

Development (D)

Advancing sustainable development through human rights



2030 AGENDA



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Data analysis on **4** SDG indicators (under OHCHR custodianship, was included in various reports, reached 98 million users and was downloaded more than 60,000 times)

Over **2,000** people trained from **79** countries (54% women, 21 trainings on human rights and SDG indicators, including on development programming, and a human rights-based approach to data)



High-level Political Forum

20 Voluntary National Review (VNR) processes supported

(with guidance integrating human rights data and analysis)



Right to development and SDGs

Over **200** persons completed a UN Human Rights e-course (from 103 countries)

HUMAN RIGHTS INTEGRATION



United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF)

50 Common Country Analysis/UNSDCF processes supported (integration of human rights analysis and recommendations)



In the field, Human rights mainstreaming support to more than

5,000 partners (including Resident Coordinator's Offices/UNCTs, other UN partners, government counterparts)



Submissions for Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR) from

16 UN Country Teams (joint submissions)
57 UN entities

ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Climate change, environment, toxics and human rights

111 special procedures communications (sent and made publicly available)



Preventing business-related human rights abuses

Over **2,500** participants in the **11th Forum on Business and Human Rights** (from over 130 countries, with over 140 speakers in 27 sessions, addressing climate change, human rights defenders, access to remedy, State action, technology, gender and diversity and the role of investors)

Major Indigenous water rights victory in Oaxaca

The lush green fields of Oaxaca's Central Valleys mask signs of the 2005 drought that dried up riverbeds, caused the plants and trees to wither and drove much of the population away.

Historically, the area was populated by Indigenous Zapotec farmers, who were subject to abuse and discrimination. Through government concessions, they have used local water for decades to eke out subsistence from the land.

As water became scarcer and rainfall less reliable, the campesinos dug wells that use motors to draw water. Second pumps were soon required to retrieve the same amount of water. When the drought hit in 2005, water was in dangerously short supply.

The National Water Commission, Conagua, learned of the excess electricity being used for the second pumps and concluded the farmers were drawing more water than their meager allotted concessions. Many received bills that would take a lifetime to pay.

The situation was confused by a 1967 presidential decree that prohibited the extraction of water on their lands, despite the fact that much of the valley's water was being used by urban areas and by industry.

TIME TO ACT

“We kept looking for solutions, but the authorities didn't think we had any rights,” said Alejandro Ricardo Pérez Antón, a local farmer. Fed up, they created an association (Copuda) to defend the water rights of Indigenous communities.

They also appealed to experts and undertook water-related research with the support of Flor y Canto, a local Indigenous rights group, the Mexican Institute of Water Technology (IMTA) and the National Institute of Indigenous Peoples (INPI).

Armed with new knowledge, the farmers took Conagua to court to claim their traditional water rights, emphasizing that the Constitution guarantees the supremacy of international treaties where greater protection is provided. Reference was made to ILO Convention No. 169 and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The court ruled in their favour and their right to be consulted was upheld.

ENFORCING STANDARDS

Ensuring the recognition of Indigenous rights is an ongoing priority for the Office in Mexico. In its ruling, the court “concluded the earlier presidential decree was not valid and ordered authorities to undertake a consultation to determine water rights,” stated Jesus Peña, Deputy Representative of OHCHR-Mexico.

The Office participated in the consultation process as an international observer and provided the farmers with materials to advocate for their rights.

In 2021, Mexico's president issued a new decree that recognizes Indigenous water rights, secures their participation in future water decisions and provides the country's first collective water concessions.

Further, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation called on the Government to repeal the discriminatory legislation to ensure it can no longer be invoked.

LESSONS LEARNED

In addition to the court victory, the case demonstrated the organizational and resource management skills of the Zapotec communities and empowered many of its members.

“No one believed we could win against the Government. But joining together gives you strength,” said Pérez Antón.



Alejandro and OHCHR staff recall their court victory. © Consuelo Pagaza

Highlights of pillar results

Development (D)

UN Human Rights supports efforts to advance economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development. It helps to address human rights gaps in development and economic policies and

regulations. It takes steps to strengthen the accountability of duty bearers in the public and private sectors and the participation of rights holders, including those left furthest behind. The Office

promotes the achievement of rights-based SDGs and the overall integration of human rights into the work of the UN Development System.

PILLAR RESULTS / SHIFTS / SDGs

RESULTS / SPOTLIGHTS Disabilities Women Youth People of African descent

D1 – BUSINESS and human rights

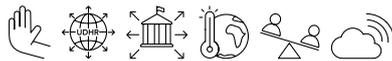
Judicial and non-judicial mechanisms hold business and other economic actors to account for rights abuses and provide remedies to victims.



