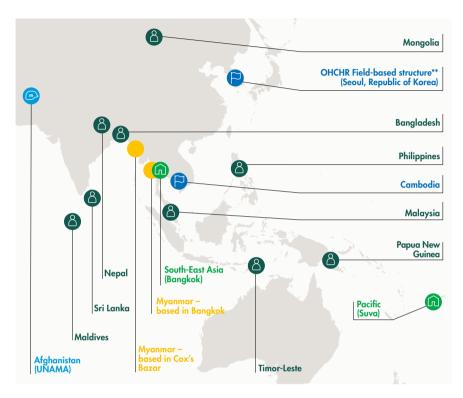
UN Human Rights in Asia-Pacific



TYPE OF PRESENCE

LOCATION



Country/Stand-alone Offices/ Human Rights Missions

Cambodia and Republic of Korea (Seoul)**

Regional Offices/Centres

South-East Asia (Bangkok, Thailand) and the Pacific (Suva, Fiji)



Human rights components of UN Peace/Political Missions

Afghanistan (UNAMA)

Human Rights Advisers

Bangladesh*, Malaysia*, Maldives*, Mongolia*, Nepal*, Papua New Guinea*, Philippines*, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste*



Other types of field presences

Myanmar (based in Bangkok, Thailand and Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh)

LEGEND:

Spotlights:







Shifts:















SDGs:

































^{*} Human Rights Advisers deployed under the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group.

^{**} Mandated by Human Rights Council resolution 25/25.

The Asia-Pacific region is the largest in the world, both in terms of its geography and population. The work of UN Human Rights covered 39 countries in the region. bordered by Afghanistan to the west, Mongolia to the north, Kiribati to the east and New Zealand to the south. In 2020, the Office supported one country office in Cambodia; human rights advisers (HRAs) or national officers in Bangladesh, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea (PNG), the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste; two regional offices for the Pacific and South-East Asia; one Human Rights Service (HRS) in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA); and one fieldbased structure, based in Seoul, which covers the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). OHCHR continued to deploy staff working on Myanmar in the Regional Office for South-East Asia.

The COVID-19 pandemic had major impacts on public health and on economic, social, civil and political rights across the Asia region. In the Pacific, the public health impacts were negligible but socio-economic cohesion and culture as well as some civil and political rights were affected. Headquarters and field staff transitioned to remote working arrangements and were limited in their capacities to undertake missions and travel-based activity. Nevertheless, effective communication systems were established within the team and with the field and a variety of activities were conducted virtually. OHCHR reoriented its monitoring efforts to focus on the human rights impacts of COVID-19 and produced regular regional updates and infographics for advocacy with partners. The region prepared and contributed to several COVID-19-related press statements and press briefings, including statements from the High Commissioner on issues such as states of emergency, migration and freedom of expression in 12 countries of the region. The High Commissioner sent a series of letters to encourage prison decongestion in Bangladesh, the DPRK, Pakistan and Thailand, with several positive results.

The Office continued to oversee the implementation of Human Rights Council (HRC) resolutions on Afghanistan, Cambodia, the DPRK, Myanmar, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. The High Commissioner gave updates to the HRC on human rights developments in Indianand Pakistan-administered Kashmir and on developments in the Hong Kong SAR and Xinjiang UAR of China. OHCHR assisted the special procedures country mandate holders for Cambodia, the DPRK and Myanmar. As visits to the region were limited due to COVID-19 restrictions, a number of engagements were conducted virtually.

The Regional Office for South-East Asia provided technical assistance to various partners at the regional and national levels. From the early stages of the pandemic, OHCHR tracked and reported human rights developments in the region, ensuring the integration of human rights into tools, guidance notes and awareness-raising initiatives developed by the UN and other partners. The Office continued to address the narrowing of civic space and democratic freedoms in the region, which was exacerbated by COVID-19, including in the context of digital space and large-scale protests. In response to the targeting of migrants and refugees and hate speech in the context of COVID-19, OHCHR engaged in public advocacy, highlighting the structural vulnerabilities faced by migrants. The Office continued to raise awareness about the impact on human rights of climate change and environmental degradation, with a focus on the right to a healthy environment, children and youth and environmental human rights defenders (HRDs). As a part of the Regional Office's programme of work related to the human rights treaty bodies, the growing interest of Member States in the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD) led the Office to provide increased assistance and support for the development, training and roll-out of NRTDs.

OHCHR engaged with the Government of the Philippines, national institutions and NGOs to produce a comprehensive report, in June, on the human rights situation in the Philippines. This was followed by the preparation of a resolution that was adopted by consensus, in September, with the support of the Government and the preparation of a UN Joint Programme on Human Rights.

In Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka, OHCHR continued to provide support to the UN Country Teams (UNCTs) to ensure the implementation of the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights and the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP). All field presences worked with the UNCTs to apply a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to programming, particularly in the context of COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response Plans (SERPs). Activities were undertaken to support the incorporation of human rights principles into UN programming, including training on an HRBA and technical advice for the development of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) and SERPs. Increased partnerships were sought with other UN agencies and advocates for civic space, political participation, access to justice and non-discrimination.

The Office conducted numerous human rights capacity-building and technical assistance activities for international and national stakeholders, including UNCTs, national human rights commissions and CSOs as well as HRDs.

OHCHR significantly strengthened its work on Myanmar to respond to the additional reporting requirements arising from the implementation of HRC resolutions and created opportunities for technical cooperation and closer engagement with the UNCT on several initiatives. In 2020, a number of important developments were noted in relation to accountability, including the creation of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM), progress made in the International Criminal Court (ICC) investigation and in a case brought by the Gambia and others to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) under the Genocide Convention. In September, the Office reported to the HRC on developments in the human rights situation and the follow-up to the recommendations issued by the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) on Myanmar.

In Cambodia, OHCHR provided technical assistance on drafting legislation to establish a national human rights institution (NHRI) that is compliant with the Paris Principles. The Office also engaged with the Government in raising awareness regarding the implementation of the OHCHR-supported NRTD that facilitates the implementation of recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies. In the context of the next UNSDCF, OHCHR increased its support to the Resident Coordinator (RC) and the UNCT by establishing a risk analysis framework that takes into consideration the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms and

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators.

In Mongolia, OHCHR assisted the UNCT in assessing the impacts of COVID-19 and emergency measures and provided guidance notes on information and participation. The Office helped the National Human Rights Commission to print a compilation of all recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, which was translated into the Mongolian language.

With regard to the DPRK, the Office in Seoul produced reports for the HRC and the General Assembly. It issued a public report on women in detention, in July, and on DPRK voices in the peace process, in October. In December, the Security Council held a briefing on human rights in the DPRK. The DPRK Accountability Project's information and evidence preservation, storage, management and processing capabilities were enhanced through a major technological upgrade. As of the end of the year, approximately 4,066 distinct files had been preserved in the repository, including interviews, reports, satellite imagery, maps, court documents, videos, audio recordings and petition letters. The DPRK Accountability Project is the first OHCHR body to use such advanced software, with this structure and layout, due to the specialized expertise of staff working on the project. This has generated greater interest within OHCHR to expand the use of the technology to a number of commissions of inquiry.

In Afghanistan, the Office worked closely with UNAMA colleagues in the context of the evolving peace process. In December, the High Commissioner spoke at a major conference on sustainable peace. In February, a public report was issued on the protection of civilians in Afghanistan and a second report was issued, in December, on violence against women.

In South Asia, OHCHR continued to provide technical assistance on the development of human rights indicators in Pakistan and actively engaged with national stakeholders on the transitional justice process in Nepal. The Office maintained its engagement in the Maldives with the deployment of a new senior HRA. It also increased its support to the UNCT in Nepal through the assignment of a national HRA.

In Sri Lanka, OHCHR collaborated with the UNCT and the RC to provide advice and support related to transitional justice. OHCHR continued monitoring and advocating on transitional justice, despite the Government's withdrawal of its co-sponsorship of HRC resolution 40/1, and supported the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka and the Office of Missing Persons. Unfortunately, a constitutional amendment that was adopted in October undermined the independence of the Human Rights Commission and other independent institutions.

In Bangladesh, OHCHR worked with the UNCT throughout the drafting process of the Common Country Analysis (CCA) and the COVID-19 socio-economic response framework. Guidance was provided to a Joint Programme, which was funded by the Joint SDG Fund, on social protection for female tea plantation workers engaging in public-private partnerships. In addition, the Office supported preparations for the CRPD review of the Government's State Party report and the preparations of an alternative report by organizations of persons with disabilities. In January, the UNCT and OHCHR helped to deliver the Government's first workshop on the development of a plan for the implementation of recommendations issued during the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Advocacy was undertaken in relation to freedom of expression, shrinking civic space and the protection of HRDs.

The Regional Office for the Pacific worked on programmes engaging governments, communities and individuals affected by the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 and the ongoing climate emergency, including youth, women human rights defenders (WHRDs), migrants and persons with disabilities. In a Joint Programme with ESCAP, ILO and IOM on climate mobility and security, OHCHR amplified the voices of independent experts. The Office organized the first Pacific Business and Human Rights Forum and continued to collaborate with partners to deliver capacity-building training to police forces in Fiji, including on the use of force and protection of vulnerable groups. It worked with States and the UNCTs in Fiji and Samoa to strengthen reporting and follow-up engagement with the international human rights mechanisms, notably the UPR. The Office undertook legislative reviews in various countries and provided guidance on the ratification of international human rights instruments. In addition, it monitored developments relating to COVID-19 public health emergency measures, including restrictions on freedom of movement. In collaboration with UN partners, the Office adapted the CCA and contributed to the SERP and the pilot implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS). Finally, it closely followed developments relating to civic space and participation and encouraged the application of an HRBA to humanitarian situations, including two cyclone responses in April and December.

AFGHANISTAN: UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN (UNAMA)

Population size¹ 38.93 million		Human Development Index ² NHRI (if applicable) ³ 0.511 (rank: 169/189 in 2019) "A" Status (2014)			
Type of engagen	nent	Peace Mission			
Year established		2002			
Field office(s)		Kabul			
UN partnership framework		One UN for Afghanistan 2018-2021			
Staff as of 31 December 2020		74			

XB requirements 2020

US\$301,000

Key OMP pillars in 2020







¹²³ Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229.

PILLAR RESULTS:



Accountability

A1 - Cases of torture and ill-treatment at detention facilities are investigated more promptly, impartially, independently and thoroughly. Accountability and protection mechanisms are strengthened.





OHCHR contributed to the improved treatment of conflict-related detainees and enhanced functioning of accountability mechanisms in detention facilities, in compliance with international human rights standards.

UN Human Rights and UNAMA continued advocating with authorities, providing technical support, monitoring detention facilities and compiling data. In the last two years, the Anti-Torture Committee of the Attorney General's Office more actively prosecuted cases of torture in light of the 2018 revised Penal Code and the 2018 Anti-Torture Act, both of which criminalize torture. From January 2019 to April 2020, 15 cases were investigated and prosecuted under article 450 of the Penal Code (crime of torture). In four cases, alleged perpetrators were convicted. In two cases, alleged perpetrators were acquitted. As of July, four cases were before the courts, four cases were being investigated by prosecutors and one case was suspended due to the COVID-19 outbreak. UNAMA's monitoring revealed that human rights officers of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) visited places of detention while far fewer visits were conducted by the Ministry of Interior.

A2 – Inclusive and accountable peace and reconciliation processes are established in conformity with international human rights standards and internationally recognized principles of transitional justice. The processes include mechanisms for vetting ex-combatants and identifying potential violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.





OHCHR contributed to the functioning of transitional justice mechanisms, in line with international human rights standards.

Throughout 2020, UN Human Rights and UNAMA continued to advise the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) on various issues related to peace, human rights and victim-centred justice, including the development of sustainable policy options. In cooperation with a Senior Mediation Adviser from the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, in January, UNAMA's Human Rights Unit (HRU) facilitated a three-day workshop for the leadership team of the AIHRC on the role of NHRIs in promoting victim-centred justice and inclusive peace processes. On 2 June, the AIHRC published a position paper on the inclusion of victims in the Afghan peace process, with proposals and options for the negotiating parties. On 25 June, the Chair of the Commission addressed the UN Security Council on the impacts of COVID-19 on human rights, civilian casualty trends, the importance of human rights in the peace process and meaningful victim-centred justice measures. On 12 September, the Commission welcomed the opening of the Afghanistan Peace Negotiations and encouraged the parties to agree on a set of principles to guide the talks, such as inclusivity and victims' rights. On 19 November, the Chair called for accountability for the alleged perpetrators of war crimes within the Australian Special Forces and advocated for reparations and acknowledgment of the suffering of Afghan victims.

The HRU also raised awareness within UNAMA and among the parties to the conflict about international human rights obligations and victim-centred justice, including the rights of victims and the importance of their inclusion. In January and October, the HRU and the Embassy of the Netherlands in Afghanistan hosted two meetings of the informal Group of Friends on Victim-Centred Justice to coordinate engagement with national actors, including the AIHRC and CSOs, and members of the diplomatic community.

A3 – The Government adopts measures to improve the implementation of the 2009 Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW). It effectively investigates cases of violence against women, prosecutes perpetrators and introduces measures to support victims.



Through advocacy and technical support, OHCHR contributed to improving the compliance of various State institutions and programmes with international human rights standards, in particular for the promotion and protection of women's rights.

UN Human Rights and UNAMA's HRU continued to support the Government's efforts to improve the implementation of the EVAW Law. In 2020, specialized EVAW institutions, such as police, prosecutors and courts, were present across all provinces of Afghanistan, representing a major achievement. Various government entities, including the Attorney General's Office, provided regular public updates on the investigation and prosecution of crimes of violence against women and girls. Furthermore, the AIHRC monitored the State's response to crimes of violence against women and girls. Despite this progress, challenges remained. Reporting of violence remained low and impunity was the norm for too many perpetrators. The review of the EVAW Law by the Ministry of Women's Affairs was postponed due to COVID-19.



Participation

P1 - The AIHRC operates in conformity with the Paris Principles, particularly in the areas of independence, improving female representation and access to adequate resources, to ensure independent functioning.



