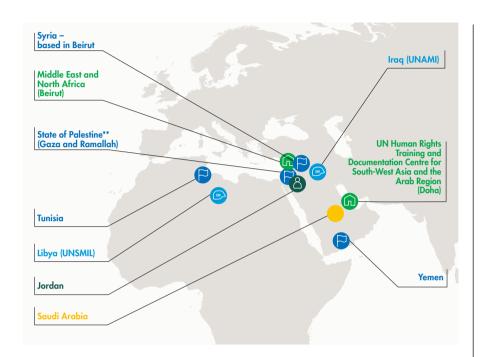
UN Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa

TYPE OF PRESENCE



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

LOCATION

Human Rights Advisers Jordan*

Other types of field presences

* Human Rights Advisers deployed under the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group. ** Hereinafter, all references to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

LEGEND:

Spotlights:







Shifts:















SDGs:































In 2020, the work of UN Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa region covered 19 countries. The Office supported two regional offices/centres, the Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa and the UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region; four country offices (State of Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen); one human rights adviser (HRA) in the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Jordan; two human rights components in UN Peace Missions in Iraq and Libya; and a project presence to build national capacity in human rights-related fields in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

OHCHR provided support to two special procedures country mandates, namely, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967 and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Support to these mandates continued through, among other actions, contributions to mandated reports, communications and the issuance of press releases on critical human rights issues as well as the facilitation of online meetings with permanent missions and civil society. The Office also served as the Secretariat to the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, as mandated by the General Assembly.

Abuses and violations of international humanitarian law continued to be reported in a number of States in the region in the context of violence and armed conflicts, including mounting civilian casualties, damage to civilian infrastructure and extensive displacements. In 2020, the spread of COVID-19

led to an accentuation of these violations and a worsening of the overall human rights situation across the region. The pandemic had a disproportionate impact on countries that are engaged in conflict and those with weaker economies and fragile political systems. It also resulted in devastating consequences for vulnerable groups and put significant pressure on the region's health systems, some of which were already suffering from chronic deficiencies. This compounded the impacts of the pandemic and negatively affected government responses in providing adequate health care in the face of surging cases. Socio-economic rights were also negatively impacted, prompting large-scale demonstrations and civil unrest in some countries. Women were disproportionately affected by COVID-19 as existing social and economic inequalities were further entrenched. In this context, OHCHR intensified its strategic advocacy and monitoring and its engagement with governments, regional organizations and CSOs, including through technical cooperation.

Concerns regarding the administration of justice remained a key issue in some States in light of multiple reports of arbitrary arrests, torture and ill-treatment, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and trials that did not meet the standards for a fair trial. The death penalty was applied in a number of States, including for child offenders. Many of the restrictive measures imposed in the context of the pandemic were used to curtail the rights to freedoms of opinion, expression, religion, association and peaceful assembly, which limited civic and digital spaces and generated serious concerns.

Discrimination in law and in practice continued to be reported against women and groups in vulnerable situations,

including people on the move, ethnic and religious minorities and the LGBTI community. Concerns also persisted in relation to incitement to hatred and violence. Restrictions on economic, social, and cultural rights (ESCRs) were documented, including in the context of access to social services, housing, education and employment, leading to the marginalization of women, youth and minority communities across the region.

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

In order to encourage increased engagement with and provide capacity-building support to key partners, UN Human Rights collaborated with the Qatari National Human Rights Committee, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), the European Parliament and the International Federation of Journalists to co-organize an international conference, in February, on "Social media: Challenges and ways to promote freedoms and protect activists." The conference, which was held in Doha, brought together more than

250 governmental and non-governmental organizations, human rights defenders (HRDs), media workers, the tech community, NHRIs and the international human rights mechanisms. In addition, the Office organized regional workshops and eight webinars that focused on the implementation of the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on "Faith for Rights" to enhance civic space and address hate speech in social media. Other webinars were conducted on keeping the faith in times of hate and confronting COVID-19 from the prism of faith, gender and human rights, in cooperation with Religions for Peace, CEDAW and the Special Rapporteurs on freedom of religion or belief and on minority issues.

In August and September, OHCHR held a series of four virtual exchanges with Egypt's Supreme Standing Committee for Human Rights on follow-up to the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

In the context of enhancing an understanding of the international human rights mechanisms, the Office organized a twoweek virtual training programme entitled "Orientation for junior diplomats on international human rights mechanisms" for participants from Member States of the Arab region. A total of 21 junior diplomats (13 women, eight men) attended the training from Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar, Somalia, the State of Palestine, Syria and Yemen. In November, OHCHR organized a three-day virtual training entitled "The role of media in promoting and protecting human rights in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic" for young journalists from Member States of the Arab region. The 15 participants (seven women, eight men) attended the training from Jordan,

Morocco, Oman, Qatar, the State of Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen.

To address the situation of persons in detention, OHCHR and the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) launched an advocacy campaign on the situation of prisoners in Libya. Initiatives included the preparation of letters from the High Commissioner to senior officials, follow-up letters from UNSMIL and press briefings to draw attention to the issue. As a result, 1,500 prisoners were subsequently released. The Office also engaged in advocacy with the Egyptian Government and the Ministry of Interior announced the release of 837 prisoners. It is unclear whether any political prisoners were released. Further, Morocco released 5,600 prisoners. OHCHR and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran undertook joint advocacy on the situation of prisoners through multiple interventions, including the presentation of the report of the Special Rapporteur to the Human Rights Council, which focused on detention conditions in Iran and an OHCHR web story on the situation of political prisoners in the context of COVID-19. The authorities subsequently announced the temporary release of up to 200,000 prisoners in the context of COVID-19. In the second half of 2020, most were reportedly ordered to return to prison. In the State of Palestine, UN Human Rights produced a set of guidance notes to provide information on applicable human rights standards during the emergency, including specific obligations and recommendations related to detention and the treatment of detainees during the state of emergency.

During the year, the UN Human Rights Regional Office in Beirut launched nine consecutive advocacy campaigns to raise awareness about the human rights implications of COVID-19. The campaigns shone a spotlight on those who may be more marginalized and at-risk in the pandemic, including women and migrant workers, and disseminated thematic messaging on xenophobia, hate speech, trafficking in persons, the right to privacy and access to health care. As part of the technical cooperation project between OHCHR and the Saudi Human Rights Commission, a seminar was organized on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The Regional Office also promoted the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign by hosting a regional conference with CSOs entitled "Towards full equality in nationality law." More than 55 civil society representatives from across the region brainstormed advocacy strategies to promote the full realization of equality in nationality laws.

IRAQ: UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR IRAQ (UNAMI)

Population size ¹ 40.22 million		Human Development Index2 NHRI (if applicable)³ 0.674 (rank: 123/189 in 2019) "B" Status (2015)
Type of engagen	nent	Peace Mission
Year established		2004
Field office(s)		Baghdad, Basra, Erbil, Kirkuk and Mosul
UN partnership f	ramework	-
Staff as of 31 De	cember 2020	36
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

XB requirements 2020 US\$808,000

Key OMP pillars in 2020









PILLAR RESULTS:



Participation (P)

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



OHCHR contributed to protecting civic space and the rights to life and freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and the rights of minorities through advocacy work.

UN Human Rights and UNAMI jointly continued to monitor and document human rights violations and abuses against participants of demonstrations that were held in the central and southern governorates and in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). UNAMI's Human Rights Office (HRO) engaged in advocacy with stakeholders to protect the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and to opinion and expression. More specifically, it issued two public reports entitled Demonstrations in Iraq: 3rd update (Abductions), in May, and Human rights violations and abuses in the context of demonstrations in Iraq: October 2019 to April 2020, in August. The latter publication is based on approximately 900 interviews that were conducted and identifies various concerns regarding the use of live ammunition against peaceful demonstrators, targeted killings, abductions, arbitrary arrest and the detention of civil society

activists and HRDs. Further, it raises concerns about the failure to protect peaceful demonstrators, a lack of accountability and continuing attacks against civic space in Iraq.

The Office's public reports, press statements and engagement with the Government, civil society, the Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights (IHCHR) and the international community helped to consolidate key messages and increase public awareness about the obligation to protect the rights to freedom of assembly and expression. Through its advocacy efforts, the HRO drew attention to the challenges faced by minority group activists who continue to flee to the Kurdistan region or Turkey due to a lack of trust that the Government is willing and/or able to protect them. This distrust is being fueled by cases of blatant impunity.

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

Non-discrimination (ND)

ND1 - Iraq develops as a multi-ethnic and religiously inclusive State in which the country's ethnic and religious minority communities are protected from violence and can fully participate, on equal terms, in political, social and economic life. Members of Iraq's diverse ethnic and religious communities have returned to their places of origin in accordance with humanitarian principles. All sectors of Iraqi society are protected from violence and have equal access to justice, without discrimination, irrespective of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, orientation, disability or other status. Persons with disabilities enjoy guaranteed and universal access to basic services. Laws are in place that prevent discrimination against individuals on the grounds of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, orientation, disability and other differences.



OHCHR contributed to protecting the human rights of women and girls and vulnerable groups, including LGBTI persons, persons with disabilities and members of minorities, through advocacy and awareness-raising initiatives.

As women and children and Iraq's most vulnerable groups (persons with disabilities and minorities) continued to face multiple challenges, enhancing equality and countering discrimination were among the core priorities of UN Human Rights and UNAMI's HRO during the year.

The Office highlighted the situation of the Sunni Arab community, which was subject to the ISIL occupation. In particular, the HRO documented the situation of women and girls who are perceived as being affiliated with ISIL and focused on access to education for adolescents. In February, a report was issued on The Right to Education in Iraq: Part One -The legacy of ISIL territorial control on adolescent's access to education in *Iraq.* The report is based on interviews and focus group discussions conducted between November 2018 and January 2019, involving 237 children and young adults in six camps of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Ninewa governorate as well as other persons from Mosul and Erbil. The report documents several challenges they faced while living under ISIL occupation between 2014 and 2017, including the years of formal education that the children lost, an insufficient number of schools, inadequate teaching schedules and barriers to school enrolment, such as restrictions on movement and access to civil documentation. A follow-up report on the obstacles that continue to hamper girls' access to education was prepared in 2020 and issued in January 2021, entitled Access to education in Iraq: Part Two - Obstacles to girls' education after ISIL. It notes the obstacles embedded in traditional gender roles and norms, including familial levels of education, poverty, protection and trauma. Both reports recommend concrete measures to address challenges related to gender norms and call for an enabling environment for girl's education.

The HRO completed a collection of peace narratives from 51 youth that will be issued in 2021 under the title *Voices* of *Iraq's youth: Human rights narratives* from *Iraq and the Kurdistan region of Iraq.* This compilation contributes to the documentation of initiatives undertaken by Iraqi youth to promote the human rights of religious minorities at the grassroots level. In 2021, a multimedia platform will enable users to upload peace narratives with photos and materials to

promote dialogue with and protection for religious minorities, while emphasizing local peace initiatives leading to social change.

Furthermore, the HRO monitored the human rights of LGBTI persons in Iraq and engaged with CSOs. The LGBTI community continued to face widespread discrimination, including hate speech, and their heightened vulnerability was exacerbated by COVID-19. The Office and its partners raised awareness on this issue and delivered online training sessions to national colleagues on LGBTI rights.

