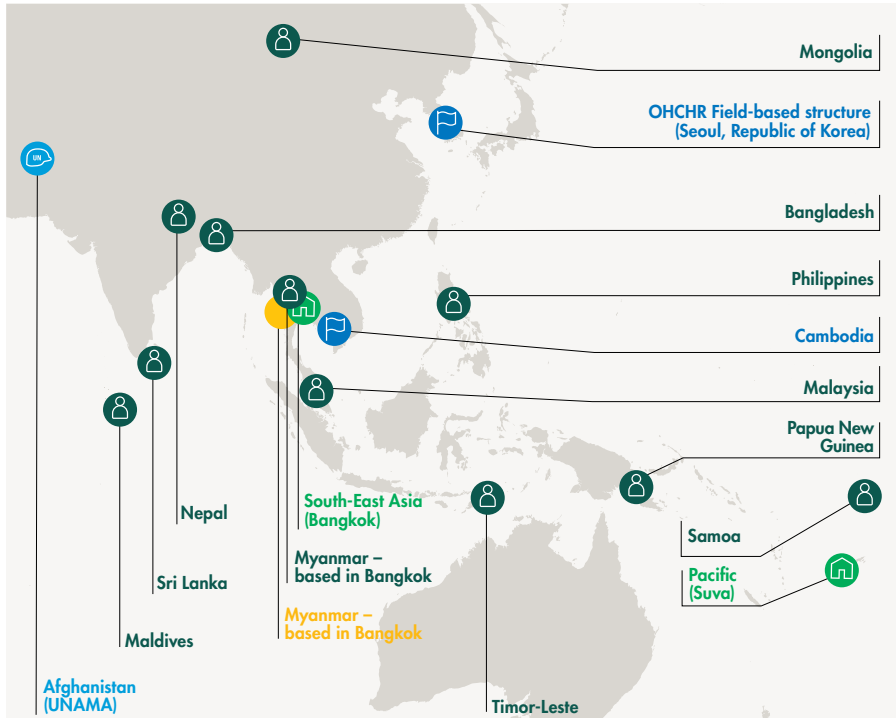


# UN Human Rights in Asia-Pacific



## TYPE OF PRESENCE

	Country/Stand-alone Offices/ Human Rights Missions
	Regional Offices/Centres
	Human rights components of UN Peace/Political Missions
	Human Rights Advisers <sup>a</sup>
	Other types of field presences

## LOCATION

	Cambodia and Republic of Korea (Seoul) <sup>b</sup>
	South-East Asia (Bangkok, Thailand) and the Pacific (Suva, Fiji)
	Afghanistan (UNAMA)
	Bangladesh, Malaysia <sup>c</sup> , Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar (based in Bangkok, Thailand), Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste
	Myanmar (based in Bangkok, Thailand)

<sup>a</sup> Human rights advisers are deployed under the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group.  
<sup>b</sup> Mandated by Human Rights Council resolution 25/25.  
<sup>c</sup> On hold until funding is available.

## LEGEND:

### Spotlights:

- Disabilities
- Youth
- Women
- People of African descent

### Shifts:

- Global constituency
- Prevention
- Civic space
- Climate change
- Corruption
- Inequalities
- New technologies
- People on the move
- Leveraging data for human rights

### SDGs:



OHCHR coverage of the Asia-Pacific region extends from Afghanistan to the west, Mongolia to the north, Kiribati to the east and New Zealand to the south. The region is comprised of some of the most populous countries in the world, including China and India, some of the poorest and least developed, and some of the smallest and most remote island states. The Office supports 17 field presences, including two regional offices (the Regional Office for South-East Asia in Bangkok and the Regional Office for the Pacific in Suva); one country office (Cambodia); nine international human rights advisers (HRAs) (Bangladesh, Malaysia, the Maldives, Myanmar (based in Bangkok), Papua New Guinea (PNG), the Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste); two national human rights officers (Mongolia and Nepal); one human rights component in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA); and two “remote” presences (one for the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), based in Seoul, and another for Myanmar, based in Bangkok).

The Office supports four special procedures country mandate holders for Afghanistan, Cambodia, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and Myanmar. It also oversees the implementation of six country-specific Human Rights Council (HRC) resolutions on Afghanistan, Cambodia, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Myanmar, the Philippines<sup>11</sup> and Sri Lanka. This includes two special accountability mandates on the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka, which are outlined

in Human Rights Council resolutions 46/17 and 51/1, respectively.

In 2022, the former High Commissioner conducted country visits to Afghanistan, Bangladesh and China. In a visit to the refugee camps in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, she highlighted the situation of Rohingya refugees five years after their expulsion from Myanmar. In the Philippines, OHCHR rolled out the implementation of the innovative UN Joint Programme for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Philippines (UNJP), focusing on strengthening accountability mechanisms and promoting human rights in counter-terrorism and drug control.

OHCHR provided substantive policy support and advice to resident coordinators (RCs) in the context of the UN reform, including by deploying senior human rights advisers (SHRAs) and/or national human rights officers. All presences, including regional and country offices, engage in UN coordination related to United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) to ensure a focus on human rights in sustainable development programmes. This is further supported by missions and remote engagement, facilitated by new communication technologies.

The aftermath of the pandemic, combined with energy and food price inflation, created economic stress and political fractures in many countries. The social and economic impacts exposed weak social protection floors and generated new migration flows. In many countries, there was a trend towards increased control of civic and political space.

Profound human rights and humanitarian crises continued in Myanmar (following the military coup in February 2021) and Afghanistan (following the Taliban

takeover in August 2021), which will continue to be a priority focus for the Office. In August 2022, OHCHR published an independent assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China and has pursued follow-up engagement.

Developments in the region are being increasingly shaped by geopolitical tensions and competition. New political, trade, investment, security and infrastructure agreements are realigning economic integration, the right to development and economic, social, and cultural rights (ESCRs). Regional forums, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), have an important prevention role to play.

In addition to this country-focused approach, the Office fostered a broader regional approach, with a focus on cross-country thematic issues, including accountability, the rule of law, strengthening national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and transitional justice, civic space, human rights defenders (HRDs) and youth engagement, business/international financial institutions (IFIs) and human rights, climate change, migration and the human rights of people on the move, discrimination against minorities, including persons with disabilities, and gender equality.

<sup>11</sup> An update on the implementation of HRC resolution 45/33 on technical cooperation and capacity-building for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Philippines and the UNJP was presented to the HRC at its fifty-first session (A/HRC/51/58).

## AFGHANISTAN: UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN (UNAMA)

<b>Population size<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Surface area<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Human Development Index<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>NHRI (if applicable)<sup>3</sup></b>
41.13 million	653,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.478 (rank: 180/191 in 2021)	Suspended due to dissolution of National Human Rights Institution

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Special Political Mission
<b>Year established</b>	2002
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Kabul
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	One-UN Transitional Engagement Framework 2022
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2022</b>	66

**XB requirements 2022**

**US\$217,000**

**Key OMP pillars in 2022**



<sup>1 2 3</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### **Non-discrimination**

**ND1 – Authorities adopt laws, policies and practices that address gender discrimination and inequality in relation to the economic, social and cultural rights of women and girls.**

**5 10 16** 

OHCHR and UNAMA provided support to enhance the compliance of legislation/policy in line with international human rights norms and standards.

UN Human Rights and UNAMA continued to monitor the situation of women and girls. Despite the Taliban's initial assurances that women's rights would be upheld under sharia law, the Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention

of Vice (MoPVPV) enforced Islamic rules as interpreted and prescribed by the de facto authorities.

In 2022, monitoring undertaken by OHCHR and UNAMA demonstrated that incidents of violence against women and girls continued to be reported, due in part to the 2021 abolition of all courts dedicated to upholding the Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW). On 3 December 2021, the Supreme Leader issued a decree on women's personal rights, which asserts that women cannot be forced to marry against their will, urges respect for women's inheritance rights and reaffirms women's right to access justice through courts. Nevertheless, fewer channels were available for complaints and most cases were mediated, primarily through

traditional mechanisms. Cases that were not settled in mediation were reportedly referred to the police or prosecution for further investigation.

In this increasingly repressive context for women and girls, UNAMA and OHCHR documented 186 cases of alleged criminal offences of violence against women and girls between 1 January and 30 October. These crimes included murder, forced self-immolation/suicide, so-called "honour" killings, injuries, beatings and rape.

OHCHR and UNAMA conducted 16 advocacy meetings in 15 provinces with de facto officials, including from the MoPVPV, the police, judges and prosecutors, to promote the implementation of the decree. OHCHR and UNAMA supported four roundtable discussions on the subject. It has not been possible to directly monitor progress in the implementation of the decree, however, anecdotal reports suggest that de facto authorities have responded to women's complaints regarding inheritance and property rights.

#### **Development**

**D7 – Human rights considerations, norms, standards, principles and recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, are integrated into the policies and programmes of UNAMA with respect to peace and security and of the UN Country Team (UNCT) with respect to the protection of civilians, security for Afghan civilians, humanitarian support and socio-economic development initiatives.**

OHCHR contributed to the enhanced participation of rights holders in selected public processes.

OHCHR and UNAMA provided human rights advice to humanitarian

actors, including the Protection Cluster and sub-clusters, with an emphasis on their guiding documents related to the Humanitarian Programme Cycle. In addition, OHCHR and UNAMA attended the meetings of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and the Operation Peer-to-Peer Review Team, providing support and guidance on human rights and protection issues.

To help the de facto Office of Prison Administration (OPA) meet basic detention standards and obligations outlined in the Mandela Rules relating to adequate food, health care, accommodation and educational and vocational support, OHCHR and UNAMA facilitated dialogue and engagement between the OPA and the RC/Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) to explore how UN agencies, funds and programmes could extend support to the incarcerated population within their mandated areas. As a result, in November, WHO donated US\$250,000 worth of medicine and medical supplies to four prisons and UNFPA donated approximately 2,000 Dignity Kits for women.<sup>12</sup> UNODC led the coordination of potential longer-term programmatic support for vulnerable incarcerated populations.

<sup>12</sup> Comprised of basic supplies to maintain the health and dignity of women and girls in humanitarian situations, such as the aftermath of a natural disaster or during a conflict. The kit includes underwear, a reusable menstrual pad set, sanitary napkins, bath soap, washing powder, a flashlight, a comb, a toothbrush and toothpaste.



## Peace and Security

**PS1 – Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection.**

5 | 16

OHCHR and UNAMA contributed to the increasing compliance of parties to the conflict and actors involved in peace operations with international human rights law and international humanitarian law and the provision of greater protection to civilians.