OHCHR contributed to the independent functioning of the AIHRC, in compliance with the Paris Principles, through regular engagement, the coordination of activities and information-sharing.

UN Human Rights and UNAMA's HRU supported the Government, the AIHRC and civil society in the promotion of increased democratic space, the protection of HRDs, accountability for human rights violations, the fight against discrimination, the promotion of an inclusive and human rights-compliant peace and reconciliation process and victim-centred justice.

Civil society organizations and the members of the media expressed concern about draft legislation in relation to NGOs and the freedoms of expression and

association. A recent draft would impose unnecessary restrictions on the activities of CSOs and grant the Government disproportionate control over their legal, administrative, financial and operational matters.

The HRU organized 18 capacity-building and outreach events in Afghanistan for 507 participants (137 women, 370 men) HRDs, journalists, government officials, AIHRC commissioners and local community leaders. On 26 October, the HRU, on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, launched a two-month online training on key human rights issues for 34 young HRDs (10 women, 24 men) selected from across the country. The HRU also supported the national broadcast of seven thematic radio programmes on access to information and the role of civil society in the promotion and protection of human rights. Moreover, the HRU reached out to civil society, HRDs and university students. It distributed OHCHR guidelines on human rights in the context of COVID-19, in national languages, 550 books on human rights and relevant Afghan laws and 1,200 copies of human rights calendars.

In addition to its independent and collective work on victim-centred justice, the HRU strengthened its long-standing engagement with the AIHRC on the protection of civilians, children and armed conflict, women's rights and detention monitoring. A total of 103 coordination meetings took place in Kabul and the provinces. With the outbreak of COVID-19, the AIHRC monitored, reported on and advocated for better preparedness and response measures. It also participated in the Government's national and subnational coordination mechanisms. The Commission published 14 thematic reports on various human rights issues, including the protection of civilians, sexual abuse in schools and workplaces, access to education and health, especially in the context of COVID-19, the human rights situation of detainees and persons with disabilities and forced gynecological examinations.



Peace and Security

PS1 - The Government and armed opposition groups formulate, revise and strengthen policies, mechanisms and regulations to protect civilians and prevent civilian casualties, all of which comply with international humanitarian law and international human rights standards.



OHCHR contributed to the establishment and functioning of mechanisms to protect civilians, in line with international human rights standards, through monitoring and advocacy efforts.

UN Human Rights and UNAMA's HRU continued to advocate with the Government for the creation, implementation and strengthening of compliance with policies on the mitigation of civilian harm and protection of civilians, including specific provisions related to child protection. The HRU continued to provide technical assistance to the Government in relation to its structured action plans for the implementation of the National Policy on Civilian Casualty Prevention and Mitigation, endorsed in October 2017, and its ratification of the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, in particular Protocols II and V. The HRU also worked with the NATO Resolute Support Mission, which assisted the Ministry of Defense to develop its own Civilian Casualty Mitigation Team.

Furthermore, the HRU engaged with the Government to address issues related to children in armed conflict. On 5 March 2019, the Law on Protection of Child Rights (Child Act) was enacted by a presidential decree. This was one of the priorities set out in the 2014 "Road Map to Compliance," which details measures to fully implement the 2011 Action Plan in order to end the recruitment and use of children in Afghan national security forces. The Child Act contains provisions on the prevention of bacha bazi and the recruitment and use of children. The HRU engaged with the Government to ensure the incorporation of such provisions.

The HRU provided technical support to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the Secretariat for the implementation of the Action Plan/Road Map to Compliance for the Prevention of Underage Recruitment and Use and the annexes that include a list of parties engaging in violations against children, namely, the abduction, killing and maiming of children and rape and other forms of sexual violence against children. In June, the Government of Afghanistan submitted its eighth annual progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan/Road Map to Compliance. The HRU supported the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict in drafting a letter in response to the Government's report, highlighting key challenges and providing recommendations, including the adoption of the Child Act by the Parliament, the establishment of a referral pathway for children formerly associated with armed forces and groups and the treatment of children released from detention facilities, in compliance with international standards on juvenile justice. The letter strongly urged the Government to implement relevant laws and policies and combat impunity. In

October, the Ministry of Interior endorsed its Policy on Safeguarding the Rights and the Protection of Children, which is in accordance with the Action Plan/Road Map to Compliance. The Policy includes provisions on the protection of children from sexual violence and recruitment and use. The Office of the National Security Council, supported by NATO, drafted a common security sector National Policy on Protection of Children in Armed Conflict, which will apply to the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Defence and the National Directorate of Security. The HRU, NATO and CSOs provided technical advice during the drafting and revision processes. The Policy was still under development at the end of the year.

BANGLADESH

Population size ¹ 164.69 million	Surface area ¹ 148,000 km ²	Human Development Index ² NHRI (if applicable) ³ 0.632 (rank: 133/189 in 2019) "B" Status (2015)		
Type of engagen	nent	Human Rights Adviser		
Year established		2018 (following earlier deployment 2014-2016)		
Field office(s)		Dhaka		
UN partnership framework		United Nations Partnership Framework 201 <i>7</i> –2020		
Staff as of 31 December 2020		1		

US\$429,000 XB requirements 2020

Key OMP pillars in 2020





123 Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229

PILLAR RESULTS:



Development

D7 - States integrate human rights. including the right to development and the recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms, as they implement the SDGs and other development and poverty eradication efforts. The UN supports them in these efforts and integrates human rights into its own development work.





OHCHR contributed to the increased integration of international human rights standards into policies and programmes of the UN and other development partners, including those adopted in response to COVID-19.

In the context of the pandemic, UN Human Rights provided extensive advice in relation to the UNCT's Country Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP), the humanitarian assessment and the UN Immediate Socio-Economic Response Plan (ISERP), which was finalized in July. The HRA provided advice on the CPRP, with a focus on social cohesion, in particular regarding the prevention of discrimination against marginalized groups, and co-led work under the ISERP on social stability and the rule of law. As a result, key elements related to discrimination were included in the ISERP and discussions were held on the protection of civil and political rights and the need for their inclusion in health and humanitarian responses. The HRA undertook policy advocacy and offered advice, which supported the revision of the SDG monitoring framework and developed the capacity of the UNCT Human Rights Working Group to apply new guidance on COVID-19 and ISERPs and the human rights indicator framework. OHCHR granted seed funding to CSOs to enable human rights monitoring of the application of the human rights indicator framework.

The HRA coordinated and contributed to the policy work of the Joint Programme for Enhanced Social Protection for female tea garden workers in Sylhet Division, which was funded by the UN's Joint SDG Fund. Various adjustments were introduced due to COVID-19-related constraints, including online meetings with unions, the employers' association and the Government. These changes facilitated continuous dialogue on required social protection measures.

The HRA supported civil society and UN development partners with regard to civic space and freedom of expression and the application of the Digital Security Act. This resulted in the mutual participation of the UN, development partners and the Government. During the COVID-19 emergency, UN Human Rights strengthened its engagement with CSOs to monitor instances of hate speech and other forms of online communication that may limit the enjoyment of the rights of minority communities.



Mechanisms

M1 – The Government regularly submits reports to the human rights treaty bodies.





OHCHR continued to lead the UNCT Human Rights Working Group and provided training and technical assistance to support the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, including those issued by the UPR.

In January, OHCHR collaborated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and key ministries to deliver the first of four workshops in order to develop a plan for the implementation of the UPR recommendations. The workshop also provided the Government with an opportunity to reiterate its commitment to their implementation. Participants included the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs as well as the Head of the NHRI and other senior officials. The workshop represents the first time that government ministries and civil society came together to discuss the country's UPR implementation status.

Further, the HRA collaborated with the UNCT and CSOs on a submission in anticipation of the CRPD's list of issues related to its upcoming review of the State Party report of Bangladesh. They worked closely with CSOs to prepare for the review, which was scheduled for March. The review was postponed until August and then again until the second half of 2021.

CAMBODIA

Population size ¹ 16.72 million	Surface area¹ 181,000 km ²	Human Development Index ² 0.594 (rank: 144/189 in 2019)	NHRI (if ap	plicable)³
Type of engagen	nent	Country Office		
Year established		1993		
Field office(s)		Phnom Penh		
UN partnership f	framework	United Nations Development Framework 2019-2023	t Assistance	
Staff as of 31 De	cember 2020	38		
XB income XB requirements	2020	US\$840,253 US\$3,093,000		
XB expenditure Personnel 76%		US\$1,477,199	Non-person	11%
\$1,129,325 RB expenditure Personnel 84%		US\$1,441,877	169	
\$1,207,289 Key OMP pillars in 2020			\$23	34,588

¹²³⁴ Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229 and p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:



Participation

P5 - Increased systematic monitoring of and threats to civic space.



OHCHR contributed to strengthening oversight, accountability and protection mechanisms, in particular with regard to the work of HRDs, in conformity with international human rights standards.

Throughout 2020, UN Human Rights carried out extensive human rights monitoring of the civic and democratic space. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, monitoring was primarily carried out in Phnom Penh and remotely. This included monitoring of dozens of protests, most of which took place in the capital. The Office provided protection support to several HRDs and facilitated referrals to protection mechanisms for persons at risk of human rights violations. The work was carried out in collaboration with national, regional and international CSOs, diplomatic partners and other partners.

OHCHR developed the capacity of CSOs to better engage with protection mechanisms. More specifically, it collaborated with CSOs to monitor mass trials on 26 November and during 2020, thereby enabling civil society partners to forward to diplomatic missions the data they had collected on violations and abuses. In the context of a wave of arrests, in August, the Office provided regular updates to the RC and worked closely with CSOs on raising human rights issues with the UNCT.

OHCHR followed up on protection cases for HRDs and political activists. Six special procedures communications were sent to the Government and several public statements were issued about the human rights situation in the country. Consequently, authorities were more aware of the links between their actions and human rights obligations, although they did not systematically address the concerns raised.

OHCHR and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia undertook consistent advocacy with local authorities regarding the planned evictions of ethnic Vietnamese communities along the Tonle Sap in Kampong Chhnang province. Although eviction attempts continued in 2020, the Office successfully intervened to stop the demolition of homes belonging to fishing families of ethnic Vietnamese, leading to a postponement of the relocation of almost 1,000 families in the same province. The Office called on the Government to complete the planned resettlement site before relocating the families and to ensure that the people were in agreement with the plan, as required by international human rights standards.

The Office addressed the absence of identity documents and/or the statelessness of ethnic Vietnamese and Khmer Krom

families in Kampong Chhnang Province and Siem Reap Province. It organized two workshops in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior General Department of Identification and Immigration and provincial authorities. Following the workshops, the Ministry of Interior provided advice to provincial officials to process and issue identification documents to the Khmer Krom families and to facilitate naturalization procedures for the ethnic Vietnamese. A total of 124 persons (21 women, 103 men) from ethnic Vietnamese communities and Khmer Krom groups and local officials attended the workshops.

P7 – Youth networks increasingly recognize the value and importance of human rights and accountability and their contributions to development and peace.

1 2 3 4 5 10 16 ÷ 1 3 3 1

OHCHR enhanced the engagement of young persons in support of human rights messages by conducting a targeted competition on human rights for youth.

UN Human Rights released a series of animated videos called "Human Rights Explained," as part of a campaign to raise awareness of and support for human rights among Cambodian youth. A young Cambodian influencer narrated the videos, which address issues related to human rights, democracy and the international human rights mechanisms. The campaign reached 744,800 Cambodian Facebook users, most of whom were in the 18-34 age group. The videos were shared with youth organizations, some of which used them in training activities.

The Office also worked with six youth organizations on a Young Human Rights Champion Competition to recognize

youth support for human rights issues. A total of 82 young people (53 women, 29 men) from 18 groups of diverse backgrounds, including minority groups, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and children, applied for the competition. Six groups, with participants between 15 and 23 years of age, were selected to join the competition. OHCHR developed the capacity of these groups in relation to human rights and video filming and editing and provided them with ongoing coaching. The young people subsequently produced six videos on a variety of topics, including the right to vote, the participation of persons with disabilities, the equal right to work for women and men, migrant workers and discrimination against the children of sex workers and former prisoners. The videos were posted on the UN Human Rights-Cambodia Facebook page, resulting in approximately 15,000 reactions, 2.1 million reaches and 101,000 engagements.

The Office broadly disseminated two human rights surveys, including the UN Global Survey on Youth and COVID-19 and the survey for the Secretary-General's report on policies and programmes involving youth, to more than 100 young people, youth organizations and networks. To mark Human Rights Day 2020, OHCHR developed a "Right to Create" campaign for Cambodian youth, highlighting the importance of placing human rights at the heart of COVID-19 responses. The campaign products were developed by and for Cambodian youth.



D1 - Businesses and other economic actors are held accountable for rights abuses and provide remedies to victims.

3 5 8 16 17

OHCHR contributed to an increased compliance of business actors with international human rights norms and standards.

UN Human Rights continued to provide mediation support to indigenous communities and business actors, leading to the conclusion of an agreement on communal land, in August, between a rubber company and three Bunong indigenous communities in Mondulkiri Province and Socfin. The Office attended the signature ceremony. In 2018, a similar agreement was reached with a fourth community. Due to the Office's intervention, over 500 hectares of land were returned to the indigenous communities, including sacred forests, spirit forests, cemeteries and reserve lands, which were located in the economic land concessions managed by the company. With the development of the maps and the marking of the returned areas, the communities will now be able to apply to have their land registered under the communal land titling (CLT) process, thereby securing their land tenure. OHCHR will continue supporting the communities during the mediation and finalization processes.

D3 - Laws, policies and strategies on land, housing and property increasingly comply with international human rights standards. Their implementation by government entities, including the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Rural Development and subnational authorities, similarly complies with international standards.

11

OHCHR advocated for better compliance with international human rights standards of legislation, policies and practices regarding the land rights of indigenous peoples.

