and subsequently returned to the family.

During the year, the number of homicides and disappearances of HRDs, particularly indigenous HRDs and journalists, was the highest since OHCHR began its systematic documentation in 2015. A least 18 HRDs were killed (four women, 14 men, 10 of whom were indigenous persons) and at least 12 journalists were killed (one woman, 11 men, one of whom was an indigenous person). The whereabouts of at least two HRDs who were disappeared in 2019 remain unknown.

At the request of the Mexican Government, OHCHR carried out an in-depth assessment of the National Protection Mechanism for Human Rights Defenders and Journalists during the reporting period. The assessment includes 104 recommendations that have been fully accepted by the Minister of the Interior, the Federal Prosecutor, the Vice-Minister

of Security, the Ombudsperson and the representatives of the 32 states. Among the main recommendations highlighted by OHCHR are the need to effectively integrate a gender perspective into the activities of the Mechanism; focus on groups facing significant risks; adopt preventive measures to avoid the most violent attacks; and prevent aggressions committed by civil servants and politicians, which account for approximately 55 per cent of all violations. In light of the Government's commitment, OHCHR is supporting the process to strengthen the Mechanism. Improvements have been reported, including the implementation of a new methodology for risk assessment and the early development of an information system that incorporates indicators to measure human rights impact. Moreover, initial preparations are underway, with the support of the Office of the President, to launch a permanent public campaign to fully recognize the fundamental contribution of HRDs and journalists for a vibrant democracy.



Mechanisms (M)

M1 – By the end of 2021, Mexico has ratified two international or regional human rights treaties and recognized the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances to receive and consider individual communications.

As of the end of 2019, Mexico had ratified two Inter-American conventions and made progress towards recognizing the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED) to receive and consider individual communications. More specifically, following Senate approval, the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance and the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of

Discrimination and Intolerance were ratified, in November.

In 2019, OHCHR continued promoting the importance of recognizing the competence of CED to receive and consider individual communications. This was further emphasized by the High Commissioner during her country visit, in May. As a result, the Government publicly declared, on 30 August, that it would recognize the Committee's competence and accepted the corresponding UPR recommendation on this topic. As of December, however, no steps had been taken to formally conclude the process and the recognition of the CED remains under the review of the Supreme Court.

OHCHR strongly encouraged the Government to recognize the competence of the Committee on Economic and Social Rights (CESCR) and CRC to receive and consider individual communications, particularly since the Government had accepted the relevant recommendations that were issued during the UPR. The Senate, which is empowered to internally ratify international treaties, exhorted the Executive to recognize the competence of CED, CESCR and CRC, with technical assistance from OHCHR.

#QUEREMOSAObTILIA CAMPAIGN HELPS RELEASE INDIGENOUS HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

In February, Obtilia Eugenio Manuel and her colleague, Hilario Cornelio Castro, both of whom are indigenous women human rights defenders, were victims of enforced disappearance after denouncing corruption in their community. As soon as OHCHR received information about their case, the Office established contact with federal and state authorities and launched a campaign to demand their release under the hashtag #QueremosAObtilia (meaning "we want Obtilia to be free"). After several days, Obtilia and Hilario were released. This is an unprecedented situation as most cases of disappeared human rights defenders remain unsolved or they are found deceased.

After her release, Obtilia heard about the social mobilization that took place in relation to her case and declared:

"The OHCHR team supported my fight for the rights of indigenous peoples. This was especially important when I was a victim of enforced disappearance and it used alerts to advocate for me to be found. Thanks to OHCHR and other human rights defenders, my captors released me. OHCHR's support continued after my liberation, which helped me to obtain protection measures from the authorities."

In December, Obtilia was awarded the National Human Rights Prize.

M3 – The workplans and activities of national and local institutions of the executive, legislative and judiciary, and other relevant actors, have integrated at least four recommendations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, and related mechanisms. The judiciary references international human rights standards more frequently in its decisions and activities; it does so in cases where OHCHR has submitted a legal brief.

5 16

The Office contributed to the increased use of international human rights law and jurisprudence in court proceedings and judicial decisions in various areas,

including in relation to child marriage, the legal capacity of persons with disabilities, the legal interruption of pregnancy, enforced disappearances and migration.