Following the Taliban takeover, despite a notable decrease in levels of armed conflict, there was a significant increase in human rights violations committed by de facto authorities, in particular against former government officials and members of the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF), individuals accused of affiliation with armed groups, civil society and the media. OHCHR and UNAMA shifted their monitoring to respond to the change in situation, developing a methodology for the documentation and recording of human rights violations and expanding the usage of the OHCHR Human Rights Database. Recording of conflict-related incidents continued, in accordance with established methodology.

OHCHR and UNAMA recorded persistent allegations of human rights violations attributed to the de facto authorities, which included the excessive use of force, extrajudicial killing, arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and ill-treatment. These monitoring activities became more challenging following the dissolution of mechanisms that were established under the former Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to prevent and respond to these types of cases, such as the Afghanistan Independent Human

Rights Commission (AIHRC). On 23 February, the de facto Ministry of Interior Affairs (MoI) issued instructions to the Security Forces to take precautions when dealing with the civilian population, prohibiting torture, harassment and insults, and stressed that the use of force was only permissible in cases of self-defence. Nonetheless, OHCHR and UNAMA continued to record high levels of civilian harm as a result of indiscriminate attacks on ethnic and religious minorities, which were primarily claimed by ISIL-Khorasan Province (KP).

OHCHR and UNAMA engaged with the Human Rights Focal Points of the de facto MoI, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the General Directorate of Intelligence (GDI) to share credible allegations of human rights violations and advocate for the investigation of perpetrators and holding them to account. Written feedback was received on these allegations. OHCHR and UNAMA also facilitated an awareness-raising discussion with 50 de facto MoD investigators, in October, on core principles of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. In December, a similar session was held for another group of investigators.

With regard to child protection, UNAMA and OHCHR monitored and reported on six grave child rights violations that were committed against children in Afghanistan in the context of conflict. OHCHR and UNAMA conducted five joint workshops with UNICEF on the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) for 225 regional members, including 42 women of the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR), aimed at strengthening their monitoring and reporting capacities.

The de facto authorities did not have a strategy of engagement on child protection

and did not commit to implementing laws and policies affecting children's lives. As a result, OHCHR and UNAMA undertook advocacy through the CTFMR to prevent underage recruitment and the use of children in the de facto Security Forces. This contributed to the issuance of a decree by the Supreme Leader, on 8 March, to prevent the recruitment and use of minors (with no signs of puberty) in the military. In accordance with the decree, the de facto MoD directed, in its Code of Practice of 11 May, that all military units must avoid recruiting boys with no signs of puberty. A total of 494 boys were consequently demobilized and released from various de facto security ranks. Yet, child recruitment and use remained a challenge. Although the de facto authorities define "a child" as a person without physical signs of puberty, more boys under 18 years of age were recruited and used by the de facto security forces. Allegations of child recruitment and use by the ISIL-KP and National Resistance Front have been difficult to verify.

## Accountability

**A2 – Inclusive and accountable peace and reconciliation processes are established in conformity with international human rights standards and internationally recognized principles of transitional justice.**

**10 16**

OHCHR contributed to the establishment and/or functioning of oversight, accountability or protection mechanisms that conform to international human rights standards.

Formal mechanisms to provide redress and accountability for victims of human rights violations were not re-established. Progress was hampered by the overhaul

of the justice system across the country. All former judges and staff were replaced with personnel who were instructed to apply sharia law in the resolution of disputes, rather than laws enacted under the former Republic. Ministries such as the de facto MoI, MoD and GDI installed human rights directorates with responsibility for overseeing human rights issues within their respective areas, while former institutions, such as the AIHRC and other agencies, were abolished.

OHCHR and UNAMA developed working relationships with the human rights focal points of the de facto ministries to support the establishment of procedures or mechanisms contributing to oversight, accountability and protection in relation to human rights violations committed by the de facto authorities. Regular meetings were held to share credible allegations of human rights violations, namely, extrajudicial killing, torture and ill-treatment and arbitrary arrest and detention, and stressed the need for thorough investigations and perpetrator accountability. While impunity for human rights violations remained a serious concern, the level of engagement of de facto ministries, which included regular meetings, discussions on human rights issues and written feedback on credible allegations shared by OHCHR and UNAMA, indicated a willingness to engage with OHCHR and UNAMA regarding accountability for human rights violations.

**BANGLADESH**

Population size <sup>1</sup>	Surface area <sup>1</sup>	Human Development Index <sup>2</sup>	NHRI (if applicable) <sup>3</sup>
171.19 million	148,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.661 (rank: 129/191 in 2021)	"B" Status (2015)
<b>Type of engagement</b>	Human Rights Adviser		
<b>Year established</b>	2018 (following earlier deployment 2014-2016)		
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Dhaka		
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026		
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2022</b>	1		

**XB requirements 2022****US\$435,000****Key OMP pillars in 2022**<sup>1,2,3</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155**PILLAR RESULTS:**
 **Participation**

**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.**

**16**

OHCHR contributed to improving the compliance of legislation/policy in line with international human rights norms and standards to ensure that processes are more democratic and participatory.

Efforts were made to safeguard civic space and the right to freedom of opinion and expression. The Office provided opportunities to discuss critical issues through organized events, such as CSO consultations on the freedom of the media, climate change and human rights.

The Human Rights Adviser (HRA) consistently engaged with the Government regarding the review of the Digital Security Act and submitted its written recommendations, in June. In addition, the Government invited the HRA to participate in a consultation on the draft data protection act. The HRA worked with key interlocutors and submitted written feedback. Decisions are pending regarding the recommendations on the Digital Security Act and the draft data protection act.

 **Accountability**

**A2 – Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for ESCRs.**

**16**

OHCHR contributed to the establishment and/or strengthening of the capacity of non-judicial mechanisms, including NHRIs, in conformity with international standards (Paris Principles).

The HRA regularly engaged with the National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh, although the independence of the institution has deteriorated in the last few years. New commissioners were appointed in December.

## CAMBODIA

<b>Population size<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Surface area<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Human Development Index<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>NHRI (if applicable)<sup>3</sup></b>
16.77 million	181,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.593 (rank: 146/191 in 2021) -	-
<b>Type of engagement</b>	Country Office		
<b>Year established</b>	1993		
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Phnom Penh		
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2019-2023		
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2022</b>	19		
<b>Total income</b>	<b>US\$1,630,595</b>		
<b>XB requirements 2022</b>	<b>US\$2,636,000</b>		
<b>Total XB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$1,064,598</b>		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC <sup>4</sup>	
<b>60%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>8%</b>	
\$643,544	\$339,595	\$81,459	
<b>Total RB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$1,391,077</b>		
Personnel	Non-personnel		
<b>86%</b>	<b>14%</b>		
\$1,197,501	\$193,576		

## Key OMP pillars in 2022



<sup>1,2,3,4</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

## PILLAR RESULTS:

**Participation**

**P7 – Public recognition increases that human rights and accountability make important contributions to effective responses to violence, including terrorism and violent extremism.**



OHCHR improved the awareness and understanding of and support for human rights issues among relevant stakeholders, including youth, HRDs and CSOs.

OHCHR partnered with the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) to celebrate Human Rights Day (10 December) under the theme “Dignity, freedom and justice for all,” as part of the Secretary-General’s Call to Action for Human Rights. Approximately 250 participants attended, 45 per cent of whom were women, including university students, NGOs, government ministries and personnel of UN entities. Through interactive discussions, the event raised the profile of human rights in an engaging

and informative manner. Two sessions were held. During one panel discussion, speakers from OHCHR, RUPP, the Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO), the European Union (EU), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the Raoul Wallenberg Institute and the Ministry of Justice discussed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), achievements and challenges, the role of human rights in education and the contributions of development partners. During a group discussion with university students, participants focused on several key thematic areas, such as sustainable development and climate change, rights in times of crisis, gender equality and women’s rights, public participation and civic space. In the thematic group discussions, relevant human rights principles were presented and questions were posed to encourage the engagement of the students.

**Accountability**

**A2 – Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including ESCRs.**



OHCHR supported the establishment and/or functioning of oversight, accountability or protection mechanisms that conform to international human rights standards.

OHCHR provided support to the Cambodian Human Rights Committee (CHRC) in drafting a law on the establishment of an NHRI, in accordance with the Paris Principles. In July, OHCHR provided inputs to the revised draft, which were discussed with the CHRC drafting committee. Participants discussed

a variety of issues, such as the required qualifications, selection process and composition of its members and the mandate and duties of the CHRC. In October, OHCHR and the CHRC organized a conference to review the draft law with relevant stakeholders and line ministries. OHCHR invited NHRIs from Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines and additional feedback was provided and integrated into the draft. It is anticipated that the draft law will be submitted to the Parliament and Senate in 2023.



## Development

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



OHCHR advocated for the improved compliance with international human rights standards of legislation, policies and practices on land and housing.

OHCHR advocated for people who were subject to evictions and had their right to adequate housing violated. In March, OHCHR launched the *Study on the human rights situation of communities living in resettlement sites in Cambodia and draft resettlement guidelines*, which includes findings from 17 resettlement sites in Phnom Penh and eight provinces. In addition, a briefing was held to inform

relevant partners about the human rights situation of communities living on resettlement sites. The Office was a guest on a live radio talk show by the Voice of Democracy, a local independent news outlet, and discussed the right to adequate housing in Cambodia. It also convened a meeting with the Sugar Justice Network to discuss land and housing rights for communities impacted by sugar plantations.

In developing recommendations, OHCHR consulted Indigenous communities on the draft amendments of the Law on Forestry and the Law on Natural Protection Zones. Further, it held consultations with the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Rural Development, representatives from the National Assembly, Oxfam, Diakonia, UNDP, Client Earth and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute.



## DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Population size <sup>1</sup>	Surface area <sup>1</sup>	Human Development Index <sup>2</sup>	NHRI (if applicable) <sup>3</sup>
26.07 million	121,000 km <sup>2</sup>	-	-
<b>Type of engagement</b>		Field-based structure	
<b>Year established</b>		2015	
<b>Field office(s)</b>		Seoul, Republic of Korea (ROK)	
<b>UN partnership framework</b>		United Nations Strategic Framework 2017-2021 (extended to 2022)	
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2022</b>		11	

<b>Total income</b>	<b>US\$50,000</b>
<b>XB requirements 2022</b>	<b>US\$421,000</b>
<b>Total XB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$52,910</b>
Non-personnel	PSC <sup>4</sup>
<b>88%</b>	<b>12%</b>
\$46,823	\$6,087
<b>Total RB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$926,267</b>
Personnel	Non-personnel
<b>97%</b>	<b>3%</b>
\$897,002	\$29,265

### Key OMP pillars in 2022



<sup>1,2,3,4</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

## PILLAR RESULTS:

### Mechanisms

**M1 – The Government engages with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, who is able to conduct a visit, and two thematic rapporteurs, who are able to visit the country.**

**16 | 17**

OHCHR supported the work of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of

human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and liaised with other special procedures mandate holders.