In 2020, the Government did not discuss new land and/or housing rights laws or policies. The Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction began an internal process to revise the 2001 Land Law to ensure its harmonization with the Civil Code of Cambodia (2007). No progress was made on the draft Environmental and Natural Resources Code, despite several years of extensive consultations and two years of closed-door discussions at the ministry level.

UN Human Rights finalized the discussion paper on the simplification of the CLT process, with the intent of mainstreaming human rights, SDGs and the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle into the process. The official launch of the discussion paper will be held in early 2021. Due to OHCHR's support, seven communities of indigenous peoples progressed to step 3, the last step before a land title is issued. OHCHR also engaged in a discussion about an indigenous community, located in a protected area, whose CLT process is stalled at step 3.

To assist the Government and prevent evictions during the pandemic, OHCHR translated into Khmer three COVID-19 guidance notes on protecting the homeless, residents of informal settlements and renters and mortgage payers. The Office widely disseminated the guidance notes to ministries, municipalities and other authorities. OHCHR also shared with donors, UN entities and other partners a confidential note on the situation of indigenous peoples and minorities in the context of the pandemic.

OHCHR raised awareness about the impact that violations of housing and land rights have on women, identifying the links between women's economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs) and violations of land and housing rights in Cambodia. To this end, the Office co-published a compilation of six fact sheets and case studies with the CSO Klahaan.

OHCHR continued to focus on the human rights situation of communities living in resettlement sites in Cambodia. Draft guidelines on evictions and resettlement were produced along with the first draft of a report, which is expected to be completed and submitted by the end of 2021.

Finally, OHCHR contributed to the CCA update by providing the UNCT with inputs and analyses related to ESCRs.



A2 - An NHRI is established that aims at providing redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.





OHCHR provided support to establish an NHRI that is compliant with international human rights standards.

The 2002 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UN Human Rights and the Government foresees the need for technical assistance to establish an NHRI in Cambodia. Over the years, various stakeholders have taken steps to fulfil this objective. In the mid-2000s, CSOs initiated the development of draft legislation, but they disengaged from the process due to the shrinking civic and democratic space and a growing distrust of the Government's intention to establish a genuinely independent NHRI. In 2019, during Cambodia's third UPR cycle, a number of States recommended that it establish an NHRI that is compliant with the Paris Principles. Cambodia accepted the recommendation and the Prime Minister reinitiated the process of drafting a law on the establishment of a NHRI.

On 2 February, the Cambodian Human Rights Committee (CHRC) sent a request to OHCHR for an expert consultancy to support the drafting of an NHRI law. Since then, the CHRC has produced an initial zero draft of the legislation, which was shared with the Office, along with a request for comments and translation. In September, OHCHR provided a technical note to outline critical areas that require improvements to ensure the NHRI's compliance with the Paris Principles, particularly in terms of the NHRI's full independence and the selection processes for its members. In March, OHCHR provided additional comments on a more advanced draft. The CHRC plans to have a first draft ready by mid-April 2021 with a view to initiating consultations. Independent CSOs have indicated that they may not participate in the process under the prevailing circumstances, but groups that are known to be more aligned with the Government may choose to engage in consultations. OHCHR will continue to offer its support to organize a broad consultative process that would explore a range of models and institutions in the search for a suitable mechanism for Cambodia. The Office engaged with the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF) in this regard.



Mechanisms

M1 - Cambodia submits five reports to the human rights treaty bodies that conform with reporting guidelines and submits its State report to the UPR. It adopts an integrated and participatory approach to preparing and following up on these reports.



OHCHR contributed to the submission of two periodic reports to the human rights treaty bodies, in conformity with reporting guidelines.

UN Human Rights provided assistance to Cambodia, resulting in the timely submission of its State Party reports to CRC and ICCPR. The Government's State Party report was submitted to CESCR, albeit with some delay, following OHCHR's intervention with the CHRC. At the end of 2020, three reports remained overdue, namely, the report to CED (due in 2015 and under the responsibility of the CHRC), the report to CAT (response to

the list of issues due in 2014 and under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior) and the report to CRPD (due in 2015 and under the responsibility of the Disability Action Council (DAC)). There are indications that the reports to CED and CRPD will be submitted in 2021.

OHCHR continued its advocacy with the CHRC for the development of an implementation plan for the UPR recommendations that were issued during Cambodia's third UPR cycle. The CHRC appeared to limit its role to disseminating recommendations and compiling information received from relevant ministries and institutions but expressed keen interest in further exploring OHCHR's proposal to implement the NRTD in Cambodia.

The Cambodian National Council for Women (CNCW) actively pursued the development of an implementation plan related to CEDAW's concluding observations. The Office advocated with the CHRC and the CNCW to ensure a coordinated approach to following up on recommendations, particularly those that are interlinked. OHCHR continued to engage with the DAC to ensure that its reporting is aligned with CRPD reporting guidelines. The CRPD report was not finalized at the end of the year.

The Office engaged with the National Committee against Torture (NCAT) and the Ministry of Interior in the context of their preparation of reports to CAT and SPT. Following the country visit of SPT in 2009 and its follow-up mission in 2013, OHCHR raised the awareness of authorities about overdue reports and the need to respond to CAT's list of issues prior to the Government's submission of its third periodic report, which was due on 19 November 2014. The Ministry of Interior's Working Group on Human Rights Reporting, established in July 2019, convened several meetings to discuss the replies received from various ministries in relation to CAT's list of issues and SPT reports. As of the end of the year, the Working Group was still waiting for replies from the police and court authorities. The role of the NCAT in the Working Group remains unclear as its status as an independent institution should preclude it from directly engaging in the production of a State Party report.

M2 – CSOs and the UNCT increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms when they report to the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures and the UPR.



OHCHR contributed to substantive submissions by the NHRI, CSOs, UN entities and individuals to the treaty bodies, the special procedures and the UPR.

UN Human Rights contributed to building the capacities of CSOs to engage with the international human rights mechanisms, including by submitting inputs. On 19 November, the Office briefed 10 HRDs on how to engage with CESCR. As a result, they submitted a joint alternative report focusing on the right to adequate housing. On 12 March 2021, CESCR issued a list of issues, but the review is not expected until 2022. The Office supported a network of child rights CSOs in developing their UPR follow-up strategy. In partnership with UPR-Info and the CHRC, the Office participated in a first training of trainers workshop to build the capacity of local CSOs in monitoring and reporting on the implementation of UPR recommendations.

OHCHR facilitated the engagement of the UNCT with the Human Rights Committee and CESCR. In addition, OHCHR conducted briefings for the UNCT members, with the participation of the HRC and CESCR Secretariat, which generated strong interest and a good turnout. These efforts enhanced the understanding and capacity of UNCT members.

In 2020, the special procedures sent 11 communications to Cambodia, representing a 366 per cent increase from 2019, when only three communications were issued. These communications covered various topics, including arbitrary detention, violence against women, HRDs, draconian laws, the right to privacy, enforced disappearance and adequate housing. Some of the communications were developed in consultation with national and international CSOs. The special procedures also issued three press statements.

Enhancing the protection of women journalists in Asia

As a journalist working in Cambodia, Kann Vicheika knows first-hand the challenges of gathering information and publicly reporting in a country where deep concerns have been expressed by UN human rights experts about government crackdowns on civil society and the media.

When she is conducting interviews, Vicheika often notices someone eavesdropping. At protests, she frequently sees the police taking photos of those who attend. She has been personally targeted with hateful and insulting comments on social media. In April, while working for the Voice of America radio broadcasting network at a press conference in Phnom Penh, she asked the Prime Minister a series of questions about conditions for the implementation of a state of emergency law. She immediately received offensive comments.

To better equip journalists to overcome these kinds of challenges, UN Human Rights in South-East Asia collaborated with UN Women and UNESCO to launch a training programme entitled "Enhancing the protection of women journalists and women's human rights in the context of shrinking democratic space in Asia." The programme began on 10 December, on the occasion of Human Rights Day. It aims to raise the awareness of journalists and media workers and enable them to exchange experiences and build networks, thereby strengthening their protection capacities, including in the area of digital safety.

Vicheika is one of the 41 journalists and media workers from 15 countries in Asia who are participating in this seven-month, self-paced innovative programme, which includes live webinar sessions. "Being verbally harassed in person and online by pro-government supporters or government officials is not new to me. I have sometimes experienced sexual harassment by journalists in field work, too," she said. "As a woman journalist working within a macho culture in Cambodia, [the programme] is a unique opportunity to join forces with other women and men who may have experienced similar types of harassment across the region. This training is very important for my work as a freelancer, trainer and Vice-President of the Board of Cambodian Journalists Alliance and for journalists in Cambodia, especially women journalists."



Kann Vicheika, a Cambodian journalist. © Photo courtesy of Kann Vicheika

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Population size¹ 25.78 million	Surface area ¹ 121,000 km ²	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if o	applicable) ³	
Type of engagement		Field-based structure			
Year established		2015			
Field office(s)		Seoul, Republic of Korea (ROK)			
UN partnership	framework	United Nations Strategic Fro	amework 2	2017- 2021	
Staff as of 31 De	cember 2020	9			
XB income		US\$187,246			
XB income XB requirements 2020		U\$\$187,246 U\$\$161,000			
XB expenditure		US\$146,776			
Personnel		, ,	Non-persor	nnel PSC ⁴	
74%			15%	12%	
\$108,368			\$21,522	[\$16,886	
RB expenditure		US\$929,513			
Personnel				Non-personnel	
95%				5%	
\$883,193				\$46,320	
Key OMP pillars	in 2020				

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PILLAR RESULTS:



A2 - National institutions in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) curb violations of human rights in response to international pressure.



OHCHR contributed analyses and raised awareness about human rights concerns in the DPRK, including among the DPRK leadership, through public reporting and strategic media engagement.

UN Human Rights documented facts and patterns of grave human rights violations in the country, including through interviews with 46 DPRK escapees who had recently arrived in the ROK, engagement with CSOs and other relevant stakeholders and open source monitoring and documentation. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions and border closures, the number of escapees arriving in the ROK was significantly lower than in previous years. The Office continued to engage with the ROK Ministry of Unification

and requested increased access at the Government Reception Centres through a letter from the High Commissioner.

Public reporting enabled the Office to advocate with the Government of the DPRK and other Member States about issues of concern. It also provided a platform for North Korean escapees to be heard, improved the awareness of the international community regarding the human rights situation in the DPRK and contributed to a more informed public discourse. The Office's sustained human rights advocacy and evidence-based reporting led to small improvements in the human rights situation in the DPRK, including the treatment of persons in detention in some settings. In July, the Office issued a thematic report entitled "I still feel the pain," which documents human rights violations against women detained in the DPRK. The report was widely covered by national and international media and discussed in different forums, including national parliaments. In 2020, the High Commissioner sent a number of letters to the Government. In one of these letters, sent in May, the High Commissioner highlighted the impacts of economic hardship during the pandemic, emphasized the need to pay greater attention to high risk and vulnerable populations, including detainees, and the importance of accepting international solidarity and cooperation by ensuring that humanitarian actors have access to vulnerable communities.

A2 - The international community continues to hold accountable perpetrators of crimes against humanity.



OHCHR contributed to enhancing the timely consideration of critical human rights issues in international forums.

UN Human Rights made significant progress towards ensuring accountability for human rights violations in the DPRK. In March, the High Commissioner delivered an oral update pursuant to HRC resolution 40/20. A High Commissioner's report on the implementation of resolution 40/20 was finalized and shared with the Permanent Mission of the DPRK in Geneva for comments

The central information and evidence repository was upgraded using the latest e-discovery software. Approximately 3,830 distinct files were added to the repository, such as interviews, reports, petition letters, satellite imagery, maps, court documents, videos and audio recordings. Related open source materials from the media, governments and academia were also uploaded. All relevant staff were trained on the use of the repository during online sessions.

The Office strengthened its cooperation with CSOs, legal experts, government representatives, victims and their families through information-sharing, capacity-building and exploring accountability strategies. In October, a human rights organization shared 748 petitions with the repository that it had submitted to the international human rights mechanisms. In addition, OHCHR provided select CSOs with technical advice on investigation standards for international crimes. Assistance and advice were offered to CSOs and victims' groups, which were introduced to an international criminal law practice to

support them in bringing a case to the ICC. Consideration was also given to submitting a communication under article 15 of the Rome Statute on behalf of the families of victims of enforced disappearance and abduction in the DPRK.

The Office regularly engaged with the Centre for North Korean Human Rights Records (Records Centre) of the ROK Ministry of Unification and the Ministry of Justice in order to exchange information and seek cooperation. In December, OHCHR organized a joint workshop with the Records Centre on human rights investigations and documentation in the DPRK. In October, the Office hosted an online forum with experts in the fields of criminal accountability, universal jurisdiction, corporate accountability, asset tracing/financial crime investigations and victim-centred justice to share lessons learned and examine possible avenues for accountability. In December, a workshop was organized to brief CSOs about OHCHR's accountability work, the implementation of HRC resolution 40/20 and to discuss accountability strategies.

Furthermore, OHCHR continued to analyse collected information, particularly in light of international criminal law. As of part of its efforts to better understand the legal standards and procedures of the DPRK, eight DPRK laws on prosecution, public security and the administration of justice were translated from Korean to English. The Office also undertook research on the command structure of the DPRK leadership. It monitored judicial processes, including civil and criminal cases in the ROK, and civil claims brought by families and victims of enforced disappearance and abduction in Japan. These efforts helped to advance the accountability agenda in the DPRK.



P4 - Human rights principles, norms and language are embraced by CSOs that work with the Government of the DPRK and/or with DPRK escapees.



OHCHR contributed to the increased integration of human rights principles, norms and language into media narratives on human rights issues in the DPRK and reached out to youth.

UN Human Rights engaged with North Koreans living in the ROK to raise awareness, increase its interview base for monitoring and documentation, enable DPRK escapees to participate in relevant UN meetings and build their human rights capacity. Specifically, the Office organized quarterly meetings with two core groups of North Korean civil society actors in the ROK, providing a platform for regular interaction and engagement with the Office. Additionally, OHCHR engaged with DPRK escapees who have contacts inside the DPRK to receive up-to-date information on the human rights situation in light of COVID-19. In June, the Office organized a one-day training for 12 DPRK escapees on interviewing and documenting human rights violations. These initiatives strengthened the Office's engagement with the DPRK escapees and supported its outreach and advocacy work.