Peace and Security

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



OHCHR contributed to enhancing the protection of civilians by monitoring and reporting on violations of human rights and by disseminating relevant information to inform the responses of key stakeholders.

The security environment in Iraq remained fragile and the protection of civilians continued to be a concern, particularly in the context of security incidents involving armed groups, pro-government militias and foreign armed forces.

The HRO closely monitored the impact of security-related incidents causing harm to civilians and other protection concerns. In 2020, the overall security environment

steadily improved with a noticeable reduction of conflict-related harm, the lowest level since 2008. In 2020, the Office documented 527 civilian casualties (421 men. 38 women, 68 children) representing a 42 per cent decrease compared to 2019, with 907 civilian casualties recorded (768 men, 35 women, 104 children). UNAMI attributed 72 per cent of civilian casualties to ISIL remnants in Iraq, 22 per cent to unknown armed groups, five per cent to Turkish forces, five per cent to pro-government forces and the remaining one per cent to other armed actors, including pro-government militias. Of the total civilian casualties, 36 per cent were caused by improvised explosive devices (IEDs), 36 per cent by small arms fire, 10 per cent by the use of indirect fire (mortars), five per cent by air strikes and the remaining 13 per cent by explosive remnants of war or unexploded ordnance, hand grenades and summary executions. Turkish military air strikes targeting the positions of PKK elements in northern Iraq remained a concern, as air strikes resulted in civilian casualties and/or caused damage to civilian property.

Children continued to be the victims of armed violence and acts of terrorism. In 2020, the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) documented 29 grave violations against children, affecting a total of 20 children (17 girls, three boys) in the Kirkuk and Salah al-Din governorates.

The HRO, UNICEF and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict engaged with the Government on finalizing the draft National Action Plan on the recruitment and use of children and support for their rehabilitation and reintegration. The HRO provided expertise to support the alignment of the draft with international human rights standards and supported the Government in its implementation. The HRO also collaborated with UNICEF and Justice Rapid Response to implement a training programme for members of the CTFMR on documenting child rights violations and enhancing child protection. The workshop resulted in the launch of a peer network to exchange experiences and strengthen the child protection framework in Iraq.

PS4 – Access to justice is guaranteed to all sectors of Iraqi society, communities and individuals in relation to human rights violations, abuses or crimes, regardless of when or where they were committed or by whom. Community reconciliation is built on respect, mutual understanding and trust. It aids national reconciliation processes and ensures justice for the victims of human rights violations and abuses.



OHCHR strengthened the engagement of civil society, the IHCHR and the Government with the international human rights mechanisms, with a focus on cases of enforced or involuntary disappearances.

In 2020, enforced disappearances remained a serious human rights concern in Iraq. UN Human Rights and UNAMI's HRO followed up on cases of alleged enforced disappearances carried out by pro-government forces, in Anbar, in 2015 and 2016. It collected information to support the Government in meeting its obligations in line with international human rights law. New interviews were conducted with the families of the alleged victims, government representatives, community leaders, CSOs and other interlocutors. In August, UN Human Rights/

UNAMI published a special report entitled Enforced disappearances from Anbar governorate 2015-2016: Accountability for the victims and the right to truth. The report provides an account of the scale and scope of the issue and advocates for the Government to adopt measures that will ensure accountability for perpetrators and redress for victims.

As part of its ongoing efforts to promote the engagement of Iraq with the international human rights mechanisms, the HRO supported the engagement of civil society, the IHCHR and the Government with the CED Committee, during its nineteenth session. The session was held virtually, for the first time, in September and October. Based on confidential information received from various stakeholders, including UNAMI, the Committee engaged in an interactive dialogue with the Government's delegation to review efforts undertaken to protect persons from enforced disappearance. In its concluding observations, CED outlined recommendations concerning legislative reform, accountability, search procedures and a consolidated database of missing persons and mass graves. The Committee also requested that the Government provide responses in relation to 275 (out of 492) urgent actions on individual cases that have not been addressed. The HRO will continue to provide technical assistance to the Government for the implementation of CED recommendations, including on the alignment with international standards of the draft Law on the Protection of Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

In December, the Office delivered a threeday online workshop for civil society representatives entitled "Introduction to the human rights framework to protect persons from enforced disappearance." Workshop participants discussed the role of civil society in this area. More specifically, they strengthened their capacities to monitor and report on human rights and undertake advocacy. They also learned how to submit communications to CED and the special procedures.

Moreover, the HRO supported the engagement of Iraq with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID), as a number of outstanding cases are under review by the Working Group. The Government participated in a virtual dialogue during the Working Group's 121st session. In June, a joint committee was established by the Federal Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government to intensify the search for Yazidi persons abducted by ISIL.



A1 - Iraq fully respects the rule of law in the administration of justice, in full compliance with standards on the right to due process and to a fair trial guaranteed under international law and the Constitution of Iraq. Allegations of torture are fully investigated, victims are provided with appropriate protection, care and compensation and those responsible are held accountable according to law. Iraq fully complies with international standards in relation to the treatment, care, protection and rehabilitation of women and children who are in the criminal justice system. All sectors of Iraqi society have equal access to justice, particularly those who may be marginalized, such as women, ethnic and religious and other minorities, persons with disabilities and youth. The Government ensures that any person who violates international human rights law, international humanitarian law or international criminal law is held accountable before competent courts

that fully respect due process and fair trial standards, including through legislation that grants Iraqi courts jurisdiction over international crimes and after Iraq becomes a signatory to the Statute of the International Criminal Court.



OHCHR increased its engagement with the High Judicial Council (HJC) on fair trial standards to promote judicial and legal reforms in accordance with international human rights standards.

UN Human Rights and UNAMI's HRO continued to implement its detention and trial monitoring programme throughout 2020. Specifically, it engaged in advocacy and provided technical assistance to State officials to promote fair trial guarantees, in accordance with the Constitution of Iraq and international human rights law. In particular, the Office conducted 97 detention monitoring interviews (four women, 93 men). The HRO also monitored 26 trials (22 in Baghdad and four in Erbil). Beginning in April, the Office engaged in advocacy with the Iraqi Government, including the HJC, the Ministry of Justice, the President (through the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Iraq) and the Prime Minister's Office, to promote measures for reducing the number of detainees in detention facilities in the context of COVID-19. On 18 August, the HJC announced that the judiciary had released 17,585 persons to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in places of detention. The Ministry of Justice reported that approximately 300 prisoners had been released based on a special presidential pardon to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in prisons.

In January, UN Human Rights/UNAMI issued a report entitled *Human rights in the administration of justice in Iraq: Trials*

under the anti-terrorism laws and the implications posed to justice, accountability and social cohesion in the aftermath of ISIL. The report covers the period from May 2018 to October 2019 and is based on UNAMI's monitoring of 794 criminal court hearings across Iraq, with the support of the HJC. The Office's advocacy efforts resulted in the HIC's agreement to develop guidelines for the conduct of judicial investigations and trials to ensure their alignment with international human rights standards. The guidelines will address issues such as the judicial response to claims of torture and ill-treatment and fundamental legal safeguards, including access to lawyers.

In February, the Office and the IHCHR organized a training session for representatives of 15 CSOs on engaging with the Human Rights Committee regarding the implementation of ICCPR. As part of its technical assistance programme, the HRO and the HJC co-organized a twoday online workshop, in November, for 16 Iraqi judges and judicial and international human rights experts. The participants discussed steps to strengthen an effective legal defence, evidentiary standards, judicial oversight of detention and reasoning of judgments. Following the workshop, new guidelines will be issued for the conduct of judicial investigations and trials in 2021.

A3 - Women and children who are victims of sexual and gender-based violence/ conflict-related sexual violence (SGBV/ CRSV) or so-called 'honour crimes,' including women from Iraq's ethnic and religious minority communities, have access to justice and appropriate support services.









OHCHR continued to promote judicial and legal reforms to ensure accountability for victims of SGBV/CRSV crimes.

In 2020, the situation faced by survivors of CRSV in Iraq was exacerbated by challenges related to the COVID-19 health emergency. From 1 January to 30 September, the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) recorded 30 incidents perpetrated by armed actors (defined by the GBVIMS as members of an armed group, police, State military or security officials). Of these, 29 incidents (97 per cent) were reported by female survivors, consistent with the pattern that females are the most vulnerable to CRSV due to gender inequalities and negative social norms. Between January and November, the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on grave violations against children in armed conflict (MRM) verified six cases of CRSV that occurred prior to 2020. In all six cases, the survivors were Yazidi returnees from Syria who arrived in Iraq during the course of 2020. Survivors were kidnapped and held as sexual slaves by ISIL, in August 2014, in and around the Sinjar District, Ninewa governorate.

In Iraq, cases of CRSV were significantly underreported due to a fear of reprisals, social stigma, a lack of trust in the justice system and security concerns. On 2 March, a criminal court in Baghdad sentenced a former ISIL member to death following his conviction for charges under articles 2 and 4 of the Anti-Terrorism Law (Law No. 13 of 2005). This was the first case where a survivor provided oral evidence in open court regarding kidnapping, trafficking and rape endured at the hands of a former ISIL member. This is an important step in ensuring accountability for CRSV crimes.

Finally, the HRO engaged with the Government, UN partners and CSOs to promote measures for the prevention of and accountability for the crime of CRSV, in line with the six priorities outlined in the Joint Communique on prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence. In particular, the Office engaged with the Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (MARA) Technical Working Group on conflict-related sexual violence to strengthen monitoring of CRSV cases and prevention efforts.

Iraq: Raising awareness about human rights through art

"Public art is an effective tool to provoke discussion on the human rights dimensions of COVID-19, including the increased risk of domestic violence, stigma, discrimination, access to health care for women and girls and access to education for all Iraqi children," said Danielle Bell, Chief of the UN Human Rights Office in Iraq.

During 2020, UN Human Rights launched an art and illustration-based campaign to raise awareness about the human rights impacts of COVID-19. Available in Arabic, Kurdish and English, the campaign was built around mutually reinforcing elements, including rap songs, cartoons, murals, posters, videos and postcards, which were disseminated in person and through social media.

From April to June, seven young Iraqi artists produced vibrant and colourful cartons to dispel rumours about the virus, address stigma and discrimination and commend the courage and resilience of health-care workers, with support from the Al-Amal Association and UN Human Rights.

"I wanted to show that [COVID-19] is a disease that can be treated and that people who are sick should be treated, not punished," said Evan, an Iraqi artist, based in Turkey, who wanted to help stem the consequences of stigma through her cartoons.

"Standing together and showing solidarity with people affected by COVID-19, especially marginalized and vulnerable groups, is a social responsibility," said Hasan Wahab, from the Al-Amal Association. "It requires multiple collaborative efforts

to reduce violence and limit the spread of the virus across Iraq."

The campaign also sought to highlight the human rights consequences of the pandemic, including an increase in domestic violence, limited access to education and decreased access to health-care services.

With the support of UN Human Rights, Imprint of Hope, a CSO, worked with artists to produce 20 murals, ranging from 20 to 45 metres in length, in 10 of Baghdad's neighbourhoods. The murals aimed to counter stigma and discrimination and were painted on the walls of medical clinics, schools, a university, a local government building and on the side of a bridge.