In 2022, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea conducted three visits to the ROK (February, June and August). The February visit was a regular visit and resulted in the submission of the Special Rapporteur's report to the HRC. The June visit followed the presidential elections, in May, and took

place in the context of a change in government. During the visit, the Special Rapporteur urged the new authorities to prioritize human rights in its policies and engagement with the DPRK. In August, a new Special Rapporteur was appointed and shortly thereafter, visited the ROK to meet with government officials, CSOs and DPRK escapees. The Special Rapporteur also visited Thailand, in June, and Japan, in December, where she met with representatives of the Government of Japan, the families of abductees, victims and CSOs.

The Special Rapporteur's report to the Human Rights Council reiterated the need to implement a two-track policy of engagement and accountability and the report to the General Assembly outlined the Special Rapporteur's priority areas. Both reports, drafted with the support of OHCHR, were well received by Member States and other stakeholders. OHCHR facilitated the Special Rapporteur's engagement with the media, helping to increase the visibility of the human rights situation in the DPRK.

Requests have been sent to the Government for country visits from the Special Rapporteurs on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences and on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation and from the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID). The DPRK has not yet responded to any of these requests. OHCHR has encouraged the DPRK to invite at least one mandate holder every year to demonstrate its commitment to engaging with the international human rights mechanisms.

Based on information and guidance from the Office, three CSOs and the UNCT submitted confidential inputs to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) for the preparation of

its list of issues. The Committee sent the list of issues to the DPRK in September and the Human Rights Committee sent a list of issues to the DPRK in April 2021. No response was received by the April 2022 deadline. As of September, the WGEID had sent communications to the DPRK on 362 cases, none of which have been addressed. The Office in Seoul shared all public documents, communications and statements related to DPRK human rights from the international human rights mechanisms on its website and social media, which were widely covered by the media.



## Accountability

### A2 – National institutions in the DPRK curb violations of human rights in response to international pressure.

10 16

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

OHCHR documented facts and patterns of grave human rights violations in the DPRK through interviews with escapees, open-source monitoring and by engaging with CSOs and other stakeholders. In 2022, the Office interviewed 38 escapees and victims, including 14 women. Thirty-four interviews were carried out at ROK settlement centres and the remaining four were undertaken at other locations in the ROK or by video link. COVID-19 border restrictions that were imposed in early 2020 remained in place in the DPRK and restrictions on movement in transit countries significantly reduced the number of escapees arriving in the ROK. As a result, access to first-hand information

on the human rights situation inside the DPRK was limited. OHCHR continued to engage with the Ministry of Unification to facilitate interviews with escapees at government settlement support centres.

In May, the DPRK officially acknowledged the country's first COVID-19 outbreak. The Office monitored and analysed the human rights implications of COVID-19 policies. In May, the High Commissioner for Human Rights sent a letter to the Government, offering OHCHR's support to ensure that response measures respected and protected the human rights of the people of the DPRK. The Office also shared relevant COVID-19-related human rights guidelines with the Government. In a public statement that was issued in May, the Office raised concerns about the impacts of COVID-19 measures on the right to food, access to health care and livelihoods, as well as on civil and political rights, particularly restrictions on the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

Public reporting is an important tool used by the Office to: advocate with the DPRK on issues of concern; provide a platform for North Korean escapees; bring human rights issues in the DPRK to the attention of the international community; and better inform public discourse on human rights in the country. The Office finalized its *report* on the crimes of enforced disappearances in and by the DPRK, which was launched in March 2023. Another report on labour rights in the DPRK is being finalized and will be launched in 2023. The High Commissioner's *report on Promoting accountability in the DPRK* was finalized and submitted to the HRC in March 2023. Moreover, the Office supported the drafting of the reports of the Special Rapporteur and the Secretary-General to the HRC and the General

Assembly, which were used as advocacy tools to engage with the Government. These reports were translated into Korean, distributed to stakeholders and posted on the OHCHR-Seoul website.

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

10 16

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

In March, at the forty-ninth session of the HRC, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights delivered an oral update on the situation of human rights in the DPRK, including initiatives to promote accountability. More specifically, the Office worked closely with CSOs and other stakeholders to explore options for accountability and justice in the DPRK. For example, in February, OHCHR organized a webinar on “Magnitsky-style sanctions to combat human rights abuses and corruption and the role of NGOs.” The event generated awareness about the Human Rights Sanctions Regime in the United States of America, the EU and the United Kingdom and the role that NGOs can play in supporting accountability. More than 25 NGOs from Japan, the ROK and other countries participated in the event. In June, OHCHR organized a discussion with CSOs and criminal law experts (21 participants, 17 of whom were women) on the use of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) for accountability in the DPRK. In August, OHCHR collaborated with a CSO to organize a two-month training programme for

17 university students (12 women, five men) on enforced disappearances and human rights.

The Office continued to expand its repository with interviews, reports, UN communications, information from CSOs, maps, court documents, videos and audio recordings, as well as open-source materials. The repository contains more than 500 interviews carried out by the Office with victims and witnesses, most of whom were women. In addition, OHCHR developed and shared a cover sheet and user-friendly form for the submission of information by NGOs and individuals. At a meeting on 30 March, the Office briefed 16 CSOs on how they can submit information to the repository.

The Office closely engaged with several government organizations, the Center for North Korean Human Rights Records, the North Korean Human Rights Documentation Office, the Ministry of Unification and the Ministry of Justice in the ROK to exchange information and good practices, to cooperate on documentation and explore avenues for accountability for human rights violations by the DPRK. The Office organized three training programmes on accountability, international criminal law and human rights investigation techniques for around 30 investigators and lawyers working with the Centre for North Korean Human Rights Records and the North Korean Human Rights Documentation Office. These engagements and trainings supported the efforts of the Government of the ROK to document human rights violations in the DPRK.

The Office also organized a series of consultations with victims, affected communities, CSOs, academia, domestic and international legal practitioners and other relevant stakeholders on their views

about truth, justice, accountability and reparations for human rights violations committed by the DPRK. These consultations were also used as an opportunity to inform victims and affected communities about their rights, international human rights law and accountability. The findings of these consultations will be published in a report in 2023.



## Peace and Security

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

16

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

OHCHR advocated with the international community and the DPRK for the peaceful resolution of the conflict on the Korean peninsula and the integration of human rights into the inter-Korean and denuclearization engagements with the DPRK. The Office participated in high-level forums on the DPRK peace process and human rights that were organized by the Government of the ROK. The Office held regular briefings and shared analysis/reports on the human rights situation in the DPRK with the international community and diplomatic missions. Several joint briefings on various topics, such as freedom of expression and freedom of the media, disappearances, security and human rights, were conducted with diplomatic missions based in Seoul. In September, the Office organized an event during the “Korean Global Forum for Peace” on promoting human rights through a dual approach

of accountability and engagement. It also made a presentation at the Women, Peace and Security Forum, which was organized by the ROK’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in December. Also in December, OHCHR co-organized a forum on advancing human rights in the DPRK with the Ministry of Unification and the ROK Ambassador on Human Rights. Together, these efforts were instrumental in supporting the Office’s advocacy regarding the importance of discussing human rights in all engagements with the DPRK on the peace and security agenda.

**PS5 – Humanitarian programmes adopt a human rights-based approach (HRBA) and comply with the requirements of the Human Rights up Front (HRuF) Action Plan.**

3 5 8 10 13 16 17

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

Integrating human rights into the humanitarian response remained a primary focus for OHCHR. Since late 2020, however, due to COVID-19 border restrictions, most organizations, including humanitarian and UN agencies, have been out of the country. It is unclear when the DPRK will allow them to return. OHCHR has urged the Government to facilitate their return as a priority. Due to this situation, the timeline for the finalization of the Common Country Analysis (CCA) and the development of the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) is still unclear. Yet, the Office provided inputs to the RCO in the drafting of human rights sections of the CCA. In addition, OHCHR is collaborating with

the DPPA, the UNCT, the RCO and FAO on the Environmental Dashboard for evidence-gathering and rights-based monitoring of the right to food. A briefing on the Environmental Dashboard was held in Geneva, in December, which included the participation of the Office. This, and other joint programmes, sought to foster closer coordination among UN agencies and mainstream rights on issues of concern in the DPRK.

## MALAYSIA

Population size <sup>1</sup>	Surface area <sup>1</sup>	Human Development Index <sup>2</sup>	NHRI (if applicable) <sup>3</sup>
33.94 million	331,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.803 (rank: 62/191 in 2021)	"A" Status (2021)
<b>Type of engagement</b>		Human Rights Adviser	
<b>Year established</b>		2021	
<b>Field office(s)</b>		Kuala Lumpur	
<b>UN partnership framework</b>		United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025	
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2022</b>		Vacant	

**XB requirements 2022**

**US\$312,000**

**Key OMP pillars in 2022**



<sup>1,2,3</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

## PILLAR RESULTS:

### Mechanisms

**M1 – A comprehensive plan has been developed for the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms and the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) monitors their implementation. OHCHR and the UNCT engage with the Government on follow-up to the recommendations in a more systematic manner.**

**16 | 17**

OHCHR supported the establishment of a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF) on the implementation of outstanding recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures, the Human Rights Council and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

In 2022, UN Human Rights collaborated with the UNCT to support the development of a matrix (monitoring mechanism) for the implementation of the UPR recommendations issued in relation to Malaysia. The objective of the matrix is to link the UPR recommendations to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and identify the relevant departments that are responsible for implementing and reporting on progress achieved. Since OHCHR began to support the development of the matrix, the Government has conducted four workshops with relevant departments on its use. It has been recognized as an essential tool for the Government to track UPR implementation.

OHCHR has also conducted a series of workshops to strengthen the capacities of the NMRF (including working on its terms of reference and consultation and coordination capacities) and

to support the roll-out of the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD). A two-day workshop was conducted in Putrajaya, Malaysia, to launch the NRTD and build the capacities of the focal points from various State institutions to use the database to record implementation progress. Malaysia was the first country to use the second version of the NRTD.



## Participation

**P6 – Victims of human rights violations and marginalized groups are empowered and included in discussions on issues that affect them at the national, regional and international level.**

16 | 17

OHCHR supported the meaningful participation of rights holders, especially women and discriminated groups, in selected public processes.

In partnership with the UNCT, OHCHR provided technical and advisory support to a civil society forum known as the “Human Rights 365 Group,” to enable CSOs to share information on human rights, build networks, collaborate on human rights advocacy and enhance consultations with the UN regarding their plans and programmes. Biannual meetings are organized with the Group to enhance civil society collaboration on human rights and provide technical support, as needed.