The Office collaborated with Member States, CSOs, academic institutions and other actors working on the DPRK, including by attending seminars and events in the ROK. The Office delivered presentations on a variety of issues, including COVID-19 and human rights, peace and human rights in the DPRK, women's rights and health in the DPRK and denuclearization and human rights. The Office undertook an initiative to reach out to youth and held briefings and activities related to human rights for youth and university students, including at Yonsei University, Seoul National University, Korea University and Ewha Womans University. It participated in events for youth organized by the Youth Ambassador Winter Camp and briefed fellows participating in the WFUNA Peace Fellowship (January) and the Liberty in North Korea Fellowship Programme (October).

OHCHR continued to expand its media outreach activities through the production and dissemination of materials in Korean and English on its website and social media accounts. The Office provided 11 interviews and comments to the media on a range of issues, including human rights in the DPRK during the pandemic, persons with disabilities and COVID-19, separated families and enforced disappearances, civil society space in the ROK and the killing of a South Korean official by the DPRK. In addition, OHCHR created more than 100 Twitter and Facebook postings, in Korean and English, on the human rights situation in the DPRK. On the occasion of Human Rights Day, the Office launched a social media campaign, #NorthKorean Voices, to provide a platform for North Korean people to express their views on the human rights situation in the DPRK. The website and social media posts were used by several media outlets as a source of information and the basis for stories. OHCHR's thematic report and statements and the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK, as well as the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly on the human rights situation in the DPRK, attracted significant national and international media interest.



PS3 - International approaches to the DPRK integrate human rights as a cross-cutting issue and recognize the centrality of human rights in the promotion of peace and security in the DPRK.



OHCHR consistently raised awareness in relation to critical human rights issues with international partners, contributing to the increased integration of human rights into the peace process.

UN Human Rights pursued advocacy efforts with the international community to integrate human rights as a conflict prevention tool, particularly in the context of the denuclearization and inter-Korean talks on the Korean peninsula. While these initiatives have been stalled since 2019, both the United States and the ROK continued to pursue their policy engagement with the DPRK. OHCHR regularly interacted with Member States and the international community to increase the integration of human rights issues into their diplomacy with the DPRK. In September, OHCHR released a discussion paper entitled "Laying the human rights foundations for peace: Supporting an inclusive and human rights-centred peace process in the DPRK." The paper recommended the establishment of benchmarks for integrating human rights into the peace process and captured perceptions of the North Korean people on peace and denuclearization talks. Prior to the release of the paper, in August, the High Commissioner sent letters to the ROK, the DPRK and the United States of America, supporting public participation and the inclusion of human rights in the peace process.

The Office engaged with Member States and UN entities to ensure that the human

rights situation in the DPRK continued to be discussed in international forums. In December, the human rights situation in the DPRK was discussed in the Security Council. OHCHR regularly briefed the international community on its activities, the human rights situation in the DPRK and the work of the Special Rapporteur. The Office shared quarterly human rights updates with its diplomatic contacts and UN partners. This enabled international partners to systematically engage with the DPRK on current human rights issues. Regular coordination with DPPA, the RC and the UNCT facilitated effective collaboration on key human rights developments and ensured consistent advocacy messaging.

PS5 – Humanitarian programmes adopt a human rights-based approach and comply with the requirements of the UN's Human Rights up Front Action Plan.



OHCHR contributed to increasing the integration of human rights into humanitarian responses and advocacy.

Inputs from UN Human Rights informed a number of sections of the UNCT's 2020 Needs and Priorities Plan for the DPRK. The Office provided regular contributions and analyses on the humanitarian situation in the DPRK, including in relation to a possible food crisis, to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) regional horizon scanning, Early Warning and Early Action report. From the end of January, the Office monitored human rights issues in the context of COVID-19 and provided human rights updates and held regular discussions, including with the RC and the UNCT.

The Office continued to advocate for the protection of the most vulnerable populations, primarily older persons, persons in detention and children. Specifically, it advocated with DPRK authorities to allow humanitarians to access places of detention and prison facilities. A mapping of the vulnerable groups, which was planned in the context of the DPRK Voluntary National Review (VNR) and in preparation for the next UNCT-DPRK Strategic Framework Partnership, was postponed until 2021. The Office advocated for the inclusion of data on the impact of sanctions on vulnerable populations.



M1 – The Government engages with the country mandate holder, who is able to conduct a visit, and two thematic rapporteurs, who are able to visit the country.

OHCHR supported the work of the Special Rapporteur on DPRK and liaised with other special procedures mandate holders.

The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK continued to take a two-track approach. This consisted of highlighting the human rights violations in the country and the need to explore the full range of accountability options while also engaging in constructive discussions with the Government to find solutions to human rights issues, in cooperation with the international community. Despite these efforts, the Government continued to reject the Special Rapporteur's mandate and did not engage with him. Due to COVID-19, the Special Rapporteur was unable to undertake country visits to the ROK and other neighboring countries. OHCHR provided research support and assisted the Special Rapporteur in drafting reports to the General Assembly and

the HRC. It provided support for the preparation of draft communications, urgent appeals and press releases and supported the Special Rapporteur's advocacy and media outreach activities. The Special Rapporteur's report to the HRC, in March, focused on the rights of women, while his report to the General Assembly, in October, focused on labour rights and the human rights situation in the context of sanctions and COVID-19. Both reports were well-received and widely covered by the media, but they were categorically rejected by the DPRK.

The Office liaised with other thematic special procedures on issues of concern in the DPRK to support victims and their families to engage with the international human rights mechanisms. In 2020, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and other experts sent two communications to the DPRK: one on the hijacking of the Korean Airlines airplane by the DPRK in 1969 and another on the repatriation of hundreds of people who were abducted during the Korean War (1950-1953). The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention issued an opinion on a case involving one of the victims whose whereabouts remains unknown following the hijacking. The Human Rights Committee issued an opinion on the 12 North Korean workers who had returned to the ROK from China in 2016. The Government continued to respond to the communications and public statements issued by the special procedures with denials that human rights violations had been committed.

M1 - The Government of the DPRK submits reports to two human rights treaty bodies and participates in the UPR process.

OHCHR aimed to contribute to the development by local actors of reports to the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR.

The pandemic limited engagement with the Government and other actors on reporting to the human rights treaty bodies and following up on the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. OHCHR developed a concept note for organizing targeted capacity-development programmes for DPRK officials in Geneva and in the region. Despite an initial positive response from government interlocutors, no further progress was made due to COVID-19-related restrictions. The High Commissioner sent a number of letters to authorities to offer OHCHR's support for the implementation of recommendations issued by the UPR and in relation to the DPRK's VNR in 2021. An infographic was also included on COVID-19 and the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

The Office engaged with the UNCT and the RC to share information and encourage the UNCT to advocate with authorities on the implementation of the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. OHCHR translated the UPR recommendations into the Korean language and shared them on its website and social media accounts. A planned capacity-building programme to enable CSOs to monitor the implementation of UPR recommendations could not be organized due to COVID-19. Instead, OHCHR offered support to the CSOs working on DPRK human rights issues in the ROK on how to engage with the international human rights mechanisms.

MALDIVES

Population size¹ 0.54 million	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ² 0.740 (rank: 95/189 in 2019)	NHRI (if applicable) ³ "B" Status (2010)	
Type of engagem	nent	Human Rights Adviser		
Year established		2020		
Field office(s)		Malé		
UN partnership framework		United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2016-2020		
Staff as of 31 Dec	cember 2020	1		

XB requirements 2020

US\$225,000

Key OMP pillars in 2020





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PILLAR RESULTS:



Accountability

A1 – Maldives maintains the moratorium on the death penalty with improved legislation related to protecting juvenile offenders.



OHCHR contributed to improving the level of compliance of legislation and policies with international human rights standards, in particular with regard to the situation of prisoners in the context of COVID-19.

UN Human Rights engaged with the Attorney General's Office, the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Maldives Police Service and the Maldives Correctional Service on a range of issues, including shrinking civic space, threats against HRDs, overcrowding of prisons, the transitional justice bill and the

Government's reservations to article 16 of CEDAW. In addition, the HRA's advocacy helped to secure the release of prisoners to avoid COVID-19 outbreaks in prisons and address concerns related to overcrowding in prisons.

OHCHR organized a training workshop for mid-level police officers in the Maldives on "human rights and policing in the context of COVID-19" to improve the response of police regarding key thematic issues, such as gender, migrant workers, detention and the use of force. Participating police officers will train their colleagues in other parts of the Maldives.

A2 – The Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM) is empowered to provide independent reports to the international human rights mechanisms and conduct human rights-related research and public education.



OHCHR contributed to the increased conformity with the Paris Principles of the NHRI. It also supported the engagement of authorities with the international human rights mechanisms.

UN Human Rights engaged with the HRCM on a regular basis and offered to support the development of its capacity. A training for the HRCM on human rights investigations was postponed due to COVID-19. The HRA successfully advocated for the HRCM to resume the activities of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), which were suspended at the onset of the pandemic.

OHCHR also liaised with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant line ministries to encourage the Government to submit a report in response to CEDAW's list of issues, in anticipation of its review of the Government's sixth periodic report. Due to the pandemic, the review and a preparatory workshop that was to include the participation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and relevant ministries was postponed until 2021.

The HRA also advocated for the Government to accept and facilitate the visits of various special procedures mandate holders in 2020. The visits of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism were

cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak. OHCHR followed up with authorities and the parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and Gender regarding the implementation of the recommendations issued by the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment during his November 2019 visit. During the third UPR cycle of the Maldives, in November, the Government reiterated its willingness to cooperate with the special procedures and facilitate their country visits.



Non-discrimination

ND8 - Protection considerations for vulnerable populations, with a particular emphasis on older persons, women, persons with disabilities and youth, are integrated into disaster mitigation and resilience-building programming on climate change.







OHCHR contributed to increasing the mainstreaming of human rights into the policies and programmes of UN entities.

The HRA advised the RC and the UNCT on incorporating and mainstreaming human rights into the COVID-19 response and recovery framework. The HRA also liaised with IOM to address the human rights situation of migrants following the imposition of COVID-19 restrictions. Furthermore, OHCHR provided inputs to the SERP and the CCA update. The planned training for the UNCT on the application of a human rights-based approach was postponed until 2021 due to COVID-19.

MYANMAR

Population size ¹ 54.41 million	Surface area ¹ 677,000 km ²	Human Development Index ² NHRI (if applicable) ³ 0.583 (rank: 147/189 in 2019) "B" Status (2015)
Type of engagement		Human rights staff (Other type of field presence)
Year established		2014
Field office(s)		Bangkok, Thailand and Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh
LIN partnership tramework		United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2022
Staff as of 31 December 2020		6
XB Income		US\$531,484
XB requirements 2020		U\$\$3,445,000
XB expenditure		US\$1,509,702

Key OMP pillars in 2020

Personnel

\$1,345,225

89%









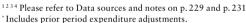
-1%

-\$9,164



Non-personnel* PSC4

\$173,641



PILLAR RESULTS:



Accountability

A5 – UN policies and practices comply with international human rights standards and United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) guidance (2017). They focus on accountable institutions, access to justice and the participation of civil society in planning and monitoring.





OHCHR contributed to incorporating rights-based approaches into the work of the UNCT through reporting and by co-chairing the UNCT Human Rights Theme Group (HRTG).

UN Human Rights made significant efforts to support numerous processes within the UNCT. It also took steps to assist the Resident Coordinator/ Humanitarian Coordinator with developing the tools and mechanisms that the UNCT needs to enhance its strategic approach to prevention, in accordance with the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, the Human Rights up Front Initiative and the Rosenthal report. The most significant

success achieved in 2020 was the development and adoption of a UNCT Human Rights Strategy and implementation plan. The Strategy has four key objectives: 1) Leave No One Behind; 2) promote and protect human rights; 3) ensure that the United Nations is recognized as a credible, principled and effective actor; and 4) ensure the integration of human rights into the programmes of UN entities.

OHCHR continued to support the prevention agenda by maintaining leadership on the UNCT early warning system, which was introduced in 2019. After a six-month trial period, and in consultation with the RC and other UN entities, the Office adapted the system to suit the practical needs of the UN leadership in Myanmar and to enable it to undertake preventive actions to address emerging concerns.

The Office contributed to the drafting process of the first CCA by preparing the human rights section and ensuring the integration of human rights principles and standards into all other thematic sections and under each SDG analysis. The final CCA document is expected at the beginning of 2021.

OHCHR dedicated substantial resources to the COVID-19 response processes, providing advice and guidance on international human rights standards. To this end, the Office built on the human rights due diligence process carried out in 2019. As co-chair of the UNCT HRTG and member of the UNCT Socio-Economic Response Framework, the Office supported the application of an HRBA to all UN actions. In addition to sharing and raising awareness on OHCHR guidance documents, including the human rights indicators, the Office produced specific tools for the UNCT in Myanmar, such as an HRBA checklist to guide programme development and a human rights risk assessment matrix, which highlights relevant international standards as they relate to immediate, mid-term and long-term risks for vulnerable rights-holders.

OHCHR also played a critical role in shaping the UNCT position and actions regarding the political elections that were held in November, identifying risks and failures by national institutions to comply with international standards and obligations.



P1 - Select oppressive laws, policies and practices that limit the right to participate and negatively impact on civic space are tackled and reformed or abolished, with an emphasis on those that disproportionately affect women.





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

UN Human Rights contributed to raising the awareness of civil society by disseminating and translating guidance documents on human rights during the pandemic and delivering webinars for CSOs and ethnic organizations to inform them about relevant international human rights standards. Tools for the identification of risks related to human rights violations were produced and shared. Travel restrictions impeded the systematic compilation of cases with NGOs and the capacity to reach agreements on effective ways forward. To strengthen its alliances and partnerships, the Office facilitated consultations on Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hatred between the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief and CSOs. It also organized a briefing by the Working Groups on Arbitrary Detention and on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances for approximately 10 CSO groups.