To mark Human Rights Day, 10 December, UNAMI launched three rap songs, namely, "New World (COVID-19)," "Together" and "Final Advice." The songs were written and performed by The Golden Nenous (an Assyrian rapper), Raz (a Kurdish artist) and Mr. Legendary (from the Arab community). The lyrics of each song stressed that our response to the pandemic needs to prioritize human rights, adherence to health protection measures and the health of others. Recorded in Arabic, Kurdish and the modern Assyrian, or neo-Aramaic or Syriac language, the songs were widely circulated in Iraq, particularly among minority communities, including the Christian Assyrian and Kurdish communities.



Painting murals in the Hurriya neighbourhood, Baghdad. © OHCHR/Iraq

LIBYA: UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT MISSION IN LIBYA (UNSMIL)

Population size ¹ 6.87 million		Human Development Index2 NHRI (if applicable)3 0.724 (rank: 105/189 in 2019) "B" Status (2014)
Type of engagem	nent	United Nations Support Mission in Libya
Year established		2011
Field office(s)		Tripoli and Tunis, Tunisia
UN partnership f	ramework	UN Strategic Framework 2019-2020
Staff as of 31 De	cember 2020	10

US\$191,000 XB requirements 2020

Key OMP pillars in 2020







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

PILLAR RESULTS:



Accountability (A)

A1 – Those who are charged are promptly prosecuted in accordance with the right to due process. Crimes committed after 2011 are prosecuted.





OHCHR contributed to the enhanced capacities of the judiciary to ensure that accountability mechanisms for cases of gender-based violence (GBV) operate in conformity with international human rights standards.

As a result of sustained advocacy efforts undertaken by UN Human Rights and the Human Rights, Rule of Law and Transitional Justice Service (HRS) of UNSMIL, specialized courts were set up to address violence against women and children in Benghazi and Tripoli. Another major development was the appointment, on 11 October, of five women judges (out of a total of six judges) to the newly established courts. Together with UN Women and UNICEF, the HRS undertook a comprehensive training programme for the appointed judges. To further advance the rights of women and children in Libva, and following a request from the Chief Justice, the HRS agreed to roll out a specialized training programme, in 2021, for criminal justice actors, including prosecutors. In December, the HRS cooperated with UN Women and UNFPA to launch a project to revise the draft law on combating violence against women and girls. Twelve Libyan legal experts, including 10 women, met on two occasions and agreed on a plan of action.

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





OHCHR contributed to the increased compliance with international human rights standards of programmes, policies and practices of the judicial police and other key actors involved in the management of detention facilities through technical assistance and advocacy.

UN Human Rights and UNSMIL's HRS provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice and the Supreme Judicial Council to screen and release detainees as a mitigation measure against the spread of COVID-19. Between August and October, the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Public Prosecutor announced that more than 1,410 individuals had been released from prisons across the country. The HRS also advocated for the provision of basic health care to prisoners with the Ministry of Justice and the judicial police. Health-care units were operationalized in several prisons and some correctional facilities were sanitized. Medical screening was conducted throughout the year and procedures for visits were reviewed to prevent the spread of the virus. Eight women prisoners were transferred from a Special Deterrence Force (SDF) facility under the Ministry of Interior, to the Judicial Police/al-Jdayda prison in Tripoli. In addition, 44 women and 66 children were initially transferred from Al-Jawiya to Tummina prison, in Misrata, before being transferred to the al-Jdayda prison, which employs women guards. The al-Jdayda prison granted access to the HRS and other monitors.

In November, the HRS successfully advocated for the release of 350 migrants and asylum seekers from detention centres run by the Ministry of Interior's Department for Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM). Furthermore, in the context of the UNDP Policing and Security Joint Programme, technical support was provided to the judicial police to support the adoption of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the management and organization of detention facilities, in compliance with international human rights standards.

A1 - Libya's penal code, criminal procedure and related laws are increasingly compliant with international human rights standards. They increasingly provide legal guarantees against discrimination, including for women.



OHCHR contributed to enhancing the compliance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law of accountability mechanisms and transitional justice systems through advocacy with the judiciary and other parties.

Between May and December, the International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Working Group, co-chaired by UNSMIL's HRS, the Netherlands and Switzerland, held five meetings. The meetings focused on enhancing the promotion and protection of human rights in Libya through accountability and justice, with an emphasis on fact-finding and strengthening national capacities for the search and identification of mission persons. One meeting was dedicated to capacity-building measures linked to the exchange of prisoners, the sick and wounded, detainees and the de-mining of cities and roads, especially

in highly populated/residential areas. Another meeting focused on transitional justice, as a follow-up to the outcomes of the Libya Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF). Libyan counterparts, including the Minister of Justice, the Director of the General Authority for the Search and Identification of Missing Persons and CSO representatives were invited to present concerns, challenges and recommendations on the way forward.

Furthermore, the HRS organized regular in-person and virtual meetings and consultations on the role of judicial leadership within the ongoing peace process. Expert advice was provided to the newly elected Supreme Judicial Council on the status of the judiciary and prosecutorial system, including on their critical role in ensuring justice for conflict-related detainees as part of a sustainable peace process. Despite continuing challenges, the unified administration of justice noted that there were signs of improvement, as demonstrated by the collaboration of the members of the Supreme Judicial Council and the resumption of legal proceedings in the south, Sirte and Derna. Between August and October, the advocacy efforts undertaken by the HRS resulted in 11 court hearings inside the al-Jdayda prison, with the consequent release of eight detainees.



Participation (P)

P1 - National and international stakeholders strengthen their networking and coordination. CSOs provide assistance, including legal aid, to HRDs and victims of torture and other violations.



OHCHR strengthened the capacities of the Government and CSOs to engage with the international human rights mechanisms, implement their recommendations and operate in an increasingly integrated way.

On 11 November, Libya underwent its third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Prior to the review, UN Human Rights and the HRS provided support to the Government and CSOs to engage in the process. It also facilitated the preparation of submissions on human rights gains and challenges and ways forward that would enable all stakeholders to work together to improve the human rights situation in Libya. As a follow-up to a UPR training for women HRDs (WHRDs) that was organized in 2019, an effective network of WHRDs was established in 2020, resulting in the creation of tools to monitor GBV cases in the country. On 6 October, the HRS and the Embassy of Canada organized a meeting, during which CSOs discussed their inputs to the review process and strategies to disseminate their recommendations with key stakeholders. This facilitated constructive engagement and transparent and meaningful discussions that fed into the broader UPR process.

The HRS collaborated with the co-chairs of the International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Working Group to gather the views of diverse and representative individuals to ensure that

the LPDF proceedings were inclusive and rights-based as a means of achieving sustainable peace. Two consultative dialogues with civil society actors were held, in October and November, which included the participation of WHRDs. A number of principles were incorporated into the LPDF road map, including the importance of achieving equality between women and men, promoting and protecting human rights and pursuing comprehensive national reconciliation based on the principles of transitional justice, in parallel with fact-finding initiatives and reparations for victims. Firm commitments were undertaken to secure the increased engagement of women in these processes. For instance, a quota was established to ensure that women are selected for a minimum of 30 per cent of ministerial and deputy appointments. The LPDF road map was unanimously accepted by participants as an integral component of Libva's path towards sustainable peace and was annexed to the final outcome document of the LPDF.

The HRS provided technical advice to the international CSO Migrants Rights Forum and Legal Aid Coalition through virtual meetings and facilitated their engagement with other international networks.



PS1 - Violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law are monitored and reported by HRDs, enabling the international community to respond effectively to abuses by armed groups and cases of arbitrary and unlawful detention, torture, hostage-taking and extrajudicial kidnapping, while protecting civilians, upholding freedom of expression and combating discrimination against women and migrants.

5 16 🗥

OHCHR contributed to the increased awareness of the international community regarding the human rights situation in Libya.

Since the withdrawal of Libyan Arab Armed Forces (LAAF), on 5 June, UN Human Rights and the HRS closely monitored the situation in Tarhuna. A large number of mass graves were found in and around the town and a total of 115 human remains had been exhumed by the end of 2020. The slow identification process of the human remains led to public calls for expedited action and response. The International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Working Group advocated for the provision of technical and financial support to the General Authority for the Search and Identification of Missing Persons. The HRS also conducted a comprehensive factual and legal analysis of more than 80 documented cases.

In addition, the HRS successfully engaged with the UNCT to set up Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. The HRS provided information on human rights violations of women, including in detention, and conflict-related sexual violence to the International Criminal Court, the Panel of Experts on Libya and the Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Type of engagement	Regional Office		
Countries of engagement	Algeria, Bahrain, Jordo Morocco, Oman, King and United Arab Emiro	gdom of Saudi .	
Year established	2002		
Field office(s)	Beirut, Lebanon		
Staff as of 31 December 2020	14		
XB income	US\$2,935,091		
XB requirements 2020	US\$9,708,000		
XB expenditure	US\$2,043,564		
Section 1		Non-personn	el PSC4
Personnel			
76% \$1,546,115		13% \$272,93	11%
76%	US\$216,546	13%	
76% \$1,546,115	US\$216,546	13%	11%
76% \$1,546,115 RB expenditure	US\$216,546	13%	11%

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

PILLAR RESULTS:



Participation (P)

P1 – Two countries act to ensure that the legal, policy and accountability environment protects civil society groups, HRDs and activists.



OHCHR contributed to the increased compliance with international human rights standards of legislation and policies related to the protection of civic space through awareness-raising and advocacy efforts.

In 2020, UN Human Rights launched nine consecutive social media campaigns related to COVID-19 and human rights, with a focus on access to health care, the rights of women and migrant workers, xenophobia and hate speech, the right to privacy and trafficking in persons. The latest social media campaign on the right to privacy was exceptionally well-received and was disseminated by UN channels (i.e., UNIC in Beirut, the Regional Documentation Centre in Qatar and OHCHR-Tunisia) and non-UN channels (human rights groups and independent

bloggers). Engagement with the campaign was high, with a total of 1,769 post impressions. As a result, HRDs and bloggers from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region contacted the Office, alleging that their personal phone lines were tapped by intelligence services or that their personal accounts were blocked on communication platforms such as WhatsApp and TikTok.

The Office remained committed to engagement with young human rights advocates and mainstreamed youth participation into all of its activities. To this end, it expanded its youth network with an additional 76 youth advocates, increasing the membership to over 150 young women and men. In December, the Office organized a regional webinar on the right of youth to participate in public affairs. Young women and men from the Arab region voiced their concerns regarding their lack of participation in the political field. This led to the development of recommendations for States on addressing obstacles to youth participation and inclusion at the national, regional and international levels. Participants were encouraged to send the recommendations to officials in their respective countries, with support from OHCHR.

In addition, OHCHR supported an initiative to develop a code of conduct for parliamentarians in Lebanon, which was translated into Arabic. It encouraged parliamentarians to sign a pledge to combat incitement to hatred and discrimination and avoid using pejorative or discriminatory language. The next step will be a decision by the parliamentary Human Rights Committee.

P4 - A network of WHRDs in the region is strengthened after increasing its capacity to participate and address areas of concern.



OHCHR developed the capacity of a network of WHRDs from the Arab region, contributing to an increase in women's engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

Throughout 2020, UN Human Rights continued to support the WHRD-MENA Coalition, The Coalition, which was established with the support of the Office in 2019, unites 40 WHRDs from at least 25 national organizations in 14 countries from the MENA region. In 2020, the Coalition organized a regional online symposium on inequalities between women's and men's rights under nationality legislation. This topic is of critical importance in the MENA region where only one out of 18 Arab countries provides for equal rights between women and men in its nationality legislation.