In this context, the Office submitted three legal briefs to the Supreme Court of Justice containing information about these issues. The Office also collaborated with the Supreme Court to disseminate and promote the use of international standards on human rights in judicial decisions. One of their projects is the Legal Search Engine on Human Rights (BJDH), www.bjdh.org.mx, which is an important tool that facilitates the dissemination of information about international standards on human rights to the judiciary, students, academics, human rights officers, government officials and others interested in researching

human rights cases. In 2019, OHCHR and the Supreme Court began to systematize and categorize information on special procedures for inclusion in the search engine.

OHCHR continued collaborating with the Supreme Court on the television programme “Tus derechos,” working closely with the Court’s team throughout the planning and coordination process for the 22-episode broadcast in 2019. The main goal of the programme was to promote discussions on relevant topics related to human rights, such as enforced disappearances, torture, gender and migration.



Development (D)

D2 – Businesses, especially businesses in the energy sector, increasingly apply the UN Guiding Principles, notably in their due diligence procedures.

OHCHR made progress in the consolidation of the business and human rights agenda in Mexico by promoting a broader agenda on the subject. It also provided technical advice to businesses on the application of international human rights standards.

In this context, OHCHR and the Secretariat of the UNGPs, co-organized a regional consultation on incorporating gender perspectives into the UNGPs, in Mexico City, in February. The consultation increased awareness about the international standards among the 50 participants, including academics, NGO representatives from Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Peru, companies from Mexico and national-level NHRIs from Guatemala and Mexico and the NHRI from Mexico City.

In a continuous effort to disseminate the UNGPs, OHCHR facilitated capacity-building activities for private sector

companies from the construction and energy sectors, with a focus on the UN human rights system, the rights of indigenous peoples, the UNGPs and due diligence procedures. As a result, approximately 20 companies from different sectors demonstrated a willingness to understand the concepts and work together with authorities, CSOs and communities on human rights issues. OHCHR also continued providing technical assistance to the private sector company, Grupo Mexico, the largest mining company in the country, to help them implement human rights policies in all of their business activities and to operationalize the company’s complaints and remedy system.

Within the framework of the project “Responsible business conduct in Latin America and the Caribbean,” the Office continued advocating for the elaboration of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights after the process was discontinued by the Ministry of the Interior in 2018. As a result, OHCHR contributed to the development of the National Human Rights Programme to ensure the incorporation of a business and human rights agenda. The Programme is due to be presented to the public in April 2020. As part of the development process, OHCHR collaborated with the Ministry of the Interior to organize a national consultation, which was held for 107 participants representing private companies, CSOs and communities and state and federal authorities (47 women, 60 men), in Monterrey, in August. OHCHR also participated in the regional consultation on business and human rights in Chile, in September, which was crucial to strengthening partnerships with OHCHR Offices in Chile, Colombia and Mexico, and with ILO and OECD.



Non-discrimination (ND)

ND6 – National laws recognize the rights to liberty and judicial guarantees of migrants, who enjoy stronger legal protection through national judicial and non-judicial protection mechanisms.



OHCHR contributed to the increased compliance of legislation with international human rights norms and standards in relation to the rights of migrants.

During 2019, OHCHR focused its efforts on legislative reforms addressing the rights of migrants and access to services for asylum seekers and the harmonization of the Migration Law and the General Law for the Protection of Girls, Boys and Adolescents concerning the prohibition of the detention of migrant children. OHCHR also advocated for guaranteeing access to justice by allowing public defenders to enter migrant detention centres. Although many forums and activities have been organized to discuss these legislative reforms, limited progress has been made towards their adoption. The Office will continue to promote these guarantees in 2020. OHCHR carried out several missions to document the situation of people on the move, including both migrants and IDPs, and their ability to access their rights. The OHCHR team travelled to Chiapas, Baja California, Chihuahua, San Luis Potosí, Tamaulipas, Veracruz, Tabasco and Mexico City as part of their efforts to ensure the protection of people on the move. Specifically, OHCHR carried out a rapid deployment mission to the northern and southern Mexican borders and contributed its findings to a report entitled *Situación de los derechos humanos de las personas en contexto de*

movilidad en México on access to justice, detention, criminalization of HRDs, access to social, economic and cultural rights, women's rights and the rights of the child. The report contained several recommendations to authorities and institutions on addressing human rights violations in the context of migration. Its main findings were shared with the Deputy Minister for Human Rights in the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

OHCHR undertook an active role during the first steps of the investigations concerning two extrajudicial killings of migrants by providing technical advice to the authorities on corresponding human rights standards.