OHCHR continued to provide advice on legal developments to civil society and UN partners on issues of concern. Through the early warning reporting system, the Office informed the UNCT about problematic draft laws and orders that were adopted in response to the COVID-19 crisis. For instance, concern was raised that proposed amendments to the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law could negatively impact on freedom of movement and freedom of expression, while a local order issued in Rakhine State required individuals who were wounded in conflict to seek multiple authorizations before being transported to the hospital for medical care. The Office shared with the Special Envoy on Myanmar an analysis of risks and concerns related to the implementation of a government directive to disconnect unregistered SIM cards, potentially preventing many people from receiving life-saving information about the pandemic. These contributions led to advocacy by other UN agencies at different levels (local, national and regional).



ND1 - Select discriminatory laws, policies and practices that limit the right to equality and negatively impact on the rights of religious, ethnic and national minorities, women, children and persons with disabilities, such as the 1982 Citizenship Law and the Protection of Race and Religion Bills, are tackled and reformed or abolished.



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

UN Human Rights pursued its advocacy efforts aimed at repealing discriminatory laws on ethnic and religious grounds. The lack of physical access to the country limited OHCHR's ability to engage with lawmakers and organize events and discussions on various issues, such as the National Verification Cards, and required a shift to online and written outputs. This included early warning reports, submissions to the Secretary-General's annual report on the human rights situation in Myanmar and participation in webinars on issues related to citizenship rights of the Rohingya community. In addition, OHCHR engaged with the diplomatic community that is based in Myanmar and provided technical advice on the establishment of an electronic identity system in Myanmar, including by raising concerns about legislation and practices that increase the risk for discrimination, exclusion and further segregation of already marginalized communities. It also coordinated interactions with thematic experts to ensure adherence to the human rights due diligence process.

Furthermore, the Office documented violations of the human rights of members of the Rohingya and Rakhine communities in Rakhine. The Office scaled up its investigation and outreach activities to include primary sources, resulting in over 80 interviews that were conducted, in order to continue assessing violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. These activities, which included an analysis of satellite imagery, fed into the preparation of the High Commissioner's oral update to the forty-fourth session of the HRC and her report to the forty-fifth session on the Government's implementation of the recommendations issued by the IIMM. Moreover, OHCHR continued to monitor actions undertaken by the Government to implement the recommendations issued by the Rakhine Advisory Commission, including in relation to access to health, which became more relevant within the context of the pandemic. Although attempts to facilitate the organized return of Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh were halted after measures were imposed to prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as border closures, questions remain regarding the Government's genuine interest in achieving this objective. Nevertheless, the Office continued to monitor the Government's response to returning migrants to Myanmar, with particular attention paid to hate speech after a number of returnees tested positive for COVID-19. OHCHR continued to monitor maritime movements of refugees, including documenting abuses on vessels that left Bangladesh for Malaysia and the situation of refugees on vessels that returned to Bangladesh and were transferred to Bhasan Char island.

ND5 - Hate speech and acts of incitement to hostility and violence, especially those that are spread through the Internet and social media platforms, are challenged and addressed by authorities and civil society efforts to counter them are encouraged and supported.



OHCHR contributed to increasing the engagement of selected groups (including youth) in supporting human rights messages.

During the COVID-19 emergency, UN Human Rights strengthened its engagement with CSOs to monitor instances of hate speech and other forms of online communication that may limit the enjoyment of the rights of minority communities, in particular of Rohingya. Specifically, the Office partnered with the CSO Christian Church Aid and the Myanmar-based tech company, KoKoTech, which was awarded a grant from the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) for the development of an algorithm to monitor online hate speech. In this partnership, OHCHR provided the legal and policy basis for Christian Church Aid and the tech company to create the monitoring standards. Major substantive gaps remain, such as the shared understanding of the term "hate speech" by those who are monitoring. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, OHCHR was unable to organize structured discussions and training for CSOs to build a common baseline for the identification of hate speech. The Office used Facebook to directly address online discrimination, but due to the platform's reliance on community standards, rather than international human rights law, it was not possible to identify all instances of hate speech. As a result, limited progress was achieved. Finally, the Office worked closely with

the UNCT to identify common messages in response to cases of hate speech. The common messages have become an integral part of the UNCT's communication strategy.



Peace and Security

PS3 – Relevant intergovernmental forums, processes and mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council, General Assembly and Security Council, highlight human rights concerns when they address situations of conflict and insecurity in the subregion.





OHCHR continued raising human rights issues in several relevant UN forums. including at national and international levels.

OHCHR increased its outreach to victims and witnesses of human rights violations and abuses, in particular in conflict-affected areas. This enabled the Office to produce evidence-based reports and products and contribute to processes, such as the UNCT early warning system, with accurate human rights analysis that is based on verified information. Other actors, including the Resident Coordinator and the UNCT, expressed their appreciation for OHCHR's reliable and accurate work. In turn, the Office issued advocacy messages and provided evidence-based advice to the UN leadership in the country and to other relevant stakeholders, including within the diplomatic community.

The Office continued to monitor and report on the situation of Rohingya in the camps in Bangladesh, alerting the UN leadership about emerging concerns. These concerns included a general

deterioration of living conditions that were caused by the actions of the Government of Bangladesh, including a shutdown of the Internet, fencing of the camps and increased militarization. This led desperate Rohingya to flee by boats that were operated by smugglers, resulting in hundreds of people being stranded at sea for months. OHCHR provided first-hand accounts of refugees in the context of the decision of the Government to move Rohingya from the camps in Cox's Bazar to the isolated Bashan Char island.



Mechanisms

M1 - Recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms are fully utilized as tools of advocacy and highlight the Government's obligations to implement specific standards.





OHCHR contributed to the increased use and implementation of recommendations by the international human rights mechanisms.

Restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and the additional workload imposed on stakeholders prevented the planned establishment of a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF). As a result, UN Human Rights undertook several actions to ensure follow-up on advocacy and coordination. In view of Myanmar's upcoming UPR review, the Office worked closely with the UNCT to support information gathering and the drafting of the report, which assesses the implementation of the recommendations issued during the second UPR cycle. OHCHR compiled the UNCT submission, outlined recommendations and facilitated the preparation of an annex to the UPR report on the Government's

responses to COVID-19. Accordingly, the Office designed tracking and monitoring tools to emphasize their specific relevance for each UN entity in Myanmar. A similar tracking and monitoring matrix was shared with international NGOs to facilitate the compilation of submissions for the stakeholders' report. In preparation for the High Commissioner's report to the HRC's forty-fifth session on the implementation of the FFM's recommendations, OHCHR engaged with various UN entities, international CSOs and other stakeholders and sought contributions in connection with the recommendations. The Office also assisted Rohingya civil society groups in the camps in Cox's Bazar to compile a report on the situation facing Rohingya in Myanmar. This was the first report submitted to the UPR by Rohingya civil society in the camps. Finally, OHCHR prepared an advocacy flyer on COVID-19 and human rights, summarizing the main recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies, the reports of the High Commissioner, the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar and the reports of the FFM.

THE PACIFIC

Regional Office		
Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu		
2005		
Suva, Fiji		
United Nations Pacific Strategy 2	018-2022	
10		
US\$1,070,708 US\$2,813,000		
US\$2,813,000	PSC ⁴	
U\$\$2,813,000 U\$\$1,058,347 Non-personnel	11%	
U\$\$2,813,000 U\$\$1,058,347 Non-personnel		
U\$\$2,813,000 U\$\$1,058,347 Non-personnel	11%	
U\$\$2,813,000 U\$\$1,058,347 Non-personnel 29% \$303,654 U\$\$209,587	11% \$117,940	
U\$\$2,813,000 U\$\$1,058,347 Non-personnel 29% \$303,654 U\$\$209,587	11%	
	Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribi Islands, Micronesia (Federated St Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Pap Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Island Tuvalu and Vanuatu 2005 Suva, Fiji United Nations Pacific Strategy 2	

⁴ Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:



A1 – The police academies and penitentiary services in Fiji and Vanuatu include human rights training in the curriculum of pre-service and in-service training.



OHCHR contributed to the institutionalization of human rights training for members of the police force by providing technical advice and delivering training.

In 2020, UN Human Rights, the Fiji Police Force (FPF) and other partners collaborated to conduct a series of police human rights trainings across Fiji, with support from the Commissioner of Police, the Director of the Fiji Police Academy and the senior management of the FPF. Spanned over two days in each division, the training aimed at providing police officers with a solid understanding of international human rights principles, the functioning of the human rights system

and the relationship between international human rights law and law enforcement in Fiji, with a focus on the use of force, the prevention of torture and the recourse to state of emergency measures. Participants also learned about promoting and protecting the human rights of vulnerable groups in society and during states of emergency.

A1 – Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.



OHCHR contributed to the improved compliance with international human rights standards of laws and policies in relation to the rights of the child, land rights, independence of the judiciary and cybercrime.

UN Human Rights made an oral submission to the Parliament of Fiji calling for the ratification of the OP-CRC-SC. The Government ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child 15 years ago. The Office clarified the crimes prohibited under the OP-CRC-SC and recalled the concerns expressed by the Committee in its 2014 concluding observations on the prevalence of sexual exploitation and abuse of children in Fiji. OHCHR also highlighted the findings of the UN's COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) with regard to the situation of children and the increased risk of poverty and child exploitation and raised awareness about the national laws and policies that would need to be amended or adopted following the ratification of the OP-CRC-SC. Moreover, the Office briefed the Parliament of Fiji, on 16 June, on the OP-CRC-AC and advocated for its ratification and the adoption of a "straight

18" policy that prohibits both the compulsory and voluntary recruitment of children into the armed forces. In March 2021, Fiji ratified the Optional Protocol.

On 23 June, the Office and UNODC made ioint virtual submissions to the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights of the Parliament of Fiji on the Cybercrime Bill 2020. The submissions provided legal and technical guidance on issues surrounding offences against the confidentiality, integrity and availability of computer data and computer systems, computer-related and content-related offences, international cooperation and procedural measures.

On 22 May, OHCHR filed a written submission with the Parliament of Samoa on three bills (the Judicature Bill 2020, the Constitution Amendment Bill 2020 and the Land and Titles Bill 2020), highlighting potential violations of the Government's obligations under ICCPR and provisions that require adjustments. The Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, CSOs and the NHRI also made submissions.

In the context of COVID-19, the Office provided clarification about international human rights obligations assumed by States, including with regard to the imposition of states of emergency, and their compatibility with ICCPR.



M1 - More Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) ratify at least one core international human rights treaty.



OHCHR contributed to the implementation of international human rights treaties by countries in the region and to the follow-up on recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, with a focus on the rights of the child.

Throughout the year, UN Human Rights implemented capacity-building activities in relation to international human rights treaties for government officials from the region. Together with the Pacific Community, the Office supported the participation of government delegations from the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and Tuvalu in mock sessions to prepare for a constructive dialogue with the Committee on the Rights of the Child, prior to its eighty-fourth extraordinary session. The mock sessions, held in Apia, Samoa, from 2 to 6 March, resulted in more substantive and focused discussions with the Committee and more focused and context-specific concluding observations. During the Apia sessions, the Office helped to organize a thematic discussion on climate change and the rights of the child and a side event was held on climate change and youth. After the sessions, OHCHR facilitated outreach activities with CRC members, including a public lecture by Mr. Bragi Gudbrandsson on the issue of child sex abuse. The lecture was delivered at the University of the South Pacific and was attended by key government officials from Fiji, who gained a better understanding of how to address these cases in a child-centred manner.

M1 – States in the region submit, on time, a higher proportion of the reports that are due to the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR.



OHCHR engaged with and provided technical assistance to countries in the region to support their timely submission of reports to the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR.

In 2020, the Governments of the Republic of Marshall Islands and Nauru submitted their reports in anticipation of their third UPR cycle reviews. Throughout the year, UN Human Rights drafted inputs and coordinated the writing of joint UNCT reports for the UPR by the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau and the Solomon Islands, which led to strengthened relations with governments and UNCTs in the Pacific.

OHCHR continued to engage with national coordinating bodies for the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR. Due to its collaboration with the NMRF in Samoa, the Office played a key role in supporting the participation of government representatives from Samoa in the General Assembly's SDG Lab on VNRs in July. Samoa's streamlined reporting proces to the human rights treaty bodies, UPR and the VNR was featured as an example of a good practice at the international level.

M1 - Kiribati, Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and Vanuatu establish NMRFs to coordinate reporting and implement recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures, the Human Rights Council and the UPR.



OHCHR provided technical assistance in relation to the establishment and functioning of NMRFs and the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

In collaboration with the Human Rights and Social Development Division of the South Pacific Community, UN Human Rights continued to engage with the NMRFs in the region, including Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and Vanuatu. In particular, the Office provided guidance to develop legislation and terms of reference for the NMRF in Kiribati. An NMRF was established in Tonga through a decision that was adopted by the Cabinet in 2020.

In addition, OHCHR carried out capacity-building activities with NMRFs. In July, the Office launched the Pacific principles of practice during a side event at the forty-fourth session of the HRC. The document provides NMRFs with guidance on the effective implementation of human rights and SDGs and is based on efforts that began in 2015, following a regional workshop that was held in Fiji. Despite COVID-19 travel restrictions, the Office organized hybrid online and in-person trainings for NMRFs. In August, it delivered a training to the Kiribati National Human Rights Taskforce on CAT. In December, the Office trained government officials from Papua New Guinea on CRC.



ND6 - NHRIs increase their capacity to monitor the human rights of migrants affected by climate change and exercise oversight.



OHCHR contributed to increased levels of compliance with international human rights standards of policies and practices related to migration and climate change.