In 2020, OHCHR began implementing a two-year advocacy campaign to raise awareness on this issue. The WHRD-MENA Coalition was a crucial advocacy partner at the national level. It prepared and disseminated recommendations to the media, religious and community leaders and legislative bodies in the region. In partnership with the Maharat Foundation, the Office organized a webinar on the "Role of media in advocating for full equality in nationality law," with a focus on strategic media approaches to advocacy for full equality. The participants reflected on the negative impact of this legislated inequality between women and men and solicited OHCHR's guidance to launch a campaign, in 2021, to appeal to legislative bodies and decision-makers

to amend discriminatory legislation. Furthermore, the Office and civil society partners hosted a regional conference during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence on enhancing equality in nationality laws. The conference brought together 55 representatives of CSOs from across the region to brainstorm on advocacy strategies related to this issue.



Non-discrimination (ND)

ND1 - National laws, policies and practices combat discrimination more effectively, particularly discrimination against religious, ethnic and national minorities, persons with disabilities, migrants and women. Authorities in at least three countries work actively to Leave No One Behind, including by addressing the root causes of inequality and linking implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with human rights.

5 10 16

OHCHR contributed to promoting the establishment of anti-discrimination laws, policies and practices across the region.

UN Human Rights initiated a study on the root causes of discrimination, in law and in practice, against ethnic and religious groups, with recommendations for policymakers to strengthen the legal protection and the participation of minorities. Advocacy efforts will be undertaken in 2021. In addition, the Office collaborated with the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect to engage religious leaders and policymakers in efforts to combat incitement to hatred and promote religious tolerance.

On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, OHCHR facilitated a virtual workshop on the application of a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to media coverage in Saudi Arabia. In addition, on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the Office organized virtual workshops on human rights standards in labour courts and on digital inclusion as a means of promoting the rights of persons with disabilities in work and in education. Finally, OHCHR continued to support the creation of a Master's programme on human rights at a university in Saudi Arabia.

ND4 – The image of women in public life is more positive and diverse. Traditional stereotypes are challenged regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in society and the family.

OHCHR contributed to increased levels of awareness of State institutions in relation to gender-based violence.

UN Human Rights and other UN partners provided technical assistance to the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW). The NCLW organized a meeting for governmental and non-governmental institutions on the creation of a specialized national coordination committee that would implement initiatives to combat gender-based violence in accordance with the Lebanon National Action Plan on United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2019-2022). The members of the National Steering Committee 1325 approved the establishment of the new committee. Subsequently, the Office participated in meetings on definitions of violence against women with representatives of CSOs, UN

agencies and ministries, with a focus on "the development of standard definitions of violence against women for internal security forces, courts, hospitals and service centres to improve and analyse all data."

ND6 - Member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) take steps to abolish the Kafala (sponsorship) system.



OHCHR contributed to increasing the compliance with international human rights standards of migration policies and programmes of selected State institutions.

UN Human Rights pursued its work in the region to abolish the Kafala sponsorship system of migrant workers. As a result of ongoing advocacy efforts undertaken by the Office and other partners, Lebanon's Ministry of Labour adopted a new standard unified contract (SUC) for the employment of migrant workers. Its application was suspended by the Shura Council, at least temporarily, after being successfully challenged by recruitment agencies. In Oatar, reforms were introduced into the labour law in September. For instance, a non-discriminatory minimum wage was established for all workers, including migrant workers, and the requirement to provide a No Objection Certificate when switching jobs was removed. Although the reforms were scheduled to be implemented in October, the implementation date was postponed by six months due to delays.



PS5 - The Regional Office acquires dedicated capacity to provide early warning analysis and responses.



OHCHR contributed to enhancing awareness and knowledge on the right to freedom of religion and on minority rights.

In February, during the regional round of the Oxford University moot court competition, in Lebanon, UN Human Rights rolled out components of the #Faith4Rights toolkit, with a focus on ethnic and religious minorities and human rights. Participants, including youth and university students, discussed the Rabat Plan of Action and the human rights duties of religious leaders. In particular, they exchanged substantive views on the toolkit, with an emphasis on Module 4 (the relationship between State and religion) and Module 6 (the rights of minorities). During the discussions, the Office identified youth participants who could further engage with these initiatives. Moreover, OHCHR finalized a study on the promotion and protection of ethnic and religious groups in the MENA region, which will be broadly disseminated among key stakeholders in 2021. The study will be a cornerstone for all activities related to freedom of religion or belief, including the regional roll-out of the #Faith4Rights framework and toolkit.



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



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

In 2020, UN Human Rights organized eight training sessions on reporting to and following up on recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms for 451 representatives of governments, UNCTs and HRDs from six countries in the region (Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Syria).

The NMRF in Lebanon requested technical support from the Office on drafting its State Party report to CEDAW. OHCHR provided information on reporting guidelines, highlighted good practices and offered advice on gender mainstreaming in reporting. In Qatar, OHCHR and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a three-day training on NMRFs with 35 participants from State institutions, the NHRI and CSOs. Participants enhanced their knowledge about the role of the NMRF, including its engagement, coordination, consultation and information management functions, and increased their awareness about the importance of establishing a permanent NMRF in Qatar. In Saudi Arabia, the Office organized a virtual consultative meeting on the simplified reporting procedure, bringing together 25 members of the Saudi National Permanent Committee.

STATE OF PALESTINE*

Population size ¹ 5.10 million	Surface area ¹ 6,000 km ²		luman Development Index ² 0.798 (rank: 115/189 in 2019)	•	applicable us (2015)	<u>;</u>)3
Type of engagen	nent		Country Office			
Year established			1996			
Field office(s)			East Jerusalem, Gaza, Hebr	on and Ro	amallah	
UN partnership	framework	_	United Nations Developmer Framework 2018-2022	nt Assistar	ice	
Staff as of 31 De	cember 2020		34			
XB requirements	2020	_	U\$\$5,521,309 U\$\$3,181,000			
XB expenditure Personnel			US\$2,125,110	Non-perso	onnel PSC ⁴	
73%				16%	10%	
\$1,557,254				\$347,395	\$220	,462
RB expenditure			US\$2,309,952			
Personnel					Non-perso	nnel
85 % \$1,953,287					15% \$356,665	
Key OMP pillars	in 2020					

^{*} Reference to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with General Assembly resolution 67/19.

PILLAR RESULTS:



Accountability (A)

A1 – A higher proportion of Palestinian legislative instruments and policies, in particular in the security and justice sectors, comply with the State of Palestine's international human rights obligations.



OHCHR contributed to increasing the compliance with international human rights standards of the Government's oversight, accountability and/or protection mechanisms.

UN Human Rights' monitoring work, supported by strong legal analyses, contributed to guiding technical assistance in order to increase the knowledge and the capacity of the Palestinian Government to implement its obligations under the international human rights treaties. For instance, the Office supported the Government to develop the Family Protection Bill. To this end, it provided a legal analysis of the draft Bill's implications for the domestic legal framework. This fed into discussions during the Government-led national consultations with key civil society stakeholders, held in February, to discuss a revised version of the document. On 11 May, the Bill passed the first reading by the Cabinet. The Bill has not been adopted.

Another example was OHCHR's ongoing advocacy to place the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) Law on the Government's agenda and its recommendations to bring it in line with international standards and recommendations issued by SPT. OHCHR also provided technical assistance in this regard. The Office organized several meetings and events with the Ministry of Interior and National Security, which led to a final draft Law on the NPM that was submitted for adoption in December.

The Office pursued its engagement with the Security and Justice Sector Working Groups. In coordination with its international partners, OHCHR advised on priority interventions for improving the integration of human rights into the security sector. As a result, the Ministry of Interior's 2021 workplan outlined steps to establish the NPM, provide continuous training of law enforcement officers and staff from internal complaints/accountability units on applicable human rights standards, ensure timely reporting to the human rights treaty bodies and increase dialogue with civil society actors.

In the context of COVID-19, OHCHR published guidance notes on access to justice and on the deprivation of liberty, which include information on applicable minimum human rights standards. The guidance notes were widely disseminated among local institutions within the security and justice sectors. In addition,

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

OHCHR produced COVID-19 guidance notes to provide advice on the rights of women and children and persons with disabilities. The Office also undertook several awareness-raising actions regarding the right to privacy and to combat stigmatization during the pandemic.

A1 - Palestinian duty-bearers have agreed to and sustained a de facto moratorium on the death penalty in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt) and have made progress towards establishing a formal moratorium.



OHCHR continued to engage with and facilitate dialogue between diverse stakeholders with a view to establishing a formal moratorium on the death penalty.

A de facto moratorium on the death penalty was upheld in the West Bank and no new death sentences were handed down by courts in the West Bank in 2020. In Gaza, UN Human Rights continued monitoring and documenting cases where death sentences were handed down by courts and advocated for a formal moratorium with Gaza authorities. In a positive development, no executions were carried out in 2020. OHCHR continued to liaise with human rights organizations and UNRWA on the death penalty, including by sharing information and implementing joint outreach activities. To commemorate World Day against the Death Penalty, the Office produced three videos based on dramatized scenarios depicting the perspectives of different people who were sentenced to death. The videos were used to raise awareness about the ineffectiveness of the death penalty as a deterrent sanction in today's society. Additionally, the Office collaborated with the Independent Commission

for Human Rights (ICHR) to prepare a television episode focusing on the abolition of the death penalty.

A1 - Member States, international and regional actors incorporate OHCHR's information, analysis and recommendations into their positions demanding accountability for Israeli violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in the oPt.



OHCHR contributed timely and high-quality information to international forums with regard to international human rights and humanitarian laws violations committed by Israel.

UN Human Rights carried out regular monitoring work and documented over 120 emblematic cases of violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, many of which were included in reports to the General Assembly and Human Rights Council. The Office continued to increase its monitoring of the human rights of women, girls and members of the LGBTI community. OHCHR produced five mandated reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly to inform Member States about the human rights situation in Palestine and outlined recommendations for the international community. The Office also provided inputs to other mandated UN reports, including reports to the Security Council, through the Children and Armed Conflict mechanism, to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee and Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and continued to engage with the UNCT and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) to ensure the wide dissemination of its findings. The Office regularly briefed the diplomatic community in Jerusalem, Ramallah and Tel Aviv on the human rights situation in the oPt, based on its first-hand monitoring work.

A1 - Israeli and Palestinian detention policies and practices more closely conform with international human rights standards. The number of cases of arbitrary detention, ill-treatment and torture has declined.



OHCHR continued to monitor cases of arbitrary detention, ill-treatment and torture and advocated for increased conformity with international human rights standards of practices within Israeli and Palestinian detention facilities.