SOUTH AMERICA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay
Year established	2009
Field office(s)	Santiago, Chile with Human Rights Advisers in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay
UN partnership framework	n/a
Staff as of 31 December 2019	tbc

Total income	US\$779,000		
XB requirements 2019	US\$1,311,000		
Total XB expenditure	US\$818,983		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC [†]	
79%	9%	11%	
\$648,580	\$76,359	\$94,044	
Total RB expenditure	US\$1,136,866		
Personnel	Non-personnel		
87%	13%		
\$989,823	\$147,043		

Key OMP pillars in 2019



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

PILLAR RESULTS:

Participation (P)

P1 – Indigenous peoples, women, LGTBI rights advocates, human rights defenders, and people of African descent have increased capacity to make use of national, regional and international human rights mechanisms to protect their rights. Human rights defenders and indigenous peoples participate more actively in public affairs and consistently monitor decisions that affect them.



16

The Office contributed to enhancing the meaningful participation of rights-holders, especially women and discriminated groups, in Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay, in reporting to the international human rights mechanisms.

OHCHR continued to strengthen the capacities of CSOs to interact with international human rights protection mechanisms.

In **Bolivia**, the Office organized a seminar on the UPR for 20 CSOs, highlighting

the advantages of working in coalitions and the tools that can be used to achieve results. In addition, OHCHR provided technical support to the Government to socialize its report for the third UPR cycle in the main cities of the country. Through a series of workshops, more than 250 civil society representatives were informed about the Government's report that has been submitted to the UPR Working Group. The workshops provided an opportunity for CSOs to express their observations and opinions regarding the report.

In **Ecuador**, the Office held information sessions for 120 civil society representatives on the preparation of alternative reports to CESCR and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). As a result, the two committees received 18 alternative reports and three oral interventions on the rights of persons with disabilities, which enabled them to broaden the spectrum of issues that were addressed in their recommendations.

In **Uruguay**, OHCHR supported CSOs to contribute preliminary information that was used for the CEDAW list of issues prior to reporting. Based on this list of issues, Uruguay will present its official report to CEDAW in July 2020. Furthermore, the Office provided support to CSOs on the use of human rights mechanisms and the preparation of proposals to various funds, which led to a successful application to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture by a Uruguayan NGO.

In **Brazil**, the Office partnered closely with indigenous organizations, which have been among the main stakeholders combating climate change and deforestation. In August, OHCHR co-organized and co-facilitated a workshop with the primary national indigenous networks

of the country and the NGO Rede de Cooperação Amazônica (Amazon Cooperation Network) for 30 indigenous leaders. Participants were trained to identify UPR recommendations related to the rights of indigenous peoples and assess their status of implementation. They also enhanced their knowledge of international human rights mechanisms, the main international platforms for indigenous and environmental action and the linkages between human rights, sustainable development and climate change.

The Office continued to work towards integrating sustainable development and human rights, especially with regard to protecting environmental HRDs and civic space. OHCHR has been coordinating the UNCT's Interagency Subgroup on Human Rights Defenders since its establishment in 2017 and developed strategic partnerships with the United Nations Environment Programme and UN Women. A human rights-based approach has been consequently integrated into the UN Women's project on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights in Brazil (2019-2023). OHCHR is a member of the technical advisory team.

In **Paraguay**, OHCHR cooperated with the Plurales Foundation, Tierraviva, Grupo Sunú, Mujeres Rurales and Fundación Hugo to organize a workshop entitled "Human rights, indigenous peoples and gender: Strategies for advocacy in global spaces," which was held in October. The workshop brought together 25 indigenous women leaders of community organizations to strengthen their understanding about the international human rights system and its mechanisms. The participants also learned about preparing alternative reports for the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures and the UPR.