UN Human Rights supported the formation of the Technical Advisory Group under the joint UN inter-agency Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security programme. Due to COVID-19, an in-person meeting, originally planned for March, was redesigned and delivered as a series of four webinars, over six weeks, in July and August. The discussions examined how climate migration is experienced and addressed within the Pacific at the national and regional levels. Key policy and legal gaps were outlined that relate to climate change, migration, displacement and planned relocation. Participants assessed whether migration that is voluntarily undertaken as a response to climate change is a viable adaptation approach for small PICTs. They also explored the dynamics of such migrations and developed key messages on climate-related migration, displacement and planned relocation for future discussions with policymakers in the Pacific. Recommendations emanating from the discussions provided the starting point for the Regional Policy Dialogue on climate change-related migration, displacement and planned relocation.



D2 - The Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission, the Fiji Chamber of Commerce and Industry, CSOs in Fiji, the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji and relevant government departments provide human rights training as a matter of course.



OHCHR contributed to institutionalizing human rights training in selected areas related to business and human rights.

UN Human Rights organized the first UN Pacific Forum on Business and Human Rights. The Forum enabled partners, including HRDs, to hold fruitful discussions with businesses and share different perspectives with the objective of identifying and pursuing mutually beneficial ways to prevent, mitigate and remedy the adverse impacts of business activities on human rights. Discussions also focused on how private sector organizations can improve their human rights due diligence when assessing their supply chains and business practices. Participants included representatives from the private sector, UN entities, CSOs, HRDs and academia. Specific sessions were held on the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and the need for Pacific States to commit to developing national plans of action on business and human rights. The Forum unpacked the UNGP pillars, highlighting the responsibilities of States and businesses and providing analytical summaries of possible grievance mechanisms to ensure the availability of effective remedies for victims of rights violations.

Furthermore, the Office continued to raise awareness about the UNGPs by providing capacity-building workshops to HRDs, State representatives and business actors in the Pacific. A one-month capacity-building course was held, during which participants discussed a variety of human rights issues affecting businesses in the Pacific, including corruption, modern day slavery in the fishing sector and labour practices in the construction and retail industries.



Participation

P1 - Staff of national protection systems receive capacity-building training. Civil society actors receive technical assistance, including training, to increase their capacity to monitor and influence national protection systems. Oversight and accountability mechanisms improve access to justice and widen civic space.



OHCHR contributed to increasing the use of national protection systems in compliance with international human rights standards.

UN Human Rights intensified its engagement with NHRIs, CSOs, youth organizations and developmental stakeholders in the Pacific region on issues related to climate change, business and human rights. New partnerships were created or reinforced, which enabled OHCHR to empower marginalized and vulnerable groups to participate in development discussions. The Office increased its advocacy with Pacific States on inclusive and people-centred approaches. Following the adoption of HRC decision 43/115, OHCHR convened a meeting with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders. The

discussion identified entry points to enable the mandate holder to support and engage with HRDs in the Pacific. This engagement included assistance with a course on HRDs, which will be launched at the University of the South Pacific in collaboration with the Regional Office for the Pacific. In addition, OHCHR held a workshop on climate change and youth in the Pacific, which sought to explore the impact of climate change on human rights and demonstrate how youth groups involved in climate action can use the international human rights mechanisms in cases of human rights violations. Moreover, the event underscored some of the ways in which youth groups can advocate with States at the HRC and the General Assembly. Advice was also provided on how to liaise with the special procedures.

Before the advent of travel restrictions, the Office continued to undertake scoping missions in the Marshall Islands, PNG, Tuvalu and Vanuatu to understand and analyse trends, risks, developments and challenges related to WHRDs. A number of WHRDs from these countries joined the Pacific Human Rights Defenders Network.

PHILIPPINES

Population size ¹ 109.58 million	Surface area¹ 300,000 km ²	Human Development Index2 NHRI (if applicable)3 0.718 (rank: 107/189 in 2019) "A" Status (2012)	
Type of engagen	nent	Human Rights Adviser	
Year established		2014	
Field office(s)		Manila	
UN partnership framework		Philippines-United Nations Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development 2019-2023	
Staff as of 31 De	cember 2020	1	

XB requirements 2020 US\$279,000

Key OMP pillars in 2020







123 Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229

PILLAR RESULTS:



Mechanisms

M1 – An institutional mechanism is established to integrate reporting into human rights mechanisms and facilitate the implementation of their recommendations.







OHCHR contributed to the improved engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

UN Human Rights held consultations with the Presidential Human Rights Committee (PHRC) to discuss ways to strengthen its reporting and follow-up activities and the formulation of the UN Joint Programme on Human Rights. An agreement was reached to include the roll-out of a human rights database and relevant training in the UN Joint Programme plan for 2021. The Committee also agreed to advocate for the formal adoption of the NPM Act. The UN Joint Programme on Human Rights will aim at strengthening domestic accountability measures, including by: establishing pathways for the comprehensive investigation of cases of alleged human rights violations; strengthening the Administrative Order No. 35 mechanism and advancing the NPM Act; enhancing victim and witness protection; and applying a human rights-based approach to counter-terrorism activities and efforts to combat the illegal drug trade.

During the year, high-level government officials expressed their willingness to cooperate with the international human rights mechanisms, including during negotiations on HRC resolution 45/33. The Government's approach facilitated the adoption of resolution 45/33 on capacity-building and technical cooperation on 7 October. This willingness to engage with the international human

rights mechanisms was reiterated at the highest level during the 2020 Department of Justice Human Rights Summit, which was held from 4 to 10 December.

The Government remained reluctant to allow special procedures to visit the Philippines and no official missions took place in 2020. During the second half of the year, however, the Government increased the number of its responses to communications sent by the special procedures.

M2 - CSOs increasingly engage with the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures and the UPR.





OHCHR provided support for the substantive submissions to the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures and the UPR by the NHRI and CSOs.

The Government and civil society actors engaged in the process leading to the publication of the High Commissioner's report on the situation of human rights in the Philippines (A/HRC/44/22), in June, and the subsequent negotiations on the HRC resolution. CSOs conducted advocacy and representatives from the Ateneo Human Rights Centre and the Human Rights Commission of the Philippines (HRCP) participated in a panel during the Council's session. UN Human Rights engaged with the HRCP and civil society actors to ensure that their views were integrated into the UN Joint Programme on Human Rights, which was developed in accordance with the six areas outlined in the resolution.

OHCHR continued to support submissions by the NHRI and CSOs to the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures and the UPR. In 2020, a number of CSOs submitted information to: the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary killings; and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders.

The Human Rights Committee's consideration of the fifth periodic report of the Philippines was postponed. In January, eight CSOs submitted reports to the Committee in anticipation of its adoption of the list of issues in relation to the Philippines. As of the end of the year, the Government's response to the list of issues was not yet published.



Development

D7 - The UNCT integrates human rights norms, standards and principles into the formulation and implementation of programmes and projects.

OHCHR significantly contributed to the integration of human rights norms into activities implemented in relation to the Philippines-United Nations Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development 2019-2023.

UN Human Rights provided inputs regarding the process of updating the CCA, which had a strong focus on socio-economic development, in order to improve the economic conditions of the most vulnerable populations.

The HRA also contributed to the preparation of the UNCT's Socio-Economic and Peacebuilding Framework for COVID-19 Recovery in the Philippines. The Framework, which was finalized in December, includes a thorough analysis of the groups that are at the highest risk of being left behind and applies a human rights-based approach to the three pillars. In a positive development, the UN Joint Programme on Human Rights, which is scheduled to be launched in 2021, is included under the People Pillar, situating it firmly within the programmatic framework.



Participation

P2 - The UN system and international, regional and national mechanisms provide increased, timely and effective protection to CSOs and individuals, including from reprisals.

OHCHR contributed to the increased protection of HRDs and journalists through advocacy and outreach.

UN Human Rights increased its interventions to protect HRDs. The Office issued a press release on the killing of two HRDs, in August, and intensified its private advocacy activities. Subsequently, the Government announced a special investigation into the two killings. OHCHR strengthened its outreach to HRDs facing risks and red-tagging (whereby government officials label individuals as communists, putting them at risk of human rights violations) and engaged with UNESCO to address the situation of journalists at risk in the Philippines.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Population size ¹ 8.95 million		Human Development Index ² NHRI (if applicable) ³ 0.555 (rank: 155/189 in 2019) -			
Type of engagen	nent	Human Rights Adviser			
Year established		2008			
Field office(s)		Port Moresby			
UN partnership framework		United Nations Partnership Framework 2018–2022			
Staff as of 31 De	cember 2020	2			

XB requirements 2020 US\$1,075,000

Key OMP pillars in 2020









PILLAR RESULTS:



D7 - The UNCT actively works with the Government and civil society to address the latest UPR recommendations to Papua New Guinea (PNG) through their integration into the implementation of the UNDAF.

OHCHR contributed to the increased integration into UN policies and programmes of international human rights standards and recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

UN Human Rights supported the UNCT in integrating a human rights-based approach into the COVID-19 SERP. The HRA provided support for the implementation of the UNCT human rights and gender strategy and the integration of a Disability Inclusion Strategy into UN programming in PNG.

The HRA delivered online training on human rights monitoring to a network of CSOs, which enabled the Office to monitor ESCRs during the COVID-19related lockdown and state of emergency measures. As a result of this collaboration, OHCHR produced weekly and monthly reports on the human rights situation in the country, which were used by the UNCT to take action on key issues, including the excessive use of force by security officers, the lack of access to basic services of vulnerable groups and an increased prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Furthermore, the HRA participated in humanitarian coordination meetings, including those of the Protection Cluster, and brought human rights issues to the attention of relevant government authorities.



M1 - PNG ratifies at least two additional international human rights instruments. including CAT, and one or more of the optional protocols to ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW and CRC. The Government strengthens its reporting to the human rights treaty bodies, the coordination of its reports and its engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.



OHCHR supported improved mechanisms for integrated reporting to the international human rights mechanisms.

To ensure the wide participation of stakeholders in the UPR review process, UN Human Rights supported the Government in carrying out consultations in three regions, including Port Moresby. In cooperation with UNICEF, the HRA established a working group for reporting to CRC, which enabled consultations with stakeholders and a division of labour between departments for the collection of information required for reporting. The Government was unable to continue its preparation of the State Party report under ICCPR due to COVID-19.

Peace and Security

PS4 - The Autonomous Bougainville Government develops a comprehensive policy to address past, present and future human rights violations and promote reconciliation with respect to past conflicts in Bougainville.



OHCHR contributed to the improved functioning of transitional justice mechanisms, in conformity with international human rights standards.

During the Bougainville parliamentary elections, in August and September, UN Human Rights enhanced the capacity of community-based human rights advocates to use human rights monitoring checklists and facilitated focus group discussions. At the same time, OHCHR monitored the situation of human rights through the activities of the groups and provided regular updates to the UNCT on human rights issues related to the elections.



Non-discrimination

ND6 - Civil society organizations and the Government increasingly monitor and address human rights violations suffered by refugees, migrants and targeted vulnerable groups, advocate on their behalf and produce regular public reports.

1	2	3	4	5	6	8	10	11
13	16							

OHCHR contributed to the monitoring of the human rights situation of vulnerable groups, with a focus on asylum seekers and refugees.

UN Human Rights monitored the human rights situation of asylum seekers, particularly those living near the West Papua border area and those remaining in PNG after the closure of the Australian regional processing centre on Manus Island. The monitoring revealed poor living conditions and the lack of capacity of local authorities to address the protection concerns of the refugees. OHCHR referred the complaints received to relevant government bodies and UNHCR. A planned joint visit by UNHCR and OHCHR and related trainings were cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

XB income

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam
Year established	2002
Field office(s)	Bangkok, Thailand
Staff as of 31 December 2020	21

XB requirements 2020	US\$4,679,000			
XB expenditure	US\$3,366,435			
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴		
64%	24%	12%		
\$2,153,979	\$807,744	\$404,712		
RB expenditure	US\$626,964			
Personnel		Non-personnel		
89%		11%		
\$560.487		\$66.477		

US\$4,213,930

Key OMP pillars in 2020

4 Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 231













PILLAR RESULTS:



Participation

P1 – Civil society can operate more freely and civic space is more fully protected by laws and policies and in practice. Civil society organizations engage more often and more fully with the international human rights mechanisms. The communications of special procedures more frequently highlight the challenges that civil society faces in the region.



OHCHR contributed to strengthening the protection and empowerment of civil society actors, including women journalists.

On 10 December, UN Human Rights collaborated with UN Women, UNESCO and regional CSOs to launch a series of webinars for women journalists and media workers. A total of 41 participants took part in the programme, which will continue for seven months, to strengthen networking across the region, provide a space for sharing experiences and disseminate practical information about ways to enhance digital/online security and self-protection. The Office also supported the ICJ and Article 19 to bolster their capacities in relation to their engagement on cyber issues and freedom of expression, respectively.

P6 – The voices of people who are affected by decisions, particularly victims and those facing discrimination, are more clearly heard.



OHCHR provided technical support to empower rights-holders, especially youth, women and vulnerable groups, to participate in public processes and engage with the international human rights mechanisms to claim their rights.

UN Human Rights increased its engagement with youth to address climate change and environmental issues. Through a joint UNICEF/OHCHR/UNEP regional initiative, 17 youth experts from eight Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries joined ASEAN experts in drafting 37 principles to guide the realization of children's right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

In Indonesia and Malaysia, OHCHR continued to work closely with WHRDs and LGBTI groups, supporting their engagement with the international human rights mechanisms. In July, the Office facilitated the online engagement of WHRDs with the CEDAW pre-sessional working group. This resulted in contributions that were submitted to the Committee prior to its adoption of the list of issues in relation to Indonesia's initial and periodic reports. In November, the Office conducted a webinar with WHRDs in Indonesia on enhancing human rights monitoring, reporting and documentation skills. Particular emphasis was placed on interacting with the special procedures, the Human Rights Committee and CEDAW ahead of Indonesia's reviews by these mechanisms in 2021.

In Indonesia, the Office facilitated a virtual consultation between the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-occurrence with NHRIs, namely, the National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) and the Commission on Violence against Women (Komnas Perempuan). Discussions focused on legal and political challenges and opportunities underlying the design and implementation of national transitional justice strategies and mechanisms in Indonesia.