## MALDIVES

Population size <sup>1</sup>	Surface area <sup>1</sup>	Human Development Index <sup>2</sup>	NHRI (if applicable) <sup>3</sup>
0.52 million	-	0.747 (rank: 90/191 in 2021)	“B” Status (2010)
<b>Type of engagement</b>		Human Rights Adviser	
<b>Year established</b>		2020	
<b>Field office(s)</b>		Malé	
<b>UN partnership framework</b>		United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026	
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2022</b>		1	

**XB requirements 2022**

**US\$418,000**

**Key OMP pillars in 2022**



<sup>1,2,3</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

## PILLAR RESULTS:



### Participation

**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.**

16 

Through capacity-building initiatives, OHCHR supported the increased participation of civil society actors in public affairs.

In cooperation with the RCO, the HRA delivered a series of workshops on the right to participate in public affairs, in August. Participants included representatives from the Government, the Human Rights Commission, civil society and the media. The workshops enhanced the capacities of rights holders to claim their right to participate and increased the

understanding of duty bearers about their roles and responsibilities in respecting and fulfilling this right.

The HRA successfully advocated for the expansion of the UNCT’s Gender Theme Group to include human rights. This will encourage better coordination and a sense of ownership by the UNCT in the implementation of its human rights responsibilities.

**MONGOLIA**

Population size <sup>1</sup>	Surface area <sup>1</sup>	Human Development Index <sup>2</sup>	NHRI (if applicable) <sup>3</sup>
33.94 million	1,564,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.739 (rank: 96/191 in 2021)	"A" Status (2021)
<b>Type of engagement</b>	Human Rights Adviser		
<b>Year established</b>	2019		
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Ulaanbaatar		
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2017-2022		
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2022</b>	1		

**XB requirements 2022****US\$83,000****Key OMP pillars in 2022**<sup>1,2,3</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155**PILLAR RESULTS:**
**Participation**

**P2 – A National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) is established and a comprehensive and human rights-centred UNSDCF for 2023-2027 is finalized.**

**16**

By providing technical support, OHCHR supported the establishment of an NPM and mainstreamed human rights into the UNSDCF 2023-2027.

As a result of the active presence of the HRA in Mongolia and through a series of consultations with the National Human Rights Commission, OHCHR supported the establishment of a commissioner in charge of coordinating the implementation of the new Law on Human Rights Defenders, and a commissioner in charge of implementing the new NPM.

The HRA was also instrumental in mapping the restrictions faced by persons with disabilities in accessing their right to housing. The final report served as a basis for follow-up under the new UNSDCF. The HRA advised the RC throughout the drafting of the new UNSDCF, provided inputs and liaised with all UNCT agencies to ensure that human rights were mainstreamed into all outcomes of the document. Consequently, the UNSDCF 2023-2027 was approved and OHCHR became a non-resident implementing partner agency for the new programmatic cycle.

**MYANMAR**

Population size <sup>1</sup>	Surface area <sup>1</sup>	Human Development Index <sup>2</sup>	NHRI (if applicable) <sup>3</sup>
54.18 million	677km <sup>2</sup>	0.585 (rank: 149/191 in 2021)	"B" Status (2015)
<b>Type of engagement</b>	Human rights staff (other type of field presence)/ Human Rights Adviser		
<b>Year established</b>	2014 (Human rights staff)/2021 (Human Rights Adviser)		
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Bangkok, Thailand		
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2022		
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2022</b>	7		

**XB requirements 2022****US\$4,290,000****Key OMP pillars in 2022**<sup>1,2,3</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155**PILLAR RESULTS:**

**Accountability**

**A2 – Relevant national actors take steps to incorporate human rights standards into their work and framework.**

**10 16** 

Through advocacy efforts and engagement with relevant stakeholders, OHCHR sought to contribute to increased accountability for perpetrators of grave human rights violations.

OHCHR published two reports on the human rights situation in the country and the economic interests of the military. This contributed to OHCHR's efforts to promote accountability for perpetrators of grave human rights violations and violations of international law. OHCHR also focused on building the capacities of civil

society actors and organized and delivered eight training modules to 188 beneficiaries, including 87 women, lawyers, journalists, grassroots organizations and CSOs. The training modules covered the international human rights system and its reporting mechanisms, international human rights law, international humanitarian law, international criminal law, human rights analysis and reporting and documentation of specific crimes in the post-coup environment.

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

**16**

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

During the year, the Office engaged with the UNCT, with a view to facilitating the full incorporation of human rights principles and indicators into the work of the United Nations in Myanmar. A training was organized on the HRBA and the Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) principle, which was attended by more than 80 participants. In addition, as co-Chair of the UNCT Human Rights Theme Group, the Office supported actions to implement the revised UNCT Human Rights Strategy. To address human rights concerns on the ground, OHCHR led a review of the Strategy to ensure that responses and actions by the UN in Myanmar are coherent, coordinated and anchored in human rights. Moreover, the Office made substantive contributions to existing mechanisms in Myanmar, including the United Nations Communications Group, the Humanitarian Communications Group, the Early Warning Analysis Group, the HCT and the Protection Cluster. The Office also participated in the drafting of a wide range of documents, including the CCA, a Guidance Note on Human Rights Communications, the HCT Protection Strategy, the Protection Cluster Strategy

and policy papers on monitoring and investigating conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) and gender-based violence (GBV).

## Development

**D3 – Relevant ministries, departments and parliamentary committees take steps to integrate human rights standards and frameworks into the fulfilment of their respective mandates in relation to land, housing and poverty policies, with particular attention paid to gender-specific concerns.**

**1 11**

Through monitoring and reporting, OHCHR contributed to raising the awareness of international actors on the human rights implications of the economic activities of the Myanmar military.

OHCHR tracked the economic fallout from the military's coup and its impact on the country's humanitarian needs, as well as the regression in achieving the SDGs. The information gathered enabled OHCHR to contribute substantive analyses and inputs into a second round of the CCA, led by the RCO. These inputs fed into sections that integrate a human rights situational analysis of the conflict dynamics in the country and a discussion on the SDGs as central pillars of the humanitarian and development responses.

At the same time, while researching and publishing a report on the economic interests of the Myanmar military, the Office produced an evidence-based analysis of the implementation of the recommendations issued by the 2019 Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar, documenting human rights violations and concerns in relation to

sanctions, arms embargoes, human rights due diligence, consumer spending, boycotts and market withdrawals, domestic reforms and development financing and programming. The report includes several recommendations ranging from the imposition of a global embargo to targeted sanctions to prevent cash flow support for military operations. It also calls on the UN to enhance its capacity to identify its exposure to military-owned businesses and products through due diligence processes.

## Peace and Security

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

**16**

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

OHCHR helped the UNCT to implement the Agenda for Protection and mainstream human rights into its public and private messages, statements and programmes. Much of the support provided to the UNCT related to the documentation and analysis of violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. Within this framework, OHCHR provided technical assistance on legal matters, including the applicability of international humanitarian law, and took steps to ensure that accurate legal terminology was used in UNCT products and messages. Moreover, the Office shared its human rights analysis, which was based on

verified information, to support political analysis and the development of humanitarian operations and activities. It also presented mandated reports to the HRC and provided substantive contributions and inputs to the reports and products of other mechanisms.

## Participation

**P2 – The international community effectively protects CSOs and individuals and promotes an increasingly safe and enabling environment.**



OHCHR contributed to strengthening the advocacy of the international community in relation to specific human rights issues.

In 2022, the civic space in Myanmar further deteriorated. Civil society actors, including HRDs, had limited access to third country resettlement options and/or emergency support provided by international and regional protection actors. The unilateral adoption by the military of a Law on Registration of Associations reduced the already limited civic space. Throughout the year, the Office supported CSOs and HRDs in accessing protection mechanisms and facilitated referrals to embassies or relevant UN agencies for relocation to third countries or safe shelters in-country.

To promote protection awareness, OHCHR cooperated with a renowned and trusted local organization to deliver two training sessions for 34 HRDs and journalists, including 16 women, on digital security and the online protection of HRDs, victims and sources. In addition, the Office worked closely with legal aid organizations to support protection actions and strategies for lawyers in light



of the increased risk of arrest they face, particularly when defending individuals accused of supporting the resistance.

As a co-Chair of the UNCT Human Rights Theme Group, the Office began mapping UNCT protection experiences for HRDs and other civil society partners in order to streamline procedures and increase coordination and effectiveness. The mapping has not been finalized. At the same time, the Office organized regular multisectoral consultations between civil society and members of the UNCT. This enabled rights holders to share their protection and operational concerns and recommendations on ways that the UN could increase the efficacy of its protection activities.

Finally, as a member of the HCT, the Office provided substantive comments and recommendations related to the new HCT Protection Strategy, which was approved in September.

## NEPAL

Population size <sup>1</sup>	Surface area <sup>1</sup>	Human Development Index <sup>2</sup>	NHRI (if applicable) <sup>3</sup>
30.55 million	147 km <sup>2</sup>	0.602 (rank: 143/191 in 2021)	"A" Status (2021)
<b>Type of engagement</b>		Human Rights Adviser	
<b>Year established</b>		2019	
<b>Field office(s)</b>		Kathmandu	
<b>UN partnership framework</b>		United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2022	
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2022</b>		Vacant	

**XB requirements 2022**

**US\$344,000**

**Key OMP pillars in 2022**



<sup>1,2,3</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

## PILLAR RESULTS:

### Accountability

**A1 – Legislation that outlines constitutionally-protected rights is based on international human rights law and is implemented, as guaranteed by the Constitution.**

**16**

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

The HRA carried out an analysis of the bills to amend the Citizenship Act and the Transitional Justice Act to determine their compliance with international human rights standards. This analysis was used in joint advocacy initiatives, although the bills were not finalized before the term of the House of Representatives expired, in October.

**A2 – Transitional justice mechanisms are strengthened to investigate conflict-related cases, including the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), the Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons (CIEDP), the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) or any other institution developed for that purpose.**

**10 16**

OHCHR contributed to ensuring that transitional justice mechanisms are in place and functioning in conformity with international human rights norms and standards.

Following sustained advocacy by survivors of CRSV, who were supported by the Office, including through technical guidance, the Government organized consultations with them to inform the ongoing review of transitional

justice-related legislation. This represents a significant development for rights holders as the Government did not previously recognize CRSV survivors as victims of the armed conflict.

Through the RCO, the Human Rights Adviser advocated for the endorsement of the Second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, which was drafted in collaboration with women victims of conflict. The Government endorsed the Action Plan in September. The HRA is working with UN agencies to identify measures to support the Government for the implementation of the Action Plan.