UN Human Rights monitored detention conditions in both the West Bank and Gaza with very good access to detention facilities. UN Human Rights visited a total of 27 facilities (16 were controlled by the Palestinian Authority and 11 were controlled by the de facto authorities in Gaza). Access to Palestinian detention facilities was further improved following an agreement with the Palestinian Authority on access to its Military Intelligence Detention facilities in the West Bank and due to improved cooperation with the Security Forces Justice Commission, which is responsible for the detention, investigation and prosecution of members of the Palestinian Security Forces. OHCHR's advocacy efforts related to the human rights situation, in particular regarding arbitrary detention, and its concerns about fair trial guarantees and treatment in detention led to increased awareness among the diplomatic community and international organizations and to aligned messaging with Palestinian Security Forces, such as the European Union Coordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support (EUPOL COPPS). Relevant cases that were referred to the special procedures and information on human rights concerns that were identified through monitoring, together with emblematic cases, were included in reports to the General Assembly and Human Rights Council.

Although the Office lacks access to Israeli detention facilities where Palestinians are being held, OHCHR conducted remote monitoring and the documentation of individual cases of Palestinians who are being detained by Israeli authorities. It publicized some of these cases in a Secretary-General report to the General Assembly. Coordination of advocacy efforts with key UN agencies continued and was particularly important in relation to the arrest and detention of children and outlining the impacts of COVID-19 on detainees. To commemorate the International Day of Victims of Torture, the Office conducted an awareness-raising campaign targeting the public, civil society and institutions. A set of information cards were circulated through social media, brochures for victims of torture were widely distributed through partner organizations and service providers and a comic bookstyle brochure was prepared and published by CAT.

Finally, the Office provided training to the Public Prosecution's Human Rights Unit on the State of Palestine's international human rights obligations, with specific focus on the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment. This training was the first in a series aimed at supporting the public prosecution in fulfilling its role to protect human rights.



Participation (P)

P1 – Laws, policies and practices that protect civic space and the right to participate, including online, are strengthened and respected by both Israeli and Palestinian authorities.



OHCHR continued to monitor and document the situation of HRDs and journalists and to raise the awareness of both Israeli and Palestinian authorities on their obligations related to the protection of civic space.

Civic space in the oPt continued to shrink as all duty-bearers detained HRDs and journalists, particularly those exercising freedom of expression online. In 2020, UN Human Rights monitored and documented at least 24 cases of civic space-related violations against HRDs and journalists. The High Commissioner's report to the HRC (A/HRC/43/70) highlights concerns about the use by Israel of ill-treatment and coerced confessions and the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly (A/75/336) raises further concerns about the possible systematic use of torture and ill-treatment by Israeli authorities in relation to HRDs and persons with specific political affiliations. In addition, concerns were raised with the Palestinian authorities and the de facto authorities in Gaza regarding the ongoing detention of HRDs and journalists. Moreover, Israeli Security Forces continued to crackdown on civic space in East Jerusalem, with increased raids and closures of cultural and human rights organizations. In the context of anti-CEDAW campaigns that took place in 2020, in the West Bank, WHRDs were the targets of increased threats and harassment online.

OHCHR initiated a mapping of human rights organizations in the oPt, including a risk assessment based on previous incidents and the vulnerabilities and capacities of organizations. Throughout the year, the Office contributed to raising the awareness of local and international organizations on available protection mechanisms and met with them to discuss threats faced by HRDs and opportunities for joint advocacy. In particular, OHCHR organized two events on the occasion of Human Rights Day with a focus on HRDs and freedom of expression. At the first event, 12 diplomats and members of the donor community participated in a round-table to discuss civic space challenges. The second event, entitled "Speak without fear: Freedom of expression and press in the West Bank," was organized in cooperation with the Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and included 28 participants. The Office released an online Human Rights Quiz to mark the occasion, reaching over 2,000 players in the first week.

Non-discrimination (ND)

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



OHCHR contributed to increasing the knowledge of Palestinian women about their rights, including by engaging with relevant actors and creating networks with civil society partners.

In January, the High Commissioner awarded UN Human Rights Country Office in the oPt with the UN Human Rights Gender Accreditation, concluding a year-long programme that significantly strengthened the capacity of the Office to carry out gender-sensitive monitoring and follow-up activities on the human rights concerns of women and girls. In August, with support from headquarters, specialized training was delivered to increase the capacity of the Office to monitor and document gender-related killings. A mapping exercise was undertaken to identify key actors and women's rights issues. This enabled the Country Office to strengthen its monitoring in the following areas: GBV and gender-related killings; the arbitrary detention of women and the detention of pregnant women and women with children in Palestinian detention facilities; the situation of women in Israeli detention facilities; and attacks against WHRDs by all duty-bearers. The initiatives strengthened regular exchanges with women's organizations, which ensured that the Office was better informed about developments concerning women's rights and therefore better prepared to raise issues of concern with authorities. All of this contributed to a report of the High Commissioner to the Human Rights Council, which examines the situation of human rights of women and girls in the oPt in a comprehensive manner.

OHCHR conducted a series of training sessions for WHRDs, in Gaza, including on how to submit individual communications to CEDAW. A core group of activists was subsequently established. Members of the General Union of Palestinian Women, along with other WHRDs from the West Bank, were equipped with knowledge about the international human rights mechanisms and how they can be used to effectively promote the rights of Palestinian women.

The Office marked the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence with the biggest campaign it had launched to date. The campaign was implemented, in partnership with the Palestinian Ministry of Women's Affairs and the UNCT, to raise public awareness about gender equality and the obligation to end gender-based violence. It also highlighted relevant domestic mechanisms and services. The messages were disseminated through social media platforms, LED displays and TV and radio broadcasts throughout the oPt.



Development

D7 – A growing number of the Government's actions to promote its National Programme of Action (NPA) respect international human rights obligations. These actions and others that are designed to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are supported by a United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which is human rights-based.



OHCHR helped to improve the level of compliance with international human rights standards of the policies, programmes and practices of the UNCT and State institutions, including through awareness-raising, technical assistance and training.

UN Human Rights engaged in technical discussions with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior and others on the mainstreaming of human rights standards and integrating SDG16 Targets and Indicators into national strategies, including the National Policy Agenda and its sector strategies and budget programming. The Office contributed to a government-led programme that aims to develop the capacities of officials in relation to SDG16. To this end, OHCHR integrated a human rights perspective into the training modules prepared by the Ministry of Justice as part of a comprehensive training toolkit for government officials. A first training session took place in November.

The Office participated in UNCT thematic working groups to integrate human rights into the work of UN partners and the policies and strategies of Palestinian authorities. Through the UNCT Data Group, OHCHR delivered inputs to the

mapping of data gaps, indicators and data sources to ensure the inclusion of those who may be more vulnerable, such as women, children and persons with disabilities. Following the outbreak of COVID-19, the Office worked closely with the Government, UN partners and CSOs to ensure the application of an HRBA to COVID-19 responses. Targeted guidance notes were prepared on various issues, including detention, justice, women, children and persons with disabilities.

D8 - The State of Palestine's official institutions, the ICHR and civil society increasingly use human rights indicators to guide their activities and decision-making.



OHCHR contributed to the institutionalization of human rights indicators in selected areas.

UN Human Rights continued working with the Government, the ICHR and CSOs on the use of human rights indicators to measure the implementation of the State of Palestine's obligations under the international human rights treaties. The Office collaborated with WHO and consulted with relevant Government and civil society stakeholders, in the West Bank and Gaza, to develop a set of human rights indicators related to the right to health, while also ensuring the inclusion of those who may be more vulnerable. The right to health indicator framework is expected to be finalized in 2021.



M2 - Palestinian CSOs, the ICHR and non-traditional human rights organizations increasingly use the international human rights mechanisms to assist Palestinians in claiming their rights and to hold both Israel and the State of Palestine accountable in accordance with their human rights obligations.



OHCHR contributed to the enhanced engagement of the NHRI and CSOs with international human rights mechanisms by developing their capacities.

UN Human Rights held strategic discussions with the ICHR to coordinate efforts in promoting the human rights agenda in both Gaza and the West Bank on the basis of the State of Palestine's human rights treaty obligations. In particular, OHCHR provided support to enhance the ICHR's role in providing guidance to and building the capacities of national institutions and CSOs.

The Office continued to engage with civil society across Palestine. It organized a series of events to raise their awareness and provide advice about successfully interacting with the human rights treaty bodies, with an emphasis on CEDAW, CERD and CRPD and alternative reporting. A general technical training was also provided to national institutions, including the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Specific training on CAT and ICCPR was delivered to actors from the Security and Justice Sectors, including prosecutors, military judges and law enforcement officials working in internal complaints units. Furthermore, the Office coached disability counsellors and disability outreach staff in selected CSOs (11 men, seven women) on the application of an HRBA to issues related to disability and making connections between provisions of CEDAW and CRPD. In the context of COVID-19, OHCHR provided training on remote human rights monitoring and safety precautions for civil society partners.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Population size ¹ 17.50 million	Surface area¹ 185,000 km ²	Human Development Index ² NHRI (if applicable) ³ 0.567 (rank: 151/189 in 2019)		
Type of engagen	nent	Country Office		
Year established		2018		
Field office(s)		Based in Beirut, Lebanon with presence in Gaziantep, Turkey and Amman, Jordan		
UN partnership f	framework	-		
Staff as of 31 De	cember 2020	14		
XB income		US\$2,125,131		
XB requirements 2020		US\$4,232,000		
XB expenditure		US\$2,390,929		
Personnel		Non-personnel PSC ⁴		
76%		14% 10%		
\$1,823,242		\$336,453 \$231,23		

Key OMP pillars in 2020







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

PILLAR RESULTS:



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



OHCHR contributed to efforts by the international community to raise human rights issues with the Government, including by providing data and information on specific human rights concerns and disseminating protection messages to key stakeholders.

Throughout the year, UN Human Rights provided extensive information and

analysis on human rights issues to humanitarian, political and policy partners working on the Syrian context, including in relation to the human rights impacts of COVID-19. These activities situated the Office as a key protection player. OHCHR contributed regular analyses and reports on the human rights situation in Syria, which were included in the Secretary-General's bimonthly reports to the Security Council on Syria. The Office also widely disseminated its analyses and advocacy messages to over 500 humanitarians, policymakers, donors, CSOs and journalists, including through statements, press briefing notes, thematic digests and flash reports.

In addition, OHCHR provided advisory support to humanitarian actors to ensure strong and legally accurate messaging on violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. This included protection messages on the al-Hol camp, the situation of alleged former ISIL fighters and their families, medical units and the overall protection of human rights in the context of COVID-19 responses. The Office shared guidance documents that were produced in the context of the pandemic and promoted the inclusion of human rights in public and private advocacy efforts by senior humanitarian actors. Particular emphasis was placed on ESCRs, such as the rights to health, water and sanitation, work, social security, food, adequate housing and education. Furthermore, OHCHR briefed humanitarian leadership, including the Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Regional and Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinators and the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) on messaging related to the human rights-based approach. The Office also facilitated the engagement of humanitarian actors with relevant international human rights mechanisms, including the special procedures mandate holders.

The Office continued to engage with the UNCT/HCT and contributed inputs to the quarterly MRM Global Horizontal Note and the annual report of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence. In addition, it supported the inclusion of human rights in the development of the Common Country Analysis (CCA) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). OHCHR regularly briefed the Whole of Syria (WoS) Strategic Steering Group (SSG) and participated in biweekly UNCT and HCT meetings and

those of associated working groups. The Office contributed to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Principals and Technical Working Groups on issues such as child protection, return and reintegration and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

OHCHR contributed to an increased willingness of humanitarian actors to engage on human rights issues. The value added of OHCHR's involvement in the humanitarian response on Syria was reflected in the lessons learned assessment, which was conducted in 2020. The assessment was based on inputs received from 34 key informants, including senior humanitarian actors, from all three hubs and from headquarters, in Geneva.