In Lao PDR and Viet Nam, OHCHR provided support to CSOs to prioritize emblematic cases for submission to the special procedures, including on ESCRs. In September, submissions were made to CRC in advance of the pre-sessional working group on Viet Nam. OHCHR facilitated a meeting between Vietnamese CSOs and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders to support the exchange of information on cases. With OHCHR's support, a CSO from Lao PDR submitted a report to a number of special procedures, which resulted in a joint allegation letter that was sent to the Government on the rights to food, housing, health, the environment and the situation of the Hmong community.



Development

D3 - In the subregion, relevant ministries, departments and parliamentary committees incorporate human rights standards and frameworks when they fulfil their mandates on land, housing and poverty. They also give due attention to gender concerns.



OHCHR contributed to improving the compliance with international human rights standards of laws and policies related to the environment and land.

In Indonesia and Malaysia, UN Human Rights advocated for better compliance with international human rights standards of legislation and policies on the land rights of indigenous peoples. The Office provided support to strengthen the capacities of NHRIs and CSOs in monitoring, documenting and reporting violations of environmental, land and human rights. In **Indonesia**, the Office supported the engagement of the UNCT with the Government on draft legislation, including on proposed amendments to the Criminal Code and the recently adopted Omnibus Law that could potentially violate international human rights law, particularly the rights of indigenous peoples and environmental rights.

Furthermore, OHCHR cooperated with FAO on a regional study on the right to food of indigenous peoples and its connection to land rights, climate and the environment. The study will be launched in 2021 and will be used to inform advocacy with governments and other stakeholders.

D5 - Laws and policies on the environment, climate change, the extractive industries and urban planning comply with international human rights standards and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. National institutions and CSOs act to ensure that rights-holders can participate in decision-making processes on the environment and climate change and engage with duty-bearers and the private sector.



OHCHR contributed to enhancing the integration of international human rights standards into climate change and environment policies.

UN Human Rights joined the Issue-based Coalition on Climate Change Mitigation and Air Pollution in the Asia-Pacific region and provided inputs to the regional advocacy messages. The Office also supported the development of a joint regional UN advocacy strategy on Air Pollution for Asia and the Pacific. In addition, OHCHR and UNDP co-organized a side event on HRDs at the United Nations Virtual Forum on Responsible Business and Human Rights and on human rights and the environment with UNEP/OECD. The Office collaborated with UNEP and UNICEF to organize a virtual expert group meeting on policy guidance for promoting and protecting children's rights to a healthy environment in the ASEAN region, with the participation of a CRC member and the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. In addition, the Office partnered with UNEP to produce a regional study on the impacts of COVID-19 on environmental rights. On the occasion of World Environment Day, the Office released a statement, launched a video on climate change and posted on its social media platforms to raise awareness about the relationship between climate change, the environment and human rights.

D7 - UNCTs and UN agencies in UNDAF roll-out countries (2018-2021) and countries that support separate SDG planning or programming have adopted a rightsbased approach to development planning and implementation that complies with international human rights norms, standards and principles.

OHCHR supported the mainstreaming of human rights into the process leading to the adoption of new CCAs and UNSDCFs in the region.

UN Human Rights supported the integration of human rights, gender equality and the principle of LNOB into the preparation and adoption of new CCAs and UNSDCFs in China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Maldives, Myanmar, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. The Office provided training and technical advice to UNCTs and UN partners. Online training sessions were provided to Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand. In Indonesia, OHCHR delivered a training on the use of human rights indicators and markers in UNCT-led initiatives and programmatic responses.

The Office contributed extensively to the CCA process in Lao PDR and Viet Nam. It supported the mainstreaming of human rights and the LNOB principle throughout the process, drafted human rights content and supported a multidimensional risk analysis by the UNCT. As a result, the draft CCAs include key recommendations that were issued by the international human rights mechanisms. Moreover, the Office provided expert advice to ensure the mainstreaming of human rights into the SEIAs and SERPs of Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar and Viet Nam.

OHCHR contributed to the drafting of the UNSDCFs of China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Timor-Leste. Indonesia's UNSDCF is considerably stronger than the previous UN Partnership Framework. It focuses on non-discrimination and identifies risks associated with stigma and discrimination against marginalized groups as factors that could jeopardize the achievement of the SDGs. The UNSDCF of Malaysia is expected to be signed in June 2021.

The Issue-based Coalition on Human Rights, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, which was established, in March, as part of the UN Development System Reform and is co-chaired by OHCHR, supported the preparation of a Guidance Note on including gender equality and human rights in rapid assessments and socio-economic surveys on the impact of COVID-19. It also developed other tools and resources, such as common messaging for UNCTs and a repository of resources in support of COVID-19 response and recovery. OHCHR was closely involved in the development of SERPs for Lao PDR, Malaysia and Myanmar, which were identified as good examples of the integration of human rights.

OHCHR co-led and provided secretariat support for the Asia-Pacific Human Rights Network, which includes UN staff from regional and country presences. In 2020, during the course of six meetings, the Network focused on enabling UNCTs to make use of information issued by the international human rights mechanisms. In 2021, the Network will be merged with the Issue-based Coalition on Human Rights, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. To celebrate Human Rights Day, the Issue-based Coalition organized a 10-day social media campaign engaging 12 regional UN entities. Thirty stories from across the region were shared, highlighting the perspectives of youth, defenders of the environment and

indigenous peoples and LGBTI activists. Discussions included the right to health and the rights of persons with disabilities. A regional public online event was organized on the transformation of economies with a greater focus on human rights and gender equality.

The Office provided advice for the integration of human rights into the Twelfth Malaysia Plan, including through inputs to the draft UNCT Policy brief on human rights and development for the Twelfth Malaysia Plan and the mapping of follow-up to accepted UPR recommendations. OHCHR participated in the regional support group for the UNCT in Nepal to pilot the interim guidance on the operationalization of the LNOB principle.



ND6 - Migration governance measures (national and regional laws, regulations, policies, processes and agreements and their implementation) increasingly comply with international human rights law. Sustained advocacy is undertaken with States to ensure migrants in vulnerable situations have improved access to their human rights, with particular attention given to their specific experiences, views and needs. Positive public narratives based on human rights, shared values and common humanity increasingly challenge and reframe negative narratives about migrants.



OHCHR contributed to increasing the compliance of oversight, accountability or protection mechanisms with international human rights standards on issues related to the rights of migrants.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights wrote a letter to the Prime Minister of Thailand, advocating for the rights of persons deprived of their liberty in the context of COVID-19, including regular detainees and migrants in Immigration Detention Centres (IDCs). This contributed to ending the detention of children in IDCs. In addition, OHCHR provided inputs to a letter from the RC to the Police General, who is responsible for the Immigration Bureau and IDCs, regarding action to be taken to enhance the rights of detained migrants during the pandemic.

Furthermore, the Office released a public statement, in April, highlighting the structural vulnerabilities faced by migrants in the context of the COVID-19 response. It called on governments to take specific action to protect the human rights of migrants. OHCHR continued to monitor, document and internally report on the situation of migrants in the Asia-Pacific region and to advocate for a human rights-based response to migration and COVID-19. The Office provided assistance to UNCTs to strengthen the protection of the rights of migrants in COVID-19 responses in countries such as Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, the Maldives and Thailand. It drafted a chapter on border governance and mainstreamed human rights into the Asia-Pacific Migration Report, which was launched by ESCAP and other partners on 18 December. The Office held a virtual session on rights-based border management for the Maldives Police and translated OHCHR's training materials on human rights at international borders into regional languages. In May, OHCHR organized a virtual expert consultation on the role of Private Security and Military Companies in immigration enforcement in the Asia-Pacific region. The Office was invited to co-chair the workstream on disaster displacement of the Issues-based Coalition on Building Resilience and it organized a virtual conversation, in December, between 15 RCs from the region and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons.

Peace and Security

PS5 - UN country policies and programmes, including UNDAFs, successfully integrate international human rights norms, standards and principles, including the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

3 5 8 10 13 16 17

OHCHR contributed to the stronger integration of human rights standards into the UN development and humanitarian cooperation mechanisms at the regional and country levels, including by building capacity and providing analysis and technical expertise.

UN Human Rights Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) made good progress in strengthening human rights risk analysis in support of UNCTs, in line with the Human Rights up Front Initiative and the prevention agenda. The early warning system established in Myanmar, in 2019, was an example of a system-based approach to human rights risk identification and analysis for the UN. In 2020, the ERT was closely involved in strengthening human rights risk analysis in the CCAs for a number of countries in the region. With regard to the Thailand CCA, the ERT worked with the Thailand Team and SDG focal point, delivered risk analysis training to the UNCT/CCA drafting team and provided written inputs for the development of the risk analysis. The ERT also facilitated a human rights stocktaking exercise in Lao PDR, in February, which created the basis for a strong human rights risk analysis in the draft CCA. In addition, the ERT delivered a workshop on risk analysis to the CCA drafting team in Viet Nam and prepared a draft risk matrix, which was included in the draft CCA.

In May, OHCHR and the UN Disaster Risk Reduction Office co-organized a webinar on human rights and COVID-19, with a focus on the rights of migrants, racism, xenophobia and hate speech, the impact of emergency measures on freedom of expression and the situation of persons deprived of their liberty. The Office's ERT contributed analysis to inter-agency initiatives, including inputs to the Secretary-General's policy brief on the impact of COVID-19 on South-East Asia and to a UNDP study on lessons for pandemic recovery.

The emerging crises in Thailand, resulting from the Government's response to the student-led pro-democracy movement, became an increasing area of focus as of July. The ERT produced regular reports as the situation developed. Following the adoption of the Omnibus Law in Indonesia, similar crises are emerging with the potential for severe consequences for economic and social rights, gender equality and environmental rights. This was a focus for the ERT in its rapid response function.

The ERT also increased OHCHR's visibility in IASC structures, including through contributions to the Regional Emergency Preparedness Group, the Reference Group on Gender in Humanitarian Action, the Risk Communications and Community Engagement Working Group and the COVID-19 Working Group. The ERT developed key messages for risk communications about COVID-19 for vulnerable groups, such as persons deprived of their liberty.

Furthermore, the information management function of the ERT was critical in supporting the early warning media analysis, which informed the risk analysis and prevention work of the Office. More specifically, the ERT used the NewsDesk system for the development of the Daily News Digest and the DEEP platform and Tableau for its analysis and visualization work. A dashboard on special procedures communications relating to fundamental freedoms and civic space was created for countries in the Asia region.

The NHRI Human Rights in Humanitarian Action community of practice continued to be supported during the COVID-19 crisis through a series of webinars. NHRI participants made significant progress in engaging on human rights in the context of COVID-19.

Mechanisms

M1 - NMRFs are established or strengthened. They report to the human rights treaty bodies and implement recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

16 17

OHCHR supported the creation and/or strengthening of mechanisms for integrated reporting and/or implementation of the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

UN Human Rights conducted two workshops on reporting to the human rights treaty bodies (in Malaysia and Thailand) and increased the profile of the National Recommendations Tracking Database to promote NRMFs among Member States. In 2020, the roll-out was in progress in Thailand, a formal request was received from Malavsia and was under

consideration and a roll-out was under consideration by Cambodia. The Office delivered a capacity-building training to the NHRI of Malaysia, with the participation of two CED experts, which included a discussion on the ratification process of ICPPED.

In Malaysia, no direct activities were initiated to enhance the capacity of the Government to ratify outstanding treaties, which was primarily due to a shift in the Government's priorities. Yet, discussions continued with the Government on increasing its capacity to systematically implement the recommendations emanating from the international human rights mechanisms, with a focus on the submission of timely and quality reports and the UPR follow-up process. Advocacy efforts were also directed at establishing an NRMF.

Strengthening the engagement of indigenous peoples in Asia with the international human rights mechanisms



During the regional consultation, in Bangkok, in November 2020, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, the former Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, met with representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. © OHCHR/Todd Pitman

The voices of indigenous peoples are often excluded from the mainstream conversations where they are most needed. This situation is even more critical in Asia, which is home to more than two-thirds of the world's indigenous peoples - totalling approximately 400 million.

In an effort to bridge this gap, the UN Human Rights Regional Office for South-East Asia partnered with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) and the Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education to hold a regional consultation, in November 2019. The conference brought together more than 100 representatives of

indigenous peoples, including academics, lawyers and representatives of CSOs from across Asia. Inputs gathered during the meeting were instrumental in the preparation of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples. The report was presented to the Human Rights Council, in September.

To continue these discussions, UN Human Rights collaborated with the Special Rapporteur and the AIPP to deliver two webinars, on 30 October and 26 November, during which the Special Rapporteur briefed indigenous representatives on the report's findings and a plan to implement its recommendations.

The webinars focused on land rights, climate change, the environment and HRDs and provided a meaningful platform for participants to engage with the Special Rapporteur.

The online sessions "proved timely and were very much needed," said Alice Mathew, a native of Malaysian Borneo and the Regional Office's Senior Indigenous Fellow. "It is crucial to keep up the momentum and amplify indigenous voices, particularly in Asia," she added. "We need more dialogue spaces with different stakeholders to exchange experiences, highlight challenges and share our best practices for solutions. While the richness and effectiveness of in-person discussions with the Special Rapporteur may not be replaced by online platforms, they give indigenous peoples direct access to the Special Rapporteur, humanize the UN mechanisms and offer a platform to exchange information and find joint solutions to the challenges we face. We cannot build back better unless the voices of indigenous peoples are heard."

A final webinar in the series, focused on sustainable development, will be held in 2021.

SRI LANKA

Population size¹ 21.41 million	Surface area¹ 66,000 km ²	Human Development Index ² NHRI (if applicable) ³ 0.782 (rank: 72/189 in 2019) "A" Status (2018)
Type of engagement		Human Rights Adviser
Year established		2004
Field office(s)		Colombo
UN partnership framework		United Nations Sustainable Development Framework 2018-2022
Staff as of 31 December 2020		4
XB requirements 2020		US\$1,018,000
Key OMP pillars in 2020		

¹²³ Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229

PILLAR RESULTS:



A2 - Sri Lanka, in accordance with HRC resolution 30/1, implements a comprehensive transitional justice strategy that is victim-oriented, gender-sensitive and in compliance with international human rights standards. This strategy includes an Office for Missing Persons (OMP), a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, a reparations programme and a credible, independent judicial accountability mechanism with a special counsel and the participation of foreign legal experts.