In **Peru**, the Office contributed to a seminar, organized by the Ombudsperson, with HRDs and staff from the Office of the Ombudsperson, to review the final draft of the Office of the Ombudsperson's Action Guidelines on registering, investigating and monitoring cases of human rights violations committed against HRDs. OHCHR raised awareness about the role of the UN in the protection of human rights defenders.

Non-discrimination (ND)

ND1 – State institutions responsible for meeting the needs of vulnerable groups have been strengthened and receive adequate funding and political support. Discrimination and gender equality laws comply with international human rights standards. Judges and prosecutors are better equipped, in terms of law and training, to prosecute discrimination and gender crimes successfully. State policies protect indigenous peoples against discrimination; consultation protocols have been adopted. Schools are increasingly running awareness-raising campaigns and education programmes on human rights and diversity, to combat discrimination, bigotry and hate.



OHCHR contributed to increasing the level of compliance of legislation and policy with international human rights norms and standards with regard to the rights of persons with disabilities, women, migrants and LGBTI persons.

In **Chile**, the Office contributed the international human rights law perspective on inclusion, specifically in relation to the rights of persons with disabilities, in a course entitled "Capacity-building for inclusion." The course was jointly organized by ILO and the National Disability

Service for 50 leaders of the three Chilean trade union centres. It also forms part of the strategy to train various actors to intervene in favour of the inclusion and full enjoyment of the human rights of persons with disabilities.

In cooperation with the Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility, OHCHR participated in the discussion "Women, maternity and disabilities in Chile," organized by the Corporation Circle of Women and Girls with Disabilities. The event was attended by 20 State officials and representatives of CSOs. OHCHR noted that despite universal and regional human rights protection instruments, violations of the rights of women with disabilities continue to persist. Stereotypes, myths and social prejudices around disability and motherhood must therefore be identified and eradicated.

In **Uruguay**, OHCHR, UNFPA, WHO and UN Women continued to successfully implement the joint disability fund project called "The right to equality and non-discrimination for persons with disabilities." The project is in its second year of contributing to the national debate on disability issues. Moreover, the UN system and the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation advocated for the establishment of an inter-institutional working group to discuss the feasibility of a national disability assessment system that is based on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health and is in compliance with CRPD.

The defence of the human rights of transgender persons was a priority issue for the RC and the UNCT in Uruguay. After receiving a request for assistance regarding the repeal of the Comprehensive Law for Trans Persons on the grounds that it could violate the rights of transgender persons,

the UNCT issued a public statement, in July, outlining the State's obligations and international human rights standards vis-a-vis transgender persons. The initiative was dismissed the following month. For the first time in Uruguay, resources were mobilized by the UNCT, under the leadership of the RC and in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development and the Municipality of Montevideo, to launch the first UN Free & Equal campaign, which ended in February 2020, against transphobia and homophobia.

In **Argentina**, OHCHR participated in the first human rights editing marathon that was jointly organized with Wikimedia Argentina. The event, which was called "Editatón," focused on content related to women's rights and sexual diversity. It gathered together academics, activists and people interested in human rights, specialists in editing Wikipedia content and people without experience in the management of the digital encyclopaedia. A total of 19 Wikipedia articles, in Spanish, were updated during the day, using official sources from the UN. The conference also included a workshop on international human rights mechanisms, with an emphasis on women's rights and sexual diversity.

In **Bolivia** and **Paraguay**, the Office developed two workshops on negative gender stereotypes for approximately 80 judges from both countries (65 women, 15 men). The workshops aimed at identifying and addressing gender stereotypes in line with international human rights standards and strengthening the role of the judiciary in the defence of women's rights by considering the impact of illicit gender stereotypes on these rights. The Office used participatory methodologies, theoretical presentations and practical exercises to stimulate exchanges on follow-up actions and good practices in the region with national and international

experts. Furthermore, the Office organized a discussion on the impact of harmful gender stereotypes on the administration of justice, in September, within the framework of strengthening the work of the Ministry of Public Defence in Paraguay. The event was attended by the Minister of Public Defence and more than 40 public defenders (25 women, 15 men) who were specialized in the protection of women's human rights.

In **Brazil**, 23 students graduated from the "Trans-Formation" project, which was coordinated by OHCHR, the Public Ministry of Labour, the Bahia Government and CSOs in the context of the UN Free & Equal campaign. The project creates opportunities for dialogue, seeks political training and the empowerment of trans, non-binary and transvestite activists. The students also gained professional experience as community volunteers in the framework of the United Nations Volunteers Programme.