Participation (P)

P4 - Civic space in the Syrian Arab Republic has expanded, allowing civil society actors and victims' rights groups to defend human rights in a safe and enabling environment.





OHCHR facilitated the engagement of CSOs working inside and outside of Syria with the international human rights mechanisms.

UN Human Rights enhanced its outreach efforts to civil society partners who are operating in the governmental regions in Syria to implement a variety of projects, including in relation to femicide (so-called 'honour killings'), the stigmatization of youth at school on the basis of their geographical origin (primarily IDPs) and the adoption of a code of conduct by a coalition of CSOs and media workers to tackle the root causes of online hate speech. In 2020, the Office initiated a partnership with five community-based CSOs and provided them with small grant support and technical advice in relation to the abovementioned projects. In November, OHCHR conducted a three-day online training on the application of an HRBA to advocacy work for 18 CSO representatives (12 women, six men) who were based within or outside of Syria.

In addition, the Office facilitated the monthly meetings of the Human Rights Reference Group, in Gaziantep. Discussions focused on new working modalities, including the transition to online programming, and responses to emerging patterns of violence, such as the increased incidence of GBV and drug use. Moreover, participants shared information on the deteriorating human rights situation in Syria caused by the worsening violence and conflict, the country's economic collapse and COVID-19, which the shattered health system could not effectively address.

From 8 to 10 June, OHCHR-Syria held an online workshop entitled "Fostering the engagement of civil society organizations with human rights mechanisms to advocate on human rights violations related to enforced disappearances." The event brought together a group of 21 representatives, including 10 women, from human rights groups and Syrian family victims' associations. The first day of the workshop was dedicated to the international human rights system and the working methods of the WGEID. On the second day, OHCHR facilitated a series of dialogues on the rights to truth, reparations and an effective remedy, in accordance with a victim-centred and human rights-based approach. Finally, during a two-hour session, participants engaged in a dialogue with a WGEID member and the OHCHR Secretariat on

enhancing future engagement, particularly with regard to allegations in individual cases. The workshop identified practical ways of empowering victims of enforced disappearance to claim their human rights and promote the rule of law in relation to missing persons.

On 22 June, OHCHR and the Delegation of the European Union to Syria co-organized a webinar on "The role of women, youth and civil society in building Syria's future," as part of the Brussels IV Conference. The Deputy High Commissioner opened the meeting and a panel of five Syrian civil society representatives (four women, one man), who are based in Syria and in the European Union, made presentations on the empowerment of women and of youth, child protection and social cohesion. More than 8,800 participants followed the online discussions.

The Office provided a briefing to 33 Syrian civil society participants on how to submit inputs to the Human Rights Committee prior to its drafting of the list of issues in the context of Syria's review under ICCPR. This resulted in the submission of seven alternative reports from Syrian organizations.



Accountability (A)

A3 – Accountability initiatives address SGBV. Syrian civil society has increased its capacity to monitor SGBV and associated violations.







OHCHR contributed to strengthening protection mechanisms and accountability for SGBV, including through advocacy work.

UN Human Rights undertook several activities during 2020 to highlight the importance of accountability for SGBV, including in the context of COVID-19. In April, the Office supported the outreach efforts of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences by translating her questionnaire on SGBV into Arabic and ensuring its wide dissemination to partners working on Syria, in cooperation with UN Women, In addition, OHCHR held a webinar on the impacts of the pandemic on the human rights of women in Syria, as a contribution to the global campaign to address violence against women and in the lead-up to Human Rights Day. A total of 40 persons (26 women, 14 men) participated in the webinar, including representatives of women's rights groups operating in different areas in Syria, notably Damascus, Sweida, Idlib and Hasakeh, as well as representatives from the OHCHR Women's Rights and Gender Section (WRGS) and UN entities engaged in the Syria humanitarian response.

OHCHR also supported advocacy efforts on SGBV by senior humanitarian actors inside and outside of Syria, notably on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Finally, a joint statement was issued, on 9 December, by the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator and the UNFPA Regional Director to mark the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

TUNISIA

Population size ¹ 11.82 million	Surface area¹ 164,000 km ²	Human Development Index ² 0.740 (rank: 95/189 in 2019)	NHRI (if applicable) ³ "B" Status (2009)
Type of engager	ment	Country Office	
Year established	1	2011	
Field office(s)		Tunis	
UN partnership	framework	United Nations Development Framework 2015-2020	nt Assistance
Staff as of 31 De	cember 2020	13	
XB income		US\$2,022,029	
XB income XB requirements	s 2020	US\$2,022,029 US\$3,052,000	

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

PILLAR RESULTS:

Key OMP pillars in 2020



Participation (P)

P1 – Laws, policies and practices more fully protect the right to participate and civic space, including online. Civil society operates in an increasingly safe and enabling environment.



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

The end of 2020 was marked by a heated public debate on freedom of expression in

relation to the regulation of the media and the audiovisual communication sector. A draft bill, which was introduced to the Parliament by the Al-Karama party, was deemed an attempt to establish financial, and therefore political, control over the media, thereby endangering the diversity and transparency of the sector. On 7 October, OHCH-Tunisia delivered a speech during an online event that was co-organized with the Independent High Authority of Audiovisual Communication (HAICA) on "The future of the legal framework for the audiovisual communication." The event was part of an intense advocacy campaign to highlight threats to the independence of the sector's regulatory body and the transparency of the media. The participants strongly recommended the adoption of a comprehensive draft law, which is in compliance with international human rights standards and was submitted by the Government to the Parliament. Following concerted advocacy efforts by CSOs and HAICA, with OHCHR's support, parliamentary discussions on the draft law were adjourned. The Government indicated that it would engage in further consultations before presenting its own draft to the Parliament.

Throughout the year, the Office monitored and investigated cases related to restrictions on the right to freedom of expression and raised the awareness of relevant stakeholders, particularly the police and the judiciary, about persisting concerns regarding regulations, practices and the protection of civic space. OHCHR documented a wide variety of violations of the right to freedom of expression of journalists and bloggers, which were manifested through arrests and incriminations, verbal and physical attacks and restricted access to information. Tunisian citizens were also imprisoned, prosecuted and questioned for their social media posts.

As part of the celebration of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, the Office co-organized a press conference with the National Union of Tunisian Journalists (SNJT), Article 19 and UNESCO. Participants, including public authorities and representatives from the main parliamentary blocs, discussed the findings of the fourth annual report on the safety of journalists in Tunisia. Of particular note is the decrease in the number of attacks reported in comparison with the previous period (from 208 to 155) and the introduction of an indicator on public indictments (authorities failed to respond to 85 per cent of the reported attacks).

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

1 2 3 4 5 10 16

OHCHR contributed to increased levels of engagement by the religious community in support of human rights.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UN Human Rights and the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA), the Office supported the integration of an HRBA into the work of the Ministry. The MoU focuses on the rights of citizens to social protection and due process and the responsibilities of imams and preaching staff, as community leaders, to prevent violent extremism. In 2019, OHCHR provided technical assistance to support the preparation of a new legal framework that: regulates the professional environment of imams and professional worship staff, resulting in the adoption of a decree at the end of the year; enhances access to health care and maternity leave; and outlines their human rights obligations. As a follow-up, the Office helped to organize a workshop, in February, to present the decree and its implications to the regional directors of MoRA and other ministerial actors. As a result, 1,188 women working as religious teachers of children now have access to maternity leave. Two more decrees, issued in August, reinforce the rights of clerical staff, in particular their right to health and social coverage (Decrees No. 762 and No. 763).

In addition, OHCHR supported the creation of a Monitoring Unit within MoRA, to receive, analyse and report on complaints about alleged human rights violations committed by or against imams and professional worship staff. The Office organized two three-day training sessions for the 17 staff members of the new Unit, including three women and a representative of the Trade Union of Imams and Worship Staff, While the Unit originally focused on Muslim clerics, OHCHR's advocacy resulted in the extension of its mandate to cover Christian and Jewish clerics. The Office supported the exchange of experiences between the new Unit and similar mechanisms that monitor hate speech, violence and attacks against journalists, including the SNJT and HAICA. Moreover, a hotline was created to enable clerics who are victims of violations to contact the Unit. The new hotline was modelled on the hotline established by the Ministry for Women's Affairs to assist women victims of violence. On 24 November, MoRA issued a public statement on the operationalization of the new hotline, acknowledging the valuable contribution of OHCHR. The MoRA Monitoring Unit issued a first trimestral report, which provided quantitative and qualitative disaggregated data by gender. The report was presented on the occasion of Human Rights Day, during a conference entitled "Defending my rights is defending the rights of others."

Peace and Security

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



OHCHR continued advocating for the pursuit of the transitional justice process in Tunisia.

Following the Government's decision to publish the final report of the Instance vérité et dignité (IVD) in the Official Gazette, the Minister for Human Rights requested support from UN Human Rights to organize an information campaign in July. The campaign included key messages on the value of transitional justice, which were shared on various social networks with a hashtag to mobilize Internet users. The campaign included a radio spot and two video spots that were broadcast on television and disseminated on social media and an urban poster campaign that was implemented throughout the country with assistance from UNDP. The Minister for Human Rights organized a press conference to highlight the steps that needed to be taken to advance transitional justice. OHCHR facilitated online discussions with CSOs on their role to support the Government in designing an action plan to implement the recommendations contained in the report.

Moreover, the Office undertook advocacy with national and multilateral partners regarding the importance of transitional justice to Tunisia's ongoing democratic transition. It engaged with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence and cooperated with civil society and institutional partners

to disseminate the Special Rapporteur's latest report on memorialization processes.

OHCHR also monitored the trials before the Specialized Criminal Chambers and supported the attendance of representatives of victims' associations. Extensive work was undertaken to produce a manual for the magistrates of the Specialized Criminal Chambers. The manual includes content on transitional justice principles, the legal frameworks that are applicable to specific cases and comparative jurisprudence from international tribunals.

In partnership with the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) and UNDP, the Office organized a workshop on the preservation of memory and the management of archives. The event involved the online participation of foreign experts who presented examples of memorial initiatives in the transitional justice contexts of various countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.



Non-discrimination (ND)

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



OHCHR continued to support the prevention of discrimination and the promotion of the rights of women, LGBTI persons and persons with disabilities.

Despite the adoption of legislation, two years ago, on the creation of a national commission to fight racial discrimination, the commission has not been established. UN Human Rights and civil society partners continued to train lawyers on CERD and national legislation to provide free legal assistance to victims of racial discrimination. This resulted in the training of more than 120 lawyers in various governorates. In October, one of the trained lawyers obtained an historical judgment that allowed his client to remove a reference to slavery from his family name. In addition, the Office delivered a workshop to organizations of persons with disabilities to enhance their capacities to submit an alternative report to CRPD. It also convened two retreats with CSO representatives and members of the parliamentary committees that are involved in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. The objective of the retreats was to develop the knowledge of participants on relevant legal standards and increase their joint capacities to facilitate the harmonization of relevant legislation with CRPD.