OHCHR contributed to the creation and/ or functioning of oversight, accountability and protection mechanisms that operate in conformity with international human rights standards.

UN Human Rights continued to support transitional justice mechanisms, despite the changing human rights environment. The OMP produced a landmark, comprehensive list of missing and disappeared persons and the Office for Reparations developed a draft policy which, if approved by the Cabinet, could offer basic redress to some categories of victims. No progress was made, however, with regards to the establishment of a truth commission or other accountability processes. Instead, the accountability agenda suffered serious pushbacks in the form of interference with court cases, scrutiny of former investigators and surveillance of CSOs that are active in this area.



Mechanisms

M1 – Sri Lanka's standing invitation continues to result in visit requests from the special procedures and the Government agrees to visit dates and formats and facilitates their constructive engagement.



OHCHR continued to support the engagement of the special procedures with Sri Lanka.

The new Government retained the standing invitation to the special procedures, however, no visits took place in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. Provided that travel restrictions are lifted in 2021, two visits are being planned by the Special Rapporteur on the right to education and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences. UN Human Rights offered support to the mandate holders, resulting in five communications that were issued in 2020 and two reports on past visits.

Peace and Security

PS5 - The Human Rights Working Group (HRWG) acts as an early warning mechanism in the event that the human rights situation deteriorates. It also contributes to the application of a human rights-based approach to specific programmes.











OHCHR supported the integration of

human rights into the programme policies of UN entities, with a focus on early warning and prevention.

UN Human Rights contributed to analysis and advice from the RC to the UNCT and headquarters. In addition, the RCO led a Conflict Risk Analysis for the UNCT,

with the support of the HRA, which emphasized prevention.

In 2020, the UNCT strengthened its application of the HRDDP. More specifically, it produced a general and preliminary HRDDP risk assessment for Sri Lanka and facilitated the preparation of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the implementation of the HRDDP. It also established a UNCT HRDDP Task Force that works alongside the HRWG.

PS6 - All Sri Lankan military or police personnel proposed for deployment in UN peacekeeping operations undergo a stringent screening process, which is led by civilians.



OHCHR supported the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL), the UN and the Government to integrate international human rights norms, standards and principles into their work.

With assistance from UN Human Rights, the HRCSL continued to screen peacekeepers in 2020, using the tools developed in 2018. Unfortunately, the formal independence of the Commission was significantly weakened through constitutional amendments that were introduced in October. The new commissioners were appointed in December. The procedure may have to be reviewed.



D3 - Measures are in place to ensure the return of all land that is occupied by the military, the payment of appropriate compensation and the settlement of land-related disputes linked to displacement that occurred during the 30-year conflict.



OHCHR contributed to the improved compliance of land legislation/policies with international human rights standards.

UN Human Rights continued to advocate in relation to land issues. It closely followed the establishment of problematic bodies, such as the Presidential Task Force for Archaeological Heritage Management in the Eastern Province, which appear to primarily represent majority community sensitivities. While it is not expected that the Government will make further progress in establishing independent bodies in the near future, the HRA has increased its work on land issues as they are recognized as potential triggers for conflict.

TIMOR-LESTE

Population size ¹ 1.32 million	Surface area ¹ 15.000 km ²	Human Development Index ² NHRI (if applicable) ³ 0.606 (rank: 141/189 in 2019) "A" Status (2018)
1.32 million	13,000 km²	0.000 (rank: 141/169 in 2019) A Sidius (2016)
Type of engagement		Human Rights Adviser
Year established		2013
Field office(s)		Dili
UN partnership framework		United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2015-2020
Staff as of 31 December 2020		4

123 Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229

PILLAR RESULTS:

Key OMP pillars in 2020



A1 – The police and army comply with international human rights standards that prohibit torture and ill-treatment.



OHCHR supported the police and the army in their compliance with international human rights norms and standards that prohibit torture and ill-treatment by providing technical support and targeted capacity-building initiatives.

The new human rights training programme for the national army, which began in 2018, continued in the second half of 2020. The programme is organized by the NHRI, in partnership with UN Human Rights, and includes trainers from the Ministry of Defence and Security of Timor-Leste and the army. Three fiveday training courses were delivered to 68

officers (six women, 62 men) that focused on the role of the army to respect and protect human rights in times of crisis, during searches, arrest and the use of force. An in-depth discussion on states of emergency was added in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and concerns regarding the actions of the military during the more restrictive initial states of emergency.

Moreover, three training courses were delivered to the national police. The training team included two trainers from the Police Academy. A total of 72 police officers (45 women, 27 men) learned about human rights when using force and during arrest and detention. In addition, one of the courses was specifically focused on women police officers. According to data collected by the NHRI, four police agents who attended the human rights training were involved in human rights violations in 2020, representing a decrease from

previous years. There is growing interest in these trainings, as evidenced by an increase in requests for additional trainings in 2021. Nevertheless, much remains to be done in a country that emerged from violent conflict less than 20 years ago, where impunity continues to be rife, police training is limited and investment in the police is low.

In consultation with the Office of the Provedor for Human Rights and Justice (PDHJ), the HRA reviewed the human rights manual for the capacity-building programme of the National Police of Timor-Leste, "Kna'ar polísia nian no protesaun ba direitus umanus." The programme was launched by the PDHJ, in 2014, and attended by senior police officials. The review of the manual included the identification of lessons learned from the programme, its impact and ways to address challenges and enhance results to strengthen the respect for and protection of human rights. Recognition of the need to further reflect on lessons learned was partially prompted by the fact that existing legislation pertaining to the national police of Timor-Leste was amended and new legislation was adopted, creating the need for updated training tools.



Non-discrimination

ND1 – Legal drafters and judicial actors take into account the rights of persons with disabilities.



OHCHR contributed to improving the level of compliance of selected State institutions/programmes with international human rights standards.

In 2020, 10 persons with disabilities, who were trained by UN Human Rights

under the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD), became lead facilitators and cooperated with OHCHR to deliver a training to 20 staff members (eight women, 12 men) from the Ministry of Justice on the toolkit for the prevention of gender-based violence against women and children with disabilities (produced in 2019 under the UNPRPD). The training focused on issues of equality and access to general court services. Within this project, OHCHR is contributing to the development of the terms of reference for the mapping of judicial services for women and children with disabilities who are victims of violence. It also aims to strengthen their capacity to ensure that judicial services are disability-inclusive, with a special focus on the police and the Public Defender's Office.

The HRA continued to support organizations of persons with disabilities in their calls for the ratification of CRPD, including through advocacy with different ministries. These joint efforts increased levels of support for and awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities and the ratification of CRPD at the highest levels of the Government and the Parliament. An increasing number of ministries are making efforts to better integrate disability and implement actions in line with the 2012 National Policy on the Inclusion and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. For example, the Ministry of Public Works issued a regulation that all building construction, public and private, needs to accommodate persons with disabilities. This was achieved through a series of advocacy events, led by the Association of Persons with Disabilities in Timor-Leste (ADTL), the platform for organizations of persons with disabilities in Timor-Leste under the UNPRPD project. Additionally,

to promote more inclusive and accessible information, especially for persons with disabilities, the Government of Timor-Leste and ADTL signed an agreement regarding the use of sign language during specific nationally televised events.

ND7 - The public supports the application of a human rights-based approach to disability. The public opposes discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.



OHCHR contributed to strengthening the narrative on the rights of persons with disabilities and LGBTI persons in Timor-Leste by providing expert advice on compliance with international human rights law and supporting advocacy campaigns.

UN Human Rights continued to provide technical support to the ADTL in its advocacy for persons with disabilities. The ADTL launched a campaign featuring empowered persons with disabilities and positive role models of individuals who embrace inclusion and make use of traditional and social media to do so. The campaign is aimed at raising awareness about the equal rights of persons with disabilities and reducing the use of stigmatizing language and discriminatory behavior. It also reinforces calls for the ratification of CRPD. The campaign is funded through the UNPRPD.

On the occasion of Human Rights Day, OHCHR organized an exhibition of paintings made by Timorese artists to call attention to the impacts of COVID-19 on society's most vulnerable groups. Each of the 12 artists portrayed a different group. The exhibition will travel to Timor-Leste's municipalities throughout 2021. In anticipation of the exhibition, OHCHR

produced a booklet and a 2021 calendar, which include messages about equality, non-discrimination, participation, sustainable development and building back better, in order to ensure that human rights is at the centre of the country's recovery.

Furthermore, the HRA supported the NHRI to mark Human Rights Day with a seminar about the impacts of COVID-19 on the human rights situation in the country. This provided the NHRI with an opportunity to present the findings of its monitoring of the many states of emergency in place across the country. OHCHR also gave a presentation about the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. The seminar was attended by approximately 100 people and created an opportunity for dialogue between the NHRI, the general public and the Government on issues of concern.

OHCHR produced a research report about the situation of LGBTI persons in accessing education (secondary and university) in Timor-Leste, the level of inclusiveness and safety of schools and universities for LGBTI persons and recommendations to improve the situation. The HRA also developed a brochure with recommendations for students, teachers and families about promoting safe and inclusive schools. Bullying, stigma and discrimination significantly contribute to the incidence of school/university dropout rates among members of the LGBTI community, affecting their ability to access qualified employment opportunities. In December, NAFOFILA, a CSO, collaborated with OHCHR to organize a theatre performance in the Ainaro Municipality on the challenges faced by LGBTI persons in their communities. For instance, most discrimination and violence against LGBTI persons in Timor-Leste comes from their own families. Approximately 100 people attended the play and showed

great interest. After the performance, several participants offered positive feedback about the initiative, which kept the public engaged and portrayed the impact of discrimination, underlining the need to respect everyone's rights.



Participation

P6 – Youth, women and discriminated groups, and those who represent them, regularly advocate for human rights.



OHCHR contributed to enhancing the meaningful participation of youth, LGBTI persons and women in selected public processes by providing technical expertise, funding and support for advocacy campaigns.

The Human Rights Defenders Network (HRDN), which was established in 2015 through a grant from UN Human Rights, is now composed of 11 CSOs. During the year, it conducted joint public advocacy, focused on addressing impunity and called for enhanced respect for human rights. As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded, the network concentrated on monitoring the restrictions established under the states of emergency in Timor-Leste. Two reports were published, publicized and distributed to national and international actors. The HRA supported the network, in particular by sharing guidance on human rights issues in the context of COVID-19, discussing strategies, supporting analysis and translating key documents. OHCHR also supported the HRDN's advocacy efforts by developing a one-year strategic plan, which includes a results and resources framework.

In addition, the HRA supported the organization of three two-day training courses

on human rights for youth representatives involved in the Community Police Council from 21 villages in Ainaro Municipality. These training courses were organized by the Commander of the National Police of Timor-Leste of the Municipality of Ainaro, OHCHR facilitated sessions on human rights, the rights of persons with disabilities and of LGBTI persons, while the police trainers focused on the role of the Community Police Council. This engagement contributed to empowering youth to respect and protect the rights of vulnerable groups in their community. The NHRI from the Manufahi Regional Centre was a partner in this initiative and shared information about its mandate and how to submit complaints.

Furthermore, the HRA supported the Movimento Feto Foin Sae Timor-Leste (MOFFE), a CSO working on women's issues, to organize a public debate competition with youth groups and youth from four secondary schools. The activity was organized in the context of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign. Over 300 participants were invited to deliver a strong pitch about women's rights. MOFFE also organized a campaign about the power of men to end violence and stand up for women's rights. These initiatives mobilized female and male youth to combat violence against women and children and promote and protect women's human rights in a country with a high prevalence of violence against women.



Development

D7 - National actors and the United Nations integrate human rights norms and standards into their programmes.

OHCHR contributed to the satisfactory integration of international human rights standards into UN common country programmes, including the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

In the context of COVID-19, UN Human Rights provided guidance and inputs and shared relevant standards and documents with the UNCT to integrate human rights into the prevention and response strategy to the pandemic, including within the socio-economic framework. The HRA also provided a briefing to the UNCT on the impacts of COVID-19 on the human rights situation in Timor-Leste and on the guidance regarding their engagement in the UPR process. Timor-Leste is planning to submit its State report in anticipation of its third UPR cycle, which is scheduled to take place in 2021. The RC requested OHCHR to activate a human rights working group and ensure that the UNCT contributes to the process.



M2 - The NHRI, the UNCT and civil society coalitions that work on emerging human rights issues submit reports for each scheduled review by the human rights treaty bodies. NGOs submit information to the special procedures.



OHCHR provided support to NHRIs, CSOs, UN entities and individuals in the development of substantive submissions to the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures and the UPR.

Due to COVID-19-related restrictions and the delay in the approval of the 2020 State budget, progress was limited on the engagement of the NHRI with the international human rights mechanisms, particularly in relation to reporting to the human rights treaty bodies. Yet, the NHRI held consultations and finalized its report for submission to CEDAW. UN Human Rights provided comments.

In view of new demands that have arisen in the context of the pandemic, OHCHR supported the NHRI to develop its monitoring and analytical capacities during the first two states of emergency that were declared in Timor-Leste. In addition to providing technical support, the HRA helped the NHRI to: develop a monitoring strategy that reflects its capacities and limitations under the state of emergency; develop a monitoring tool (using KoboToolbox) and technical support for the use of KoboCollect (a method for collecting data); draft two public reports on the first and second states of emergency and two weekly reports; prepare a legal analysis for the Parliament that questions the justification of the state of emergency under international human rights standards; and support legal research on

potential strategies for decreasing the prison population in light of COVID-19. This assistance enhanced the knowledge and skills of the NHRI staff, improved its working methodology and informed the Government and the general public about the essential role that the NHRI plays, particularly in moments of crisis.

Finally, the HRA facilitated the engagement of CSOs with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression following the news that the proposed draft Defamation Law will criminalize defamation and threaten the right to freedom of opinion and expression.