In collaboration with the Afro-Chilean Lumbanga Organization and the Chilean Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage, the Office organized a three-day regional forum on the International Decade for People of African Descent. More than 30 representatives of Afrodescendant organizations from South and Central America worked together to design a proposal assessing progress made during the International Decade for People of African Descent with regards to recognition, justice and development. This regional activity opened new opportunities of engagement with Afrodescendant organizations in Argentina and **Peru**.

The region faced a crisis regarding regressive measures against Venezuelan citizens in several countries. In this context, the Office in Chile elaborated a document on international human standards on migrants to contribute to UNCT

discussions on the status of Venezuelan migrants. In **Ecuador**, OHCHR sent a communication to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs highlighting international standards and submitted an amicus curiae to the Constitutional Court, which expressed its appreciation, on a case regarding regressive measures against Venezuelans. The crisis provided an opportunity to engage with local partners, specialized UN agencies and NHRIs on a more regular basis.

Mechanisms (M)

M1 – National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRFs) function effectively in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela.

16 17

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

The regional work undertaken by the TBCBP contributed to progress made towards the establishment of NRMFs in **Argentina** and **Peru**. In both countries, OHCHR organized seminars during the reporting period to train focal points, mobilize political will and support the strengthening of institutions. In Argentina, Paraguayan authorities provided valuable support and shared their experiences with the SIMORE Plus online platform and OHCHR provided technical expertise. In Peru, OHCHR enabled the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights to use the UHRI and the NRTD as tools for comprehensive follow-up on the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, the SDGs and Human Rights Action Plans. The Office participated in sessions to analyse the feasibility of considering the use of the NRTD by the public sector.

The establishment of both mechanisms is expected to be finalized in 2020.

In **Bolivia** and **Ecuador**, OHCHR's foundational work in 2018 provided an opportunity to engage authorities in revamping the NMRFs that both countries had begun developing in previous years, namely, SIPLUS in Bolivia and SIDERECHOS in Ecuador. While the Office responded positively to formal requests for technical cooperation from these two countries, the political and electoral crisis in Bolivia and the political crisis in Ecuador necessitated a suspension of these activities until 2020. The Office conducted the first seminar for the establishment of an NMRF in **Venezuela** and set up a road map for 2020.

In **Bolivia**, OHCHR organized a three-day workshop to strengthen the State's knowledge about the UPR and CED in preparation for the interactive dialogues with both mechanisms in 2019. The activity was attended by 30 public servants and was facilitated by the HRAs from Bolivia and Uruguay, with online collaboration from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay and the Ministry of Justice of Peru, as part of the South-South Cooperation practice in the region.

M2 – Civil society organizations report regularly to UN mechanisms, participate in sessions (including through the use of technology), and use concluding observations and reports for advocacy and follow-up purposes.

17

During the reporting period, the Office facilitated the submission of 222 substantive regional reports to the international human rights mechanisms (126 to the human rights treaty bodies, 96 to the UPR and one to the special

procedures), including 16 from NHRIs, 195 from CSOs, three from individuals and seven from UN entities.

In 2019, the Office continued to build the capacity of civil society and other actors on strategically engaging with the international human rights mechanisms. OHCHR worked with stakeholders in all countries covered by the Regional Office on South America to provide training on how to prepare and submit reports and notify them of opportunities to engage with the mechanisms. The work of the Office has been crucial in supporting the development of UNCT joint submissions to the mechanisms.

In the case of the UPR, the Office set up an alliance with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Foundation in **Uruguay** to conduct six preparatory workshops for State institutions (through the NMRF), CSOs, the NHRI and the UNCT in Uruguay in relation to the review in January 2020. In total, more than 150 persons were trained, 20 reports from non-State actors and one comprehensive report from the UNCT report were submitted and four organizations participated in a pre-session training that was organized by UPR-Info, in Geneva, in December.

In **Chile**, eight workshops were organized throughout the country and a dialogue session was held, in Santiago, in preparation for the UPR. At least two members from CSOs participated in a December UPR-Info pre-session workshop. A total of 272 individuals were trained and 37 individual submissions and 30 joint submissions were sent to the UPR Working Group. For the first time, alternative reports from regional organizations, indigenous peoples, Afrodescendants and rural communities were submitted in relation to Chile's third UPR cycle.