D7 - National stakeholders adopt an HRBA when monitoring and evaluating the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. Elected representatives and public servants at the local and regional levels are aware of their obligations with respect to economic, social and cultural rights.

OHCHR substantially contributed to ensuring the integration of international human rights standards into the policies, programmes and practices of State institutions.

UN Human Rights trained relevant stakeholders on ESCRs. A total of 98 administrative judges (54 from Tunis, 44 from the regional chambers) participated in an initial training session and 22 lawyers from the Tunisian Bar Association and representatives from CSOs participated in a training of trainers. Eight participants were hired to train their peers in subsequent workshops.

In the context of COVID-19, the Office reorganized its work to conduct a study on vulnerable populations and groups that are traditionally left behind and to assess the impacts of the Government's response measures to manage the crisis. OHCHR interviewed 11 UN agencies and conducted 12 focus group discussions with representatives of vulnerable groups. The Office carried out a human rights-based analysis of macroeconomic indicators. Meetings with key ministries were requested to enable the verification and validation of the information collected. The findings will be used for advocacy and will include recommendations for both the Government and the UN system in Tunisia.

The Office actively mainstreamed human rights throughout the drafting process of the 2021-2025 UNSDCF. It also provided numerous technical comments in relation to the CCA and delivered a training to approximately 25 staff members from 17 UN agencies in Tunisia. OHCHR coordinated inputs from concerned agencies and presented them at working-level meetings with governmental counterparts. The evaluation of the UNSDCF, which was undertaken by the UN Development Operations Coordination Office (DOCO) noted that the "outcomes reflect changes in the performance of rights-holders to exercise their rights, including the most marginalized, and duty-bearers to respect, protect and fulfil those rights."

In June, the Office participated in the design of a questionnaire. It was disseminated through networks of CSOs to gather the views of youth and teenagers, including those from vulnerable groups, on Tunisia's future UNSDCF. OHCHR collaborated with partners from the UNCT working group on youth and teenagers to organize a consultation forum with youth.



A1 - Law enforcement institutions and the prison administration more fully respect international human rights standards.





OHCHR supported the increased compliance of the NPM with international human rights standards on the prevention of torture and ill-treatment in places of deprivation of liberty.

In addition to increased monitoring of the situation of vulnerable populations in detention during the period of confinement due to COVID-19, UN Human Rights and UNDP co-organized two webinars, which enabled the NPM to present its recommendations after monitoring and visiting places of deprivation of liberty, including sites of obligatory confinement that were used to prevent the spread of the virus. In September, the Office and the NPM co-organized a twoday workshop to raise awareness about the situation of vulnerable persons in detention in the context of COVID-19. Participants included representatives of the prison administration and civil society. During the workshop, the situation of LGBTI persons in detention was publicly mentioned, for the first time, in the presence of public officials.

A3 – Judges assigned to cases that involve gender-based violence are trained on the application of national legislation in compliance with international human rights standards.



OHCHR continued to develop the capacity of the judiciary to use national and international accountability mechanisms to address gender-based violence.

UN Human Rights continued to enhance the capacity of judges to address cases of violence against women in accordance with international human rights standards, including by respecting the rights of victims and challenging gender stereotypes. The Office carried out a series of activities to advance the effective implementation by the judiciary of General Law No. 2017-58 on violence against women. Furthermore, OHCHR finalized and distributed a trainer's manual and organized an in-depth session of training of trainers for 14 judges who were selected by the Ministry of Justice.



M1 - The NMRF, the NHRI, CSOs and the UNCT engage with international human rights mechanisms.

16 17

OHCHR continued to provide support and technical assistance to NHRIs, civil society and UN partners and promote their engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

UN Human Rights and the Danish Institute for Human Rights provided technical cooperation to support the creation of a commission for the harmonization of national human rights legislation with international human rights standards. The Commission was established in 2019, in coordination with the Ministry of Human Rights. Two online workshops were organized to develop the capacities of commissioners and coordinate their activities with the NMRF. During the workshops, the Office presented the upgraded Universal Human Rights Index (UHRI) as a key reference for recommendations on legislative reform. The workshop enabled the commissioners to define their work methodology, particularly in relation to interactions with relevant stakeholders on the harmonization of legislative text, and paved the way for the preparation of their first action plan.

In addition, OHCHR assisted the NMRF to organize two consultations with CSOs for the preparation of its State Party report to CEDAW, which was submitted on time. It also supported the NMRF in discussions regarding its report, in March, on the implementation of its obligations under ICCPR. Furthermore, the Office provided assistance for the creation of the NMRF website, which will facilitate interactions with CSOs. The website will host the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD) and a special issue of the Official Gazette on the international human rights treaties ratified by Tunisia, which was printed with support from OHCHR for the benefit of judges and lawyers.

YEMEN

Population size ¹ 29.83 million	Surface area¹ 528,000 km²	Human Development Index ² NHRI (if applicable) 0.470 (rank: 179/189 in 2019) -
Type of engagen	nent	Country Office
Year established		2012
Field office(s)		Sana'a, Aden
UN partnership (framework	United Nations Strategic Framework for Yemen 2017-2020
		2017 2020
Staff as of 31 De	cember 2020	15
	cember 2020	
Staff as of 31 De		15
Staff as of 31 De		U\$\$1,107,145
Staff as of 31 De XB income XB requirements		US\$1,107,145 US\$7,697,000
Staff as of 31 De XB income XB requirements XB expenditure		U\$\$1,107,145 U\$\$7,697,000 U\$\$3,364,774

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

PILLAR RESULTS:

Key OMP pillars in 2020



Peace and Security

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







OHCHR continued to strengthen the capacities of relevant authorities of the Government of Yemen, based in the temporary capital in Aden, and the de facto authorities in Sana'a and other stakeholders by monitoring, documenting and reporting on human rights violations, including those affecting vulnerable groups, with a focus on detention facilities and ESCRs.

Throughout the year, UN Human Rights conducted a total of 314 field visits in governorates in the north and south of Yemen to verify alleged cases of human rights violations and abuses. Due to movement restrictions in the context of COVID-19, the field monitors and human rights officers used remote modalities to monitor a total of 782 cases. From 1 January to 31 December, the Office verified 977 civilian casualties (333 persons killed, 644 injured),

five cases of enforced disappearance, 198 cases of arbitrary detention, 18 cases of extrajudicial killings, 52 attacks against civilian objects, 43 violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and 162 cases of gender-based violence, including CRSV, child marriage, SGBV and domestic violence.

OHCHR continued to monitor guarantees of a fair trial and detention conditions in prisons, with an emphasis on the impacts of COVID-19 on detainees. Due to the limitation of movement in the context of the pandemic, in-person monitoring was only possible for one trial and three prison visits. It is worth noting that the de facto authority declared that there were only four cases of COVID-19 infections, while no cases were declared in prisons. This policy of denial created challenges for the remote monitoring of COVID-19 in prisons.

The Office conducted thematic research on ESCRs, with a focus on the rights to health, education and food, which was used to prepare draft thematic reports of various length that are being finalized. OHCHR identified patterns of violations of women's rights and collected and verified information on GBV, early marriage and CRSV, which informed the Secretary-General's annual report on CRSV and were used in preparing the 2021 workplan. Information was also collected on the situation of displaced women, the impact of the armed conflict on women's health and the right to education of women and girls. In addition, the Office collected data on the situation of persons with disabilities and prepared a report on the impact of the armed conflict on this group, which will be released in 2021.

During the reporting period, OHCHR prepared 12 monthly updates and 24 biweekly reports on the human rights

situation in Yemen. The findings of human rights monitoring activities were shared with key protection actors, including the RC/HC, the UNCT and through the MRM on grave violations of child rights. The Office engaged with humanitarian partners and CSOs in the Protection Cluster to ensure the mainstreaming of protection concerns into humanitarian action, with a focus on those who are most vulnerable. OHCHR's reports contributed to the development of 14 advocacy initiatives, including statements and press briefings that were issued by the High Commissioner and the special procedures on urgent human rights issues.

Furthermore, the Office organized a meeting, in Sana'a, to strengthen the knowledge and capacities of OHCHR field monitors, particularly with regard to GBV, SGBV, CRSV and women's economic, social and cultural rights.

In collaboration with CSOs and the Ministries of Human Rights in areas under the control of the competing authorities, the Office organized a series of workshops to raise awareness on the rights of women and persons with disabilities. Two workshops were organized on the occasion of International Women's Day. The first was held from 7 to 8 March, in Sana'a, to review the report of the Ministry of Human Rights on the situation of women and the second was held from 10 to 11 March, in Aden, to raise awareness about the availability of protection mechanisms for women. To mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, on 3 December, the Office organized four training workshops throughout Yemen for participants from CSOs, including the Union of Persons with Disabilities. OHCHR also developed a short film on the right to education of persons with disabilities. In December,

to commemorate Human Rights Day, the Office coordinated with the Ministries of Human Rights of the Government of Yemen and of the de facto authorities to deliver two seminars on international human rights law and international protection mechanisms. An animation film, a song and a calendar with human rights messages were also produced.

Accountability (A)

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



OHCHR contributed to strengthening the capacities of national institutions to address, prevent and reduce human rights violations by providing training, technical advice and support.

Throughout the year, UN Human Rights held meetings and reinforced its collaboration with the Yemeni National Commission to Investigate Alleged Violations of Human Rights (NCIAVHR) and the Ministries of Human Rights. From March to November, the Office held three capacity-building sessions for commissioners and staff members of the NCIAVHR to enhance their knowledge about international human rights standards and strengthen their operational capacities. In March, a four-day training workshop was held on "Arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance: International standards for human rights monitoring and documentation." Participants included 14 investigators (two women, 12 men) from the NCIAVHR,

based in Aden and neighboring governorates. In October, the Office conducted another workshop, in Aden, for 37 field monitors of NCIAVHR (eight women, 29 men) on national and international legal frameworks, international standards for the monitoring and documentation of violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law and to discuss the challenges they face in their everyday work. In November, OHCHR and UNITAR collaborated with NCIAVHR to deliver a workshop, in Aden, for the 37 field monitors on the use of geospatial information technology for investigating human rights violations. These activities were described in the High Commissioner's report on technical assistance to NCIAVHR, which was presented to the HRC at its forty-fifth session in September. The HRC mandate to continue this technical support was renewed at the same session.

Furthermore, OHCHR developed the capacities of the Ministry of Human Rights of the Internationally Recognized Government of Yemen (IRG) by conducting a four-day workshop, in Amman, in March, on "Human rights monitoring and documentation of human rights status in prisons and detention facilities." A total of 16 staff members (four women, 12 men), including two from Aden and 14 from other governorates, took part in the workshop. In November and December, the Office conducted two other human rights training sessions, in Aden. Participants included 27 representatives (11 women, 16 men) from the Ministry of Human Rights and CSOs from other governorates and 25 representatives (19 women, six men) from the Ministries of Interior, of Defense and of Justice, the Office of the Attorney General and the Women National Committee. Finally, OHCHR enhanced the capacities of 27 representatives (eight women, 19 men) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Human Rights of the de facto authorities on "Human rights monitoring and documentation in prisons and detention facilities," in February and March, in Sana'a.



Participation (P)

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







OHCHR contributed to an increased capacity of civil society actors to refer specific cases to humanitarian and protection service providers and to engage with the international human rights mechanisms.