## **Non-discrimination**

**ND1 – Marginalized and vulnerable populations, including Dalits, women, persons with disabilities and LGBTI persons, are able to enjoy their equal status, as guaranteed by the Constitution, and have access to functioning mechanisms to redress grievances related to discrimination.**



OHCHR contributed to increasing the capacities of marginalized populations to claim and protect their rights.

In anticipation of the local, provincial and federal elections that took place in Nepal in 2022, the HRA facilitated a workshop on “monitoring human rights in the context of elections,” in September, for CSOs, journalists, HRDs and representatives of the NHRC and other constitutional bodies. As a result, 31 participants (10 women, 21 men) from across the country and from diverse social groups, such as Dalits, Indigenous Peoples, Madhesi people, Muslims, youth, LGBTI persons and persons with disabilities, strengthened their skills and capacities to identify human rights issues at stake during the elections and to monitor human rights violations. The participants engaged with the HRA to share their concerns, provided first-hand information and initiated and expanded partnerships with other actors at the provincial level.

## THE PACIFIC

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Regional Office
<b>Countries of engagement</b>	Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands (Republic of), Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau (New Zealand), Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu
<b>Year established</b>	2005
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Suva
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Pacific Strategy 2018-2022
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2022</b>	13

<b>Total income</b>	<b>US\$1,668,783</b>		
<b>XB requirements 2022</b>	<b>US\$3,087,000</b>		
<b>Total XB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$918,884</b>		
	Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC <sup>4</sup>
	<b>61%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>11%</b>
	\$558,179	\$256,287	\$104,418
<b>RB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$147,103</b>		
	Personnel		
	<b>100%</b>		
	\$147,103		

### Key OMP pillars in 2022



<sup>4</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

## PILLAR RESULTS:



### Accountability

**A1 – The police academy in Fiji includes human rights training in the curriculum of pre-service and in-service training.**



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

UN Human Rights continued to build the capacities of the Fiji Police Force on the protection of human rights and law enforcement, including through the application of a victim-centred HRBA, in collaboration with partners, including Fiji women's organizations, the Pacific Disability Forum, UNDP and UNICEF. The Regional Office also engaged with the Police Human Rights Cell around

strengthening an accountability system for reviewing alleged violations.

A total of 325 police officers, 100 of whom were women, received training at six remote locations in Fiji in order to enhance service delivery and prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.

In addition, community-based discussions, which were facilitated by the Office and attended by 750 community members, 475 of whom were women, including chiefs, community leaders, youth and representatives of faith-based organizations, raised awareness about legislation on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and strengthened the capacities of community members to detect violations of the human rights of women and children and to handle SGBV cases.



### Participation

**P1 – National protection systems receive capacity-building training. Civil society actors receive technical assistance, including training, to increase their capacities to monitor and influence national protection systems. Oversight and accountability mechanisms improve access to justice and expand civic space.**

16



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

UN Human Rights supported the Pacific Human Rights Defenders Network and various human rights organizations, networks and HRDs through capacity building and providing platforms for engagement. The Regional Office

collaborated with the University of the South Pacific (USP) in developing two courses for the Diploma in Leadership, Governance and Human Rights. The courses focus on developing and strengthening knowledge about methods of protection, legal mechanisms and the organizational development of human rights, the diverse situations of HRDs, strategic actions to take and how to mitigate risks. The courses are available to all Pacific Islanders in the 12 member USP countries. In 2022, a total of 54 students, including 27 women, from the region enrolled in the courses.



## Development

**D2 – Human rights training is institutionalized within the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission, the Fiji Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Maritime Authority, relevant government departments and by CSOs.**

1 2 3 5 8 9 13 16 17

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

From 21 to 22 November, UN Human Rights organized the “Third UN Pacific Forum on Business and Human Rights,” in a hybrid format. It was attended by more than 200 participants, including representatives from Pacific Island governments, businesses, NHRIs, CSOs and the donor community. During the Forum, participants discussed issues of relevance for the Pacific region, such as labour migration, modern slavery, climate change, development finance, food security, responsible business conduct in the extractive and minerals sectors and access to remedies.

**D5 – Environmental and climate policies and plans increasingly respect, protect and fulfil human rights, guaranteeing access to information, decision-making, public participation and remedies for those who are affected.**

5 10 13 16 17

OHCHR contributed to the application of a human rights-based approach to selected regional processes related to climate change.

Through its participation in the joint UN Pacific Climate Change, Migration and Human Security Programme, OHCHR contributed to the development of a human security-based response to climate change related displacement, migration and planned relocation in the Pacific. Also, through collaboration with governments and the Pacific Islands Forum, capacity and coordination was strengthened with a view to establish an intergovernmental regional framework on climate-related mobility, which has reviewed inputs from national, regional and expert consultations. OHCHR supported the participation of civil society and affected communities and provided normative human rights guidance on an HRBA to migration and climate mobility.

**D7 – Increased capacities of Member States to integrate human rights, including recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, into national sustainable development plans.**



OHCHR contributed to strengthening UN support to Member States in fulfilling their commitments, in accordance with international human rights standards, including by enhancing the capacities of RCs/UNCTs in relation to human rights.

UN Human Rights strengthened human rights engagement by UN leadership, notably the three Pacific Multi-Country Offices and UNCTs in Fiji, Micronesia and Samoa. OHCHR supported the development of the new Pacific UNSDCF 2023-2027 to ensure it integrates human rights into its vision, four key outcome pillars, results framework and coordination and implementation architecture. OHCHR and ILO co-chaired the United Nations Pacific Strategy (UNPS) 2018-2022 Outcome Group 6 on Human Rights and supported the application of an HRBA. Its Disability Inclusion Working Group contributed to the successful piloting of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS), which led to the recruitment of persons with disabilities, changes in procurement practices and improved access and accessibility of UN offices in support of the implementation of the Strategy in the work of the UNCTs.

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Population size <sup>1</sup>	Surface area <sup>1</sup>	Human Development Index <sup>2</sup>	NHRI (if applicable) <sup>3</sup>
10.14 million	463,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.558 (rank: 156/191 in 2021)	-
<b>Type of engagement</b>		Human Rights Adviser	
<b>Year established</b>		2008	
<b>Field office(s)</b>		Port Moresby	
<b>UN partnership framework</b>		United Nations Partnership Framework 2018-2022	
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2022</b>		3	

**XB requirements 2022**

**US\$700,000**

**Key OMP pillars in 2022**



<sup>1,2,3</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### **Accountability**

**A1 – The Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC) and the Papua New Guinea Correctional Services receive regular human rights training.**

**16** 

OHCHR contributed to the development of human rights training modules and trainer manuals and to strengthening the human rights capacities of police officers through training in selected provinces.

Following two pilot training sessions in 2021, the HRA worked closely with the RPNGC Bomana Training College Centre of Excellence to deliver trainings to police and other uniformed personnel. A training was held in the Highlands region in anticipation of the July elections and a potential increase in violence. Trainings on human rights in law enforcement were also conducted in other areas, in

cooperation with the RPNGC Bomana Training College, and delivered to various law enforcement professionals, such as fraud investigators, as part of a UNODC-led training. This contributed to increased awareness about the human rights principles that are applicable to law enforcement. Additional trainings will be undertaken to reach a substantial number of police officials.

The HRA collaborated with the PNG Correctional Services on human rights trainings and the Office engaged with the newly appointed Director of Human Rights and Compliance to promote this collaboration. The appointment of the Director represents an important step in the institutionalization of human rights in the Correctional Services.

#### **Participation**

**P6 – Disenfranchised youth and persons with disabilities meaningfully participate in the referendum and thereafter.**

OHCHR contributed to the meaningful participation of vulnerable groups by raising awareness and strengthening the capacities of duty bearers in relation to human rights and inclusiveness.

The HRA held a consultative session with CSOs/HRDs in order to raise awareness about the protection and rights of HRDs, including through a review of the international legal framework, discuss the protection challenges faced by HRDs and explore protection strategies. The HRA facilitated the engagement of HRDs with Frontline Defenders, an INGO, which held a session on its work and protection options.

In addition, the HRA conducted four refresher training sessions on human rights monitoring for CSOs/HRDs in four locations (Arawa and Buka in Bougainville, Mendi in Southern Highlands and Port Moresby). The trainings were developed to increase their capacities to gather and share information, undertake reporting and improve their understanding of the evidence base to enhance advocacy. Based on the positive feedback received from participants, further training is planned for 2023.


**Development**

**D7 – The UNCT actively works with the Government and civil society to address the latest UPR recommendations issued in relation to PNG by ensuring their inclusion in the implementation of the UNDAF.**



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

The Working Group on Human Rights and Gender was re-established under the UNCT. The HRA and UN Women serve as co-Chairs. The Working Group will significantly improve the capacities of the UNCT to integrate human rights into the UNDAF and the UNSDCF.

Support was also provided for mainstreaming human rights into the preparation of the UNSDCF and the implementation of UNCT activities. For instance, the HRA provided inputs to the CCA update and the UNCT pre-meeting to identify the priorities of the multi-stakeholder strategic process and participated in preparing the joint UN input that was submitted to the Government in relation to Phase IV of its Medium-Term Development Plan.

In 2023, efforts will be undertaken to increase the capacities of the UNCT to incorporate human rights into its work, including while conducting the Call to Action for Human Rights Country-Level Dialogue.


**Peace and Security**

**PS5 – Human rights information and analyses are integrated into early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policymaking, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.**



OHCHR contributed to the integration into the work of humanitarian operations of international human rights norms, standards and principles, as well as the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

The HRA engaged with the Protection Cluster to support the mainstreaming of human rights into humanitarian action. This included participation in contingency planning exercises for all Clusters and regular participation in the Disaster Management Team and Protection Cluster. The HRA also reviewed and provided inputs on key documents, such as the revised Protection Cluster terms of reference (ToRs) and planned assessment tools.

The capacities of the UN and other actors to integrate human rights into prevention-related programming and joint UN analyses were enhanced through the establishment of the Electoral Violence Incident Tracking Platform and the HRA's production of biweekly situation reports, which were shared with the UNCT during the electoral period. The HRA played a crucial role in the development of the Platform, including in relation to incident classification and definition, human rights-related analyses and reporting. This increased the UNCT's awareness about prevention approaches and measures that may be available.

## The Papua New Guinea Human Rights Film Festival

The first Papua New Guinea Human Rights Film Festival was held in Port Moresby, in 2010, on the initiative of OHCHR. Since then, it has become a beloved annual event with screenings in various centres around PNG. The Festival aims to raise awareness about human rights issues among various audiences, including university students, detainees and local community members.