Development (D)

D7 – States implement the 2030 Agenda using national development plans that integrate recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms. States’ procedures for reviewing and follow-up make increasing use of national human rights mechanisms, and adopt a human rights-based approach to data. State institutions responsible for data collection apply human rights-based methods to address patterns of discrimination and inequality, enabling Governments to target their interventions more precisely.

OHCHR contributed to the improved compliance of State institutions with international human rights standards in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through technical guidance and support to the UNCTs.

In **Argentina**, the Office conducted an internal study on the impact of austerity measures on economic, social and cultural rights in the short- and medium-term, specifically in the areas of health, nutrition, education, economic welfare, access to social security, employment and social programmes. The study also sought to identify the vulnerable groups most affected by these measures and outlined a local monitoring process and recommendations for the UNCT on how to address prevailing human rights concerns, which was found to be a useful tool for the CCA.

In **Brazil**, in addition to monitoring cases involving HRDs, OHCHR provided human rights analysis to support the UNCT’s response. The Office participated in the Thematic Group on Race, Gender and Ethnicity, the Youth Advisory Group and the UN Communications Group and convened multi-stakeholder meetings on human rights matters to promote the integration of human rights into UN policies and programmes.

In **Chile**, both the 2018 CCA and the new UNDAF (2019-2022) integrate an HRBA into all outcomes. In 2019, OHCHR led the UN Inter-Agency Group on human rights and gender, which actively promotes the mainstreaming of human rights standards and contributes to other inter-agency groups, such as the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples’ Issues, the Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela and the Task Force on Business and Human Rights. Since the social protests first began, in October, the Office cooperated with the RC and the UNCT to lead the UNCT’s work on addressing the crisis. This was achieved by facilitating a technical mission and following up on its recommendations, organizing high-level meetings with public authorities and engaging with the international human rights mechanisms. Through OHCHR’s support, the UNCT strengthened its partnerships with civil society across the country, generating a network for early warning, monitoring of protests and follow-up actions on recommendations.

In **Ecuador**, the Office focused on strengthening the strategic interaction of the State, CSOs and the UNCT with the international human rights mechanisms. OHCHR built the capacity of 120 members of civil society to prepare confidential alternative reports for these mechanisms. As a result, the human rights treaty bodies received 18 alternative reports during the year on economic, social and cultural rights, thereby broadening the spectrum of issues that were covered in the recommendations for Ecuador. The Office also provided support to the OHCHR mission, which was deployed at the request of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, to monitor the human rights situation in the context of the October protests. Economic, cultural and social rights were among the root causes. Finally, the Office contributed to strengthening the

UNCT’s capacity for monitoring human rights situations in 2019. The nascent NHRIs Early Warning and Response System on the northern border was set up and the UN personnel involved with the system were trained on early warning and monitoring. A total of 50 officials from Quito and the northern border benefited from the training provided by OHCHR. The RCO prioritized the establishment of an early warning mechanism in the UNCT in 2020, which should help to improve the readiness of the system to identify and respond to a crisis.

In **Uruguay**, the Office supported the UNCT in incorporating the international human rights framework into the new CCA and Cooperation Framework. A human rights and gender dimension was integrated into a project co-led by the RCO and UNDP. The project called “Structural transformations needed for the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda” aims to identify the bottlenecks that hinder the transition of the country to sustainable development around three major areas, namely, finances and intergenerational solidarity; productivity, resilience and sustainability; and hard exclusions, social segregation, coexistence and the multidimensionality of poverty. OHCHR, UN Women and UNDP worked together on the elaboration of a strategy to mainstream human rights and gender empowerment approach into the three areas of work.

Finally, a bi-national meeting of UNCTs from Argentina and Uruguay, held in December, brought together almost 60 UN staff members from both countries, including RCs, regional representatives and Heads of UN agencies. The objective of the meeting was to discuss issues related to the application of the LNOB principle within the context of the CCA and UNSDCF in each country. The participants also analysed the LNOB principle in connection with the concepts of non-discrimination and equal access to services.