During the reporting period, UN Human Rights held awareness-raising sessions for local CSOs, across eight governorates, on monitoring human rights violations and international and national protection mechanisms, with a focus on GBV, SGBV and CRSV. In total, 184 participants (109 women, 75 men) increased their knowledge about available protection mechanisms for civilians and victims of human rights violations. Emphasis was placed on women's rights and their capacities to support victims and those in need of protection, including through their referral to relevant humanitarian and protection service providers across Yemen. These actions resulted in an enhanced engagement of CSOs with OHCHR and the special procedures in relation to cases of alleged human rights violations.

Finally, the Office and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation organized a threeday training workshop for civil society representatives on the "Promotion and protection of women's rights and NGO

reporting to CEDAW." The participants subsequently monitored violations of women's rights and published their findings in a report that was submitted to CEDAW, in October, entitled Report of the Civil Alliance for Rights and Feminism (CARF) in Yemen on the Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Improved conditions for women inmates in a detention centre in Yemen

In recent years, several studies by organizations conducting detention monitoring, including the League of Mothers of Abductees, found that detainees in Yemen often face poor conditions. Detention centres tend to be overcrowded and unsanitary and inmates have limited access to health care.

This was the case for women detainees in the Al-Hudaydah central prison. The women had to sleep on the ground on old, worn out mattresses. They did not have enough clothes or personal hygiene products and they had no access to health services. They also lacked essential services, such as adequate lighting and food

supplies, even when they were accompanied by their children.

As part of its regular monitoring of the human rights situation in the country, the Office conducted numerous visits to the Al-Hudaydah central prison and raised its concerns about the conditions of detention with relevant authorities. The Office also engaged with UNFPA and a local CSO to coordinate the provision of urgent humanitarian aid and services to the women. As a result, authorities began to provide basic services and support to improve the women's living conditions, including psychosocial counselling, health examinations, open days and support for reunification.

"This is nothing less than a total transformation of the Centre," said Sameera Balah, the UN Human Rights field monitor in the Al-Hudaydah area. "This is ensuring human rights in action."

The women's section of the prison was provided with new furniture, including cupboards, beds and mattresses. The latrines were rehabilitated and proper lighting was installed in the rooms. In addition, sewing machines were provided so that the women could learn new skills while in detention.

One woman detainee noted: "I feel that my dignity is restored and that I am respected as a human being." As witnessed during multiple visits to the women's section by UN Human Rights, the sense of euphoria among the administration and the detainees remained high for an extended period of time.



The Al-Hudaydah central prison, in Yemen, before support was provided to improve the conditions of women inmates. © OHCHR

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

Regional Centre	
Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Ira Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, State of Palestine*, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen	
2009	
Doha, Qatar	
7	
U\$\$262,900	
US\$920,000	
U\$\$920,000 U\$\$217,895	
U\$\$217,895 Non-personnel PSC4	
US\$217,895	
U\$\$217,895 Non-personnel PSC4 12% 12%	
US\$217,895 Non-personnel PSC ⁴ 12% 12% \$26,465 \$25,068	
US\$217,895 Non-personnel PSC4 12% 12%	

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

PILLAR RESULTS:



Accountability (A)

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 enhanced capacity of judges and other stakeholders to increase accountability for serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

UN Human Rights and UNAMI organized a two-day online workshop, in November, to discuss the highest standards of justice in the Iraqi judicial system. The event brought together 16 judges from different courts in Baghdad, Iraq as well

as international human rights and judicial experts from Egypt, Lebanon and Tunisia. Participants exchanged views on an effective legal defence (the role of the judiciary), judicial responses to claims of torture and ill-treatment, evidentiary standards and human rights, judicial oversight of detention and conviction and sentencing (reasoning of judgments and criteria). Future workshops will involve judges and prosecutors with the aim of developing guidelines for the conduct of judicial investigations and trials in accordance with directives of the Iraqi High Judicial Council and international human rights standards.

The Regional Centre published the Set of principles relating to the protection and promotion of human rights through taking action to combat impunity as well as the Basic principles and guidelines on the right to a remedy and reparation for victims of gross violations of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law. It also reviewed and published the Arabic translation of *Who's responsible*: Attributing individual responsibility for violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law in United Nations commissions of inquiry, fact-finding missions and other investigations. These publications will be distributed to regional partners and members and staff of United Nationsmandated investigations and UN Human Rights field presences with a monitoring mandate.

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



Participation (P)

P1 – Enhanced legal, policy and accountability environment to protect civil society groups, HRDs and activists.







OHCHR contributed to increasing the level of awareness of representatives of NHRIs, CSOs and journalists on international human rights standards related to the protection of journalists.

On the occasion of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, in November, UN Human Rights organized a virtual workshop on the "Safety of journalists and ending impunity in conflict situations." The round-table brought together 30 participants (15 women, 15 men), including journalists, representatives of NHRIs, CSOs and activists from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, the State of Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen. It focused on the guarantees provided by international human rights law to protect journalists, the efforts undertaken to increase the safety of journalists in the Arab region, the existing tools to reduce risks and the experiences of the Regional Office in the State of Palestine and Yemen to end impunity for crimes against journalists. Recommendations issued by participants at the end of the meeting focused on the adoption of an international convention or protocol to protect journalists, the establishment of a UN fund to support victims of violations of freedom of opinion and expression and one to support victims of press and media violations.

In the same month, the Office organized a three-day virtual training on "The role of media in promoting and protecting human rights in the light of the COVID-19

pandemic." A total of 15 young journalists (seven women, eight men) from Jordan, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, the State of Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen participated in the workshop. The topics of the training included human rights standards and mechanisms in the context of COVID-19, the application of an HRBA in journalism and the role of media and the influence of social networks in engaging constituencies around human rights, with a particular focus on the impacts of the pandemic on vulnerable groups.

P1 – Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, including online, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling.





OHCHR worked closely with State institutions, NHRIs and CSOs to ensure that an HRBA is integrated into their programmes and activities, including in COVID-19 responses.

In June and July, UN Human Rights and the Qatari National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) held two online workshops on the integration of an HRBA in COVID-19 responses and on the role of NHRIs in human rights monitoring and reporting in Qatar. The 63 workshop participants included representatives from the NHRC and CSOs and various ministries (Foreign Affairs; Interior; Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs; Public Health; Business and Trade; and Commerce and Industry). Participants enhanced their knowledge regarding good practices on the role of NHRIs and the integration of human rights principles into COVID-19 responses.

In July, the Centre organized an online workshop with the International Centre for Human Rights Education (Equitas) and Amnesty International's Human Rights Academy on "Opportunities to use communication technology for human rights education." The workshop gathered together 35 representatives (22 women, 13 men) from the Ministry of Education, NHRIs and CSOs as well as experts, journalists and students from Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oatar, Saudi Arabia, the State of Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen. Participants shared their experiences with using communication technology for human rights education.



Development

D7 – UNCTs integrate human rights and the linkages between SDGs and human rights into their work and programmes.



OHCHR contributed to increasing the capacities of the League of Arab States (LAS) on integrating international human rights standards related to ESCRs into their work.

In June, UN Human Rights and the LAS conducted an online workshop on ESCRs. A total of 13 LAS participants (seven women, six men) enhanced their knowledge on the working methods of CESCR and the special procedures and engaged in practical exercises. In particular, the training focused on the rights to health, education and adequate housing and how COVID-19 is impacting on the enjoyment of ESCRs. In parallel, the Regional Centre reviewed the publications Land and human rights: Standards and application and Land and human rights: Annotated compilation of case law. These

publications provided the sector with short, user-friendly guides on applicable international human rights law, international humanitarian law and criminal law standards.



M1 - Stronger NMRFs with a clear and comprehensive mandate are established/ promoted.



OHCHR strengthened the capacities of States in the Arab region to effectively engage with the international human rights mechanisms.

In March, UN Human Rights and the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs co-organized a three-day training on NMRFs, in Doha. The 35 participants from the NHRI, CSOs and various Qatari ministries (Foreign Affairs; Interior; Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs; Education and Higher Education; and Culture and Sports), focused on good practices in establishing NMRFs. The training covered the four primary capacities of NMRFs (engagement, coordination, consultation and information management) and provided a briefing on the NRTD. In Qatar, ad hoc reporting committees were established to draft the State Party reports to the human rights treaty bodies and a permanent committee was established for reporting to the UPR Working Group. Participants discussed the development of a road map for the establishment of an NMRF in the country and suggested that an interministerial committee is the most suitable model for reporting to the international human rights mechanisms and following up on their recommendations.

In addition, the Centre prepared a joint publication with the Human Rights Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Qatar's obligations under international human rights law (ratifications of international human rights treaties, reporting status, reservations, declarations and objections, recent concluding observations and recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR in relation to Oatar and Oatar's voluntary pledges and commitments). A similar publication was prepared for the NHRI of Kuwait.

In August, UN Human Rights organized a two-week virtual training programme for junior diplomats from States of the Arab region. As part of OHCHR's efforts to enhance the engagement of these States with the UN human rights system, the training aimed at raising awareness and increasing understanding about the international human rights mechanisms. A total of 21 participants (13 women, eight men) from Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar, Somalia, the State of Palestine, Syria and Yemen attended the 17 training sessions, which covered a broad range of subjects, including: the mandate of UN Human Rights and the historical development of human rights within the UN system; human rights terminology; mainstreaming gender into human rights work; international human rights treaties with a focus on the CEDAW Committee; the Human Rights Council, the UPR and the special procedures, with a focus on the work of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; international humanitarian law and its relationship with international human rights law; and the engagement of NHRIs and CSOs with the international human rights mechanisms.



ND1 - National laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination against religious, ethnic and national minorities, persons with disabilities, migrants and women. Responsible authorities actively work to Leave No One Behind, including by addressing the root causes of inequality and creating interlinkages between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and human rights.



OHCHR continued to enhance the knowledge of State institutions and other stakeholders on the rights of persons with disabilities and the rights to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief through training activities.

In December, UN Human Rights organized a workshop on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities for the staff of the Qatari Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs. The 15 participants (13 women, two men) learned how to promote the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society, with an emphasis on the guiding principles underlying CRPD and Qatar's obligations under the Convention. The training also highlighted the role of State authorities in promoting and respecting the rights of persons with disabilities. The Centre prepared a publication on the general comments issued by CRPD and ensured its wide dissemination.

UN Human Rights and the Arab Network for Tolerance co-organized a virtual round-table discussion, in November, entitled "Towards encouraging tolerance and acceptance of difference in matters

related to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief." The round-table brought together 25 participants (10 women, 15 men), including journalists, NHRIs, CSO representatives and activists from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the State of Palestine, Syria and Tunisia.

ND3 – Enhanced support for adequate legal and policy frameworks to address GBV, promote the autonomy and choices of women and girls and eliminate discriminatory provisions in areas such as inheritance, nationality, labour, access to credit and legal standing.



OHCHR contributed to enhancing the knowledge of various stakeholders about the role of national mechanisms to prevent and combat violence against women.

As part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign, UN Human Rights organized a virtual panel discussion on "The role of national bodies and mechanisms concerned with combating violence against women in the Arab region." A total of 47 representatives from State institutions, NHRIs and CSOs (37 women, 10 men) from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Qatar, the State of Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen participated in the discussion and exchanged experiences.