Due to the pandemic, the event was held virtually and on television for two years and in 2022, the thirteenth edition was re-launched as an in-person activity. OHCHR led its organization under the theme “Equal participation, equal representation for a better PNG,” with the support of UNDP, UNFPA, the European Union and the World Bank. A local artist was engaged for the poster design, representing unity in diversity, as provided in the Preamble of the Constitution of Papua New Guinea, and the importance of equality and human rights for all.

The Festival was held over three days in three secondary schools in the Southern Highlands Province, known for high rates of violence. On the first day, in Buyebi High School, approximately 100 Grade 9 students (15-17 years of age), including 40 girls, attended the event, along with women, men, girls and boys from the local community. On the second day, at Mongol Secondary School, in an area with many cases of sorcery accusation-related violence, close to 350 students from Grades 9 to 11 (15-18 years of age,) including 175 girls, attended the event. On the third day, nearly 200 students, including 109 girls,

from the Lalibu Secondary School participated in the Festival.

A series of short films were shown, which touched on the right to equality and non-discrimination, the right to health, the right to education and the right to work. During the post-film Q&A sessions, the students discussed gender equality, sorcery accusation-related violence, the rights and equality of persons living with HIV, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international human rights framework.

Key questions asked by the students included:

“How did human rights come about?”

“When did the UDHR come into effect?”

“What are some basic human rights?”

“How does HIV affect the rights of people?”

Following the Q&A sessions, t-shirts featuring the Festival artwork were awarded as prizes.

Kicking off on 18 November, the Festival coincided with the launch of the annual “20 days of human rights activism” campaign, which begins in PNG on World Children’s Day (20 November).



Participants at the Papua New Guinea Human Rights Film Festival in November 2022. ©OHCHR



Banner of the 2022 Papua New Guinea Human Rights Film Festival which took place from 15 to 18 November 2022. ©OHCHR

## PHILIPPINES

<b>Population size<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Surface area<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Human Development Index<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>NHRI (if applicable)<sup>3</sup></b>
115.56 million	300,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.699 (rank: 116/191 in 2021)	"A" Status (2017)
<b>Type of engagement</b>	Human Rights Adviser		
<b>Year established</b>	2014		
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Manila		
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development (2019-2023)		
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2022</b>	3		

### XB requirements 2022

**US\$1,936,000**

### Key OMP pillars in 2022



<sup>1,2,3</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

## PILLAR RESULTS:

### Participation

**P1 – Policies and procedures are adopted to protect HRDs and civic space, including through dialogue between rights holders and duty bearers.**

**16**

Through advocacy and support for relevant processes, OHCHR contributed to constructive engagement between rights holders and duty bearers.

After the new administration came into power, the Government expressed an openness to engaging with CSOs, including those that were considered to be critical of the Government. In the context of the implementation of the UN Joint Programme for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Philippines, OHCHR helped to organize forums to facilitate engagement between

the Government and civil society. Six technical working groups, which cover the human rights areas outlined in HRC resolution 45/33 and are composed of representatives from the Government, civil society and UN agencies, met regularly to discuss these issues. This work supported a momentum for cooperation that could be seen as a positive step towards policy reform. In addition, the UNJP, led by OHCHR, organized a three-day session on human rights, from November 21 to 23, for 65 government officials, civil society actors and UN representatives. This session was one of the first times in many years that civil society and government actors had come together to address human rights situations in sensitive areas.



## Mechanisms

**M1 – National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the international human rights mechanisms and the implementation of their recommendations.**

**16 | 17**

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

On 5 October, the NMRF participated in the Human Rights Council session on the Philippines and led the development of national reports in anticipation of their reviews by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (September), the Human Rights Committee (October) and the fourth UPR cycle. The HRA supported the NMRF by participating in mock sessions prior to reporting to the human rights treaty bodies. During the UPR session, the Government accepted 200 recommendations, representing a significant increase over the previous cycle. OHCHR rolled out its NRTD and focal points were appointed in different departments. The recommendations that were issued by the UPR, the Human Rights Committee and the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, following her official visit from 28 November to 8 December, will be included in the NRTD.



**M3 – The international community continues to engage through the HRC to support OHCHR’s work in the Philippines. The HRC effectively responds to developments on the ground.**

**5 16**

OHCHR promoted the engagement of the international community in relation to the human rights situation in the Philippines.

On 5 October, at the fifty-first session of the HRC, OHCHR organized an interactive panel on the situation of human rights in the Philippines and the implementation of HRC resolution 45/33. The panel speakers included the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, the RC, the Secretary of Justice and a representative of civil society (NoBox). In September, prior to the session, a report was published on the implementation of HRC resolution 45/33 (A/HRC/51/58). While Member States welcomed the progress achieved, they called for increased efforts to ensure accountability for extrajudicial killings and to guarantee civic space and freedom of expression.

The UNJP maintained a high profile in the country, including among development partners. In coordination with the RC, the HRA actively engaged with development partners, organizing four partner meetings and individual ad hoc meetings throughout the year. The HRA drafted two progress reports on the implementation of activities, which were shared with partners. The UNJP Steering Committee met twice, in September and December. The meetings were co-chaired by the RC and the Secretary of Justice and included the participation of the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Philippine National Police Human Rights Affairs Office, the Anti-Terrorism Council Program Management Center, the Philippine Drug

Enforcement Agency, the Presidential Human Rights Committee, as well as representatives of participating UN agencies and civil society.



## Development

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

OHCHR significantly contributed to the integration of human rights into joint programming documents and strategies, such as the Socio-economic and Peacebuilding Framework and the CCA.

The HRA convened meetings of the Leave No One Behind Thematic Working Group, an inter-agency forum that was established as part of the Socio-economic and Peacebuilding Framework 2020-2023. Ten agencies participated in quarterly meetings, agreed on the ToRs and contributed to the UNCT report to the UPR and the CCA analysis. In addition, the HRA led the CCA review process to mainstream human rights into the document, including by developing a policy note and facilitating consultation meetings among drafters and Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities and CSO networks. As a result, the CCA draft contains stronger human rights references than previous versions.



## Accountability

**A1 – Improved compliance of the security sector with international human rights norms and standards, in particular in relation to the right to life.**

**16**

OHCHR advocated for the increased compliance of the National Police with international human rights norms and standards.

The Philippines National Police took steps towards improving its human rights compliance. After the Government took office, there was a shift in the approach to drug control, with an increased emphasis on rehabilitation and health-based approaches. This impacted the way in which anti-drug operations were conducted. Despite an overall decrease in the number of killings by police, human rights and research institutions continued to report killings by police on an almost daily basis. Only a few cases were brought to justice. Nevertheless, as of the end of the year, more than 300 police officers were reportedly under criminal investigation in connection with killings or murder. Such efforts, though limited, reportedly serve as an important deterrence to unrestrained police violence. Through the UNJP, and in coordination with the Resident Coordinator, the HRA will continue to advocate for investigations in cases of human rights violations. Furthermore, the HRA engaged with the National Police through technical working groups. Following a postponement in 2022, trainings on the Minnesota Protocols for investigating potentially unlawful deaths will be conducted in 2023.

## A2 – Accountability mechanisms of the Department of Justice, the National Police and other relevant actors are strengthened.

10 16

Through regular engagement and the provision of technical assistance to the Government, OHCHR supported the functioning of accountability mechanisms in compliance with international human rights standards.

Accountability efforts were delayed before, during and after the electoral period. Towards the end of the year and after the new Government was in place, some government actors began reaching out to victims and witnesses, many of whom were afraid to report this intimidation to formal justice mechanisms due to a fear of retaliation. The Administrative Order No. 35 (AO35) mechanism, which is led by the Department of Justice, strengthened its engagement by increasing the number of case consultations and holding them in the locations where alleged violations occurred. This improved access to victims and witnesses. The HRA supported these efforts by engaging with all parties and leading monthly UNJP Technical Working Group meetings on accountability, which were co-chaired with the AO35 Chief.

### SAMOA

Population size <sup>1</sup>	Surface area <sup>1</sup>	Human Development Index <sup>2</sup>	NHRI (if applicable) <sup>3</sup>
0.22 million	3,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.707 (rank: 111/191 in 2021)	"A" Status (2021)
<b>Type of engagement</b>		Human Rights Adviser	
<b>Year established</b>		2022	
<b>Field office(s)</b>		Apia	
<b>UN partnership framework</b>		United Nations Pacific Strategy 2018-2022	
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2022</b>		1	

### XB requirements 2022

US\$165,000

### Key OMP pillars in 2022



<sup>1,2,3</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Participation

**P1 – Oversight and accountability mechanisms contribute to strengthening access to justice and widening civic space.**

10 16  

OHCHR sought to enhance the capacities of rights holders to allow them to claim and exercise their right to participate and to protect a safe and enabling environment.

In September, the HRA facilitated a session on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment at the Youth and Children's Human Rights Forum, organized by the National Human Rights Institution of Samoa and the Pacific Community. The Forum was established following an extraordinary session of CRC, held in Samoa in 2020, to provide a platform for youth and children to exercise their right to be heard and participate

in decision-making processes. The consultation enabled youth and children to better understand the impacts of environmental degradation and climate change on their rights and also provided a safe space for them to share feedback on a range of issues that affect them, including abuse and violence in their homes and schools, discrimination in schools on the basis of disabilities, sexual orientation, ethnic background and mental health issues. The final report developed by the youth and children will be used to inform the NHRI's annual "State of human rights" report, which will be submitted to the Parliament in June 2023.

## Non-discrimination

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

**10**

Through awareness-raising campaigns, OHCHR aimed to increase the visibility of human rights issues of concern among the wider population.

In anticipation of Human Rights Day (10 December), the HRA supported a group of youth to start their own media production company, through which they produced a video on the “voices of the people” in Samoa. The four-minute video features Samoans from all walks of life, explaining what human rights means to them, and was used to introduce a panel discussion on television, which was broadcast on 9 December. The RC and representatives from the National Human Rights Institution, the Samoa Blind Persons Association and the University of South Pacific discussed the legacy of the UDHR and topical human rights issues in Samoa. Both the video and the panel discussion were posted on social media websites, which contributed to raising awareness about human rights and groups that are at particular risk of discrimination and marginalization in Samoa.

## SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam
Year established	2002
Field office(s)	Bangkok, Thailand
Staff as of 31 December 2022	27

Total income	<b>US\$3,895,119</b>		
XB requirements 2022	<b>US\$8,320,000</b>		
Total XB expenditure	<b>US\$4,095,878</b>		
	Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC <sup>4</sup>
	<b>65%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>11%</b>
	\$2,674,626	\$970,839	\$450,413
Total RB expenditure	<b>US\$812,521</b>		
	Personnel	Non-personnel	
	<b>91%</b>	<b>9%</b>	
	\$736,624	\$75,897	

### Key OMP pillars in 2022



<sup>4</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

## PILLAR RESULTS:

### Participation

**P1 – In Malaysia, legislation that curtails the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association is amended or repealed and complies with international standards.**

**16**

By providing technical guidance, OHCHR supported the integration of human rights standards into national legislation and policies.

OHCHR engaged with the Government of Malaysia through the UPR follow-up process and offered technical guidance on specific UPR recommendations related to legislative amendments. The Office collaborated with UNDP, SUHAKAM and UN agencies on drafting the National Action Plan (NAP) on Business and Human Rights, with a focus on strengthening the participation of rights holders and other stakeholders in the discussion. In October, OHCHR worked closely with SUHAKAM to organize two consultations on a national baseline assessment for the Action Plan in the states of Sabah and Sarawak, respectively. The consultations, co-hosted by the Collective of Applied Law of Legal Realism

and the Legal Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's Department, provided a platform for a multi-stakeholder dialogue on business-related human rights impacts, gaps and challenges in the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). As a result, priorities and concrete actions were identified, with a focus on labour, environmental and governance issues, for inclusion in the Action Plan. At least 40 participants attended the consultations, including representatives from Indigenous communities, organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), HRDs and academic experts. The Action Plan is expected to be launched by 2023.

In **Thailand**, OHCHR and the UNCT submitted comments and recommendations on the draft second NAP on Business and Human Rights, including on environmental and climate change-related issues, as well as the protection of environmental HRDs. The Ministry of Justice is finalizing the second NAP, which is expected to be launched in mid-2023. Moreover, the Office successfully advocated with the Ministry of Justice regarding the draft non-profit organization bill, which was put on hold following strong criticism from civil society, the UN and development partners.



## Participation

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



OHCHR supported the meaningful participation of rights holders in selected public processes by delivering technical advice and capacity-building activities.

In **Lao PDR**, OHCHR provided mentoring and coaching to CSOs on documenting and reporting human rights violations to the international human rights mechanisms. Furthermore, the Office partnered with UNDP to build the capacity of 11 OPDs to engage with CRPD. This resulted in the submission of an alternative report to the Committee, the first report to be submitted by CSOs in Lao PDR, ahead of its review of the Government's initial report, in August. The Committee's concluding observations include issues raised by the OPDs in the alternative report. In addition, OHCHR worked alongside the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) to increase the awareness of Indigenous communities about human rights, how to engage with the international human rights mechanisms and report to the human rights treaty bodies and the special procedures, undertake advocacy and build networks. To date, UNPO has delivered 12 training sessions.

In **Viet Nam**, OHCHR monitored and documented human rights violations and shared relevant information with the international human rights mechanisms. The Office mentored several Vietnamese CSOs on documenting violations of civil and political rights and engaging with the international human rights mechanisms. It also assisted CSOs to submit reports to CRC in anticipation of the review of Viet Nam, in September, on violations of the rights of the child, especially regarding the children of ethnic minorities. Issues raised by CSOs were included in the CRC concluding observations. In addition, OHCHR cooperated with UNDP to support a network of OPDs to prepare for the CRPD's Pre-sessional Working Group. The OPDs updated their previous submission and included suggestions for the list of issues, some of which were included in

the Committee's list of issues that were sent to the Government.

OHCHR cooperated with women journalists from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand to enhance their knowledge about human rights, trends in threats that women journalists face in the region and protection mechanisms that are available to them. It also built their capacities to navigate challenging safety and security issues, including digital security and mental well-being. To this end, OHCHR worked closely with UN Women and UNESCO, as well as a range of other partner organizations, to establish and support a community of practice of women journalists, through which they shared their knowledge and experiences and promoted new learning opportunities, including during live sessions and in-person workshops. Through this sustained engagement, the women journalists gained access to the latest updates and information, found a safe space to express their concerns and developed a safety network that could be contacted when needed.



## Development

**D3 – In Indonesia, NHRIs and civil society are better equipped to advocate with the Government for amendments to national legislation, policies and human rights-based strategies on land rights and forced evictions.**



OHCHR facilitated the increased capacities of rights holders to claim their rights through training and information-sharing.

The Office supported CSOs and HRDs in **Indonesia** to strengthen their capacities

to engage with the international human rights mechanisms, including by monitoring, documenting and reporting on human rights issues and concerns linked to the environment, climate change, land, business and human rights issues, in close cooperation with partner organizations and NHRIs. This led to the inclusion of these issues in submissions from CSOs, the NHRI and the UNCT to the UPR and in recommendations made to Member States, which called for the recognition and protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples to their customary lands and resources, including through the establishment of appropriate mechanisms.

**D5 – Increased compliance of legislation and policies on the environment, climate change, the extractive industries and urban planning with international human rights standards and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Enhanced support is provided to national institutions and civil society to ensure the participation of rights holders in decision-making processes related to the environment and climate change and to promote advocacy and their engagement with duty bearers and the private sector on these issues.**



OHCHR supported the participation of environmental HRDs in discussions and decision-making processes related to the environment and climate change.

OHCHR collaborated with UNEP, UNICEF and UNDP to organize the first Asia Regional Dialogue on Climate Justice for Children, Youth and Future Generations, from 28 to 30 May. Over 1,100 children and youth from 61 countries across the Asia region participated

virtually to present their perspectives, ideas and concerns about climate justice for children and youth in the region. They also shared good practices and experiences in negotiations and decision-making processes at the regional and global level, participated in an orientation on risk assessment for youth advocates and learned about the work of CRC as it prepares General Comment No. 26 on children's rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change. The Dialogue was an associated event under the Stockholm +50 international meeting, hosted by Sweden from 2 to 3 June.

The Office organized the Second Asia-Pacific Environmental Human Rights Defenders Forum, which showcased good practices, shed light on systemic issues that require solutions and supported peer learning and the sharing of tools and resources. A total of 107 participants attended in person, in Bangkok, and 100 participants attended online. At least 20 countries from the region were represented. Following the Forum, OHCHR supported the participation of environmental HRDs at COP27 and the UN Global Forum on Business and Human Rights to present key recommendations. OHCHR also supported the development of the [Environmental Human Rights Defenders Toolkit](#), led by the Asia Pacific Network of Environmental Defenders.

**D7 – UNCTs and agencies in priority UN common country planning processes (UNDAF roll-out countries) and priority countries involved in supporting separate SDG planning/programming, incorporate an HRBA into their joint UN development programme planning and ongoing implementation, with a focus on universality and alignment with international human rights norms, standards and principles.**

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

OHCHR continued to use the development of CCAs and UNSDCF's as an entry point for strengthening the UNCT's implementation of an HRBA in relation to development. As the Secretariat and co-Chair of the Issue-based Coalition (IBC) on Human Rights and Gender Equality, OHCHR collaborated with UN Women and UNFPA to provide technical advice and HRBA training to 16 UNCTs in the region. As part of the regional inter-agency Peer Support Group, OHCHR contributed to the reviews of seven CCAs and UNSDCF's and submitted inputs on the integration of human rights, gender equality and the LNOB principle.

In Lao PDR, OHCHR held a prominent role in the new structures set up to implement the UNSDCF and co-led the Programme Oversight Group (POG) with WFP. The POG is responsible for monitoring the efficiency and effectiveness of UNCT programmes and policies to ensure that human rights and the LNOB and other principles are mainstreamed throughout the implementation phase.

OHCHR co-chaired three POG meetings, during which members approved the workplan and reporting timelines.

In Viet Nam, OHCHR co-chaired the Human Rights Theme Group and is a member of the UNSDCF's Result Group 4 on Governance and Access to Justice, through which it advocated for the mainstreaming of human rights at the outcome and output levels. As a result, the UNSDCF now includes three human rights specific outcome-level indicators. Nevertheless, despite OHCHR's extensive support to the UNCT in developing the UNSDCF and its commitment to actively participate in its implementation, the Government did not allow OHCHR and other non-resident agencies to sign the UNSDCF.

## Peace and Security

**PS5 – UN country policies and programmes, including CCAs and UNSDCFs, successfully integrate international human rights norms, standards and principles, including recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.**

3 5 8 10 13 16 17 

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

OHCHR supported the roll-out of the Call to Action on Human Rights by co-organizing Country Dialogues in Lao PDR and Thailand. The Country Dialogue in Lao PDR was organized into two separate sessions. The first session, held on 19 May, was attended by 33 staff members

from different agencies and discussed the human rights situation in the country and identified primary risks and opportunities based on a background analysis. The second session took place on 7 July and was attended by 34 UNCT members. It aimed to facilitate an agreement among UN agencies on risk drivers and factors that are critical to realizing people's rights. It also focused on identifying risk mitigating actions that can be undertaken by the UNCT and highlighted the UNCT's capacities to do so. The Country Dialogue in Lao PDR is being showcased as a good practice within the UN system.

In Thailand, OHCHR co-facilitated an analysis session, on 22 September, which was attended by 30 UNCT members. The goals of the session were to establish a shared understanding of the key human rights challenges, risks and opportunities and to identify priority actions that the UNCT could collectively take forward to protect and strategically advance human rights in Thailand. The dialogue led to the identification of key human rights focus areas and the development of a coordinated approach to UNCT advocacy on identified human right challenges.

The Emergency Response Team (ERT) supported the inclusion of human rights risk analyses in the CCAs of countries in the region. This opened up opportunities to strengthen the UN's work on early warning and risk analysis. Over the past three years, the ERT integrated inputs into the risk analysis sections in CCAs through a combination of trainings, workshops and written analytical inputs. In 2022, the ERT provided inputs to the draft CCAs of Afghanistan, Cambodia, India, Nepal and Papua New Guinea.

## Mechanisms

**M1 – National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the international human rights mechanisms and the implementation of their recommendations.**

16 17

OHCHR supported the establishment and functioning of the NMRF.

In Lao PDR, OHCHR worked with the RCO to support the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to finalize the UPR Plan of Action for the implementation of recommendations accepted by Lao PDR. OHCHR provided guidance to the Ministry and inputs to the draft, participated in public consultations and translated the final version into English. The Office of the Prime Minister endorsed the UPR Plan of Action, in June.

## Accountability

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

16

OHCHR advocated for the increased compliance of national legislation and policies with international human rights standards.

On 25 October, the Government of Thailand enacted the Act on Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance. OHCHR provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice, the custodian of the Act. The Act includes provisions that need to be amended to ensure its full compliance with international human rights standards, however,

its promulgation will help the Government to fulfil its commitment to zero tolerance for torture and enforced disappearances and to ensure access to justice for the victims of torture and enforced disappearances. The Act also provides victims of torture and of involuntary and enforced disappearances and their families with the necessary framework to seek legal redress and hold accountable the perpetrators of such crimes.

### Non-discrimination

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



OHCHR contributed to ensuring international human rights norms and standards on migration and people on the move are integrated into legislation/policies by producing high-quality knowledge products and enhancing the capacities of governments, national and regional CSOs and other stakeholders to protect and advocate for the human rights of migrants in vulnerable situations.

Following its launch at the first International Migration Review Forum

(IMRF), in May, the Office disseminated a regional report on *Pathways to migrant protection: A mapping of national practice on admission and stay on human rights and humanitarian grounds in 17 countries in Asia and the Pacific*, through a virtual consultation with 88 attendees from 15 countries in the region. The mapping has been referenced in reports of human rights mechanisms and the work of civil society actors in the region.

As the co-lead of the Workstream on Alternatives to Detention (ATDs) of the Regional UN Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific, the Office published, in October, a report on *Mapping of immigration detention and alternatives to detention in the Asia-Pacific Region*. This was followed by a hybrid launch at a workshop that was attended by 17 representatives (nine women, eight men) from leading CSOs on building advocacy strategies to end immigration detention and promote human rights-based alternatives in the region.

In **Thailand**, the Office increased the understanding of international human rights standards related to international borders among 75 frontline immigration officers, the police and other relevant government departments through two trainings co-organized with IOM. A trainers guide was prepared to accompany these capacity-building efforts and was translated into Thai and other regional languages.

**SRI LANKA**

Population size <sup>1</sup>	Surface area <sup>1</sup>	Human Development Index <sup>2</sup>	NHRI (if applicable) <sup>3</sup>
21.83 million	66,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.782 (rank: 73/191 in 2021)	"B" Status (2022)
<b>Type of engagement</b>	Human Rights Adviser		
<b>Year established</b>	2004		
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Colombo		
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Framework 2018-2022		
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2022</b>	4		

**XB requirements 2022** **US\$614,000**

Key OMP pillars in 2022



<sup>1 2 3</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

**PILLAR RESULTS:**
 **Development**

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

**1 11**

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

OHCHR continued to monitor land issues in recognition of their potential to trigger conflicts. Land issues were reflected in the reports of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the HRC and in the UNCT's early warning and prevention tools. Local partners were

supported in monitoring land conflicts at the district level, particularly in the districts of Mannar and Batticaloa, where disputes have arisen.

The CCA and the UNSDCF were finalized. OHCHR participated in their development and two outputs relating to human rights/social cohesion and governance/access to justice were integrated into the UNSDCF.

 **Peace and Security**

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

**16** 

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

With assistance from UN Human Rights, the UNCT consistently applied the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces in all activities involving the security forces or entities with security components (i.e., civilian bodies operating under the Ministry of Defence or directed by acting/former military personnel). Support was also provided to the HRCSL in screening candidates for peacekeeping operations.



**TIMOR-LESTE**

Population size <sup>1</sup>	Surface area <sup>1</sup>	Human Development Index <sup>2</sup>	NHRI (if applicable) <sup>3</sup>
1.34 million	15,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.607 (rank: 140/191 in 2021)	"A" Status (2018)
<b>Type of engagement</b>		Human Rights Adviser	
<b>Year established</b>		2013	
<b>Field office(s)</b>		Dili	
<b>UN partnership framework</b>		United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2021-2025	
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2022</b>		4	

**XB requirements 2022** **US\$545,000**

**Key OMP pillars in 2022**



<sup>1,2,3</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

**PILLAR RESULTS:**

### **Accountability**

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

**16** 

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

OHCHR maintained its long-standing human rights training programme for members of the security forces, in partnership with the NHRI (the Provedoria dos Direitos Humanos e Justiça (PDHJ)), the police training centre, the Minister of Defence and the Armed Forces of Timor-Leste (F-FDTL).

Trainings were delivered in Baucau, Bobonaro, Covalima and Dili for 187 security forces members, including 21 women. The trainings covered human rights principles, with an emphasis on those related to the use of force, freedom from torture and ill-treatment, human rights in detention, the role of the police and the army during states of emergency and ways to better protect the rights of vulnerable groups. OHCHR organized an end-of-year meeting with the programme partners to reflect on the impact of the training, discuss challenges and explore how to increase the effectiveness of the training. Partners positively assessed the impact of the training and expressed interest in continuing the programme. Complaints of excessive use of force by the police represent the majority of complaints received by the PDHJ,

however, it confirmed that none of the participants of the programme were identified as perpetrators of the received complaints.

**A2 – Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including ESCRs.**

**10** **16** 

OHCHR contributed to building the capacities of judicial actors to increase their knowledge and apply human rights standards in legal proceedings.

In response to a request from the NHRI/PDHJ, OHCHR trained 40 participants from the PDHJ and CSOs on monitoring human rights in the context of elections. The two-day trainings were undertaken twice in February and covered early warning and prevention, emerging challenges related to technology, the role of the media and the participation of rights holders, such as women and persons with disabilities. Representatives of national electoral authorities and the police were invited to share with participants how their institutions were preparing for the electoral process, the relevant legal framework and complaint mechanisms that enable the PDHJ and CSOs to support voters and victims of alleged violations of their right to participate in political and public life. After receiving positive feedback from participants and a request from PDHJ for training on specific human rights issues, OHCHR will organize additional trainings in 2023.

Further, the Directorate of Legislation of the Ministry of Justice requested

that OHCHR provide training to its staff on international human rights law and its applicability in Timor-Leste. Training materials were prepared and are being translated for trainings that are scheduled for 2023.

## Participation

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



OHCHR contributed to enhancing the meaningful participation of rights holders, especially women and discriminated groups, in selected public processes by providing technical expertise, funding and support for advocacy campaigns.

OHCHR held three quarterly meetings with CSOs and the PDHJ, which were also attended by relevant ministries. The meetings focused on human rights issues of concern in the country, including: the outcome of the UPR process; the integration of human rights concerns into the census, for instance, through accounting for persons with disabilities and aiming to ensure they are not negatively impacted by budgetary allocations and other government actions); and the right to social protection, the development of the Timorese social protection system and the implementation of the national strategy on social protection.

The Human Rights Defenders' Network (HRDN), which was established in 2015 with a grant from OHCHR and is now composed of 11 NGOs, conducted joint public advocacy that focused on addressing impunity and called for

improved respect for human rights. OHCHR supported the Network by sharing guidance on addressing human rights issues, developing strategies and undertaking analysis.

## Non-discrimination

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



OHCHR contributed to laws, policies and practices that more effectively combat all forms of discrimination and responsible authorities actively worked to Leave No One Behind, including by tackling the root causes of inequality.

OHCHR advocated for and promoted the rights of person with disabilities. More specifically, it reinforced the calls of OPDs for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which was one the recommendations issued during Timor-Leste's third UPR cycle. Following extensive advocacy by OHCHR and CSOs, the Government approved a draft resolution, on 4 May, for the country to become a State Party to CRPD and its Optional Protocol. The resolution was subsequently approved by the Parliament and the President of the Republic promulgated the resolution in the Official Gazette. The Government has not yet deposited the instrument of ratification with the Secretary-General. OHCHR is supporting the process by providing technical advice to the Office of the President, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant actors.

Timor-Leste conducted the 2022 Housing and Population Census during the last quarter of the year. During preparations, OHCHR and UNFPA advocated for the use of methodologies, such as the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability, to collect more accurate and disaggregated data. In particular, emphasis was placed on collecting information on persons with disabilities, including the total number and types of disabilities. As a result, the census questionnaire included the Washington Group Questions.

**ND7 – The public supports the application of an HRBA to disability and opposes discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.**



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

On the occasion of the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (17 May), OHCHR launched the report, *Discrimination and access to education of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer persons in Timor-Leste*. The report outlines concrete recommendations to ensure that educational institutions are more inclusive and respect the rights and needs of LGBTI students by developing measures to prohibit, prevent and punish bullying and discriminatory harassment at schools

and universities. The event was opened by the RC and the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports. The Minister acknowledged that the National Inclusive Education Policy does not include LGBTI students and committed to addressing this gap, while highlighting the need for teachers and school staff to receive training. The Director General of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Culture (MHEYS) expressed support for initiatives that will increase awareness about the issue at universities. In October, OHCHR organized a one-day workshop on “Inclusive schools: Raising awareness on the rights of LGBTI students,” for representatives/managers of universities and institutes operating under the MHEYS. The workshop was undertaken in partnership with NGOs and covered the international and national legal framework and the role of educational institutions and their staff in promoting an inclusive environment for LGBTI students and preventing bullying and harassment. Participants welcomed the workshop and requested the support of OHCHR in developing advocacy initiatives in their respective institutions, which will be undertaken in 2023.



## Mechanisms

**M1 – Reports to the international human rights mechanisms are submitted in accordance with guidelines and include adequate information.**

17


OHCHR provided support to State institutions to ensure that the reports that are submitted to the international human rights mechanisms substantially or fully conform to reporting guidelines and allow for a meaningful review.

On 27 January, Timor-Leste’s human rights record was examined by the UPR Working Group during its fortieth session. OHCHR provided support to various stakeholders in the submission of reports and participation in the different phases of the process. Timor-Leste confirmed the acceptance of 186 recommendations and took note of eight recommendations. OHCHR translated into Tetum the outcome document and the recommendations and developed a shortened, thematically organized version, all of which were widely shared with stakeholders online and during bilateral meetings. OHCHR also cooperated with the National Directorate for Human Rights and Citizenship of the Ministry of Justice to organize three meetings to follow up on the recommendations issued in relation to Timor-Leste by the international human rights mechanisms since the country restored its independence in 2002 and ratified most of the human rights treaties. The meetings focused on: the rights of persons with disabilities (in partnership with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion); the rights of

LGBTI persons; and the rights of children (in partnership with UNICEF). Participants discussed achievements and priority areas related to the implementation of recommendations. Concrete suggestions were put forward and communicated to relevant State institutions. Sessions are being planned for 2023 that will focus on other thematic issues.

Timor-Leste has several overdue reports relating to the international human rights treaties and there is no national process in place to systematically follow up on the implementation of issued recommendations. OHCHR met with the Minister of Justice and reached an agreement to organize formal discussions with other State entities for the establishment of an NMRF. OHCHR will continue its advocacy in 2023.

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

17 

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

Following Timor-Leste’s third UPR cycle, in January, OHCHR organized a meeting with the NHRI, the PDHJ and CSOs to discuss the interactive dialogue, the outcome of the review and follow-up actions. OHCHR also

included the NHRI and CSOs in three meetings that were co-organized with the National Directorate for Human Rights and Citizenship of the Ministry of Justice in order to follow up on the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. The NHRI and CSOs presented their assessments on the status of implementation of the recommendations, which were based on their monitoring and advocacy activities. They also participated in group discussions that identified priority areas in need of implementation. Additional thematic meetings are planned for 2023.