In compliance with HRC resolution 47/25, OHCHR prepared a **report on the practical application of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs)** to the activities of technology companies. The report is the first of its kind to consider the intersection of technology, business and human rights, demonstrating the value and practical application of the UNGPs to ensure respect for human rights and to prevent, address and remedy the adverse impacts on human rights of technology companies. It also offers them guidance on how to conduct human rights due diligence across their activities and business relationships.

D2 – GUIDING PRINCIPLES on Business and Human Rights

Business actors implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights effectively.



OHCHR scaled up its **Business and Human Rights (BHR) Africa Programme** to advance the implementation of the UNGPs. For instance, in **Uganda**, OHCHR assisted the implementation of Uganda’s National Action Plan (NAP) on Business and Human Rights and in **Liberia**, support was provided for the development of the country’s NAP on Business and Human Rights. Also in Liberia, OHCHR convened a Technical Working Session, which was led by the National Steering Committee on Business and Human Rights and chaired and co-chaired by the Ministries of Justice and Labour, respectively. It was attended by CSOs and the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR), the country’s NHRI, and resulted in the finalization of a draft NAP on Business and Human Rights.

In **Panama**, progress was made on the implementation of the **National Policy of Public-Private Corporate Social Responsibility (PNRS)**, in compliance with international human rights standards. The Office promoted the establishment of a multi-stakeholder committee and five working groups to support the implementation of the PNRS. A pilot phase was implemented and a monitoring workshop was organized to review the initial progress reports and identify the needs and difficulties encountered. The PNRS is the first business and human rights public policy to be implemented in Central America.

In **Kenya**, the **NAP on Business and Human Rights** was formally adopted by the National Assembly during the first session of the thirteenth Parliament, on 27 October (as Policy Sessional Paper No. 3 of 2021). OHCHR partnered with the Attorney General's Office (AGO), the Department of Justice and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights to develop an implementation plan that focuses on the five thematic areas of the NAP to facilitate the engagement of various stakeholders.

As follow-up to a case between a rural community and La Colorada mining company, in **Mexico**, the Office facilitated the **access of the community to a space for dialogue and remedy**. This work was undertaken in cooperation with the company and the community by identifying actions needed to repair the human rights impacts of the company's mining activities. Both parties concluded a reparation agreement. All families that were still living within the confines of the mining operation camp were relocated to their new homes outside the camp and received reparations for the loss of their livelihood.

In October, OHCHR provided technical support and worked closely with the African Union (AU) and other partners to convene the **first African Business and Human Rights Forum**. The Forum was hosted by the Government of the Republic of Ghana, in Accra. The event created a regional multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue on business and human rights, offered an opportunity to assess progress made on the UNGPs and laid the groundwork for further collaboration and peer-learning sessions on business and human rights in Africa. During the Forum, the African Business and Human Rights Network was launched.

D3 – LAND and HOUSING laws/policies

State authorities adopt and implement laws, policies and strategies on land and housing that increasingly comply with human rights.



For the first time, an international human rights mechanism published a report (A/49/48) on **recommendations to address the issue of spatial segregation**. In the report, the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context urges States to refrain from segregationist policies, prohibit special segregation in law and reform urban planning through inclusive zoning. It also recommends abolishing the spatial segregation of asylum-seekers, refugees, migrants, persons with disabilities, older persons and persons experiencing homelessness in institutional settings through arrangements that enable them to live within their communities.

Through advocacy and technical assistance provided to the AGO in **Honduras**, OHCHR contributed to **preventing the execution of forced evictions** in different areas of the country, including Bajo Aguán, La Paz, Intibucá and Atlántida. Additionally, following OHCHR's technical assistance, inter-institutional mechanisms were established to prevent and comprehensively address conflicts related to land and territory. The Office is currently supporting the drafting of an inter-institutional protocol that will provide these mechanisms with an essential tool to address these conflicts through the application of a human rights-based approach (HRBA).

D4 – HEALTH POLICIES and human rights

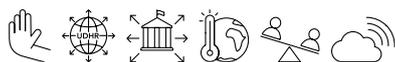
Public health approaches, including sexual and reproductive health policies, comply with international human rights standards and provide non-discriminatory access, especially to children, adolescents, women and migrants.



OHCHR joined the steering group of the Technical Advisory Group for the Measurement, Monitoring and Evaluation of the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing. As a result of OHCHR's engagement, WHO included questions on **the human rights of older persons** and a module on human rights in the Process Evaluation Survey of the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing, which was conducted in 194 countries.

D5 – ENVIRONMENT and CLIMATE policies

Environmental and climate policies and plans increasingly respect, protect and fulfil human rights, guaranteeing those affected with access to information, decision-making, public participation and remedies.



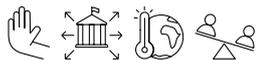
OHCHR worked closely with the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, UNEP and other UN partners, as well as States, CSOs, Indigenous Peoples and other relevant stakeholders, to advocate for the global recognition and advancement of the human right to a healthy environment. This contributed to the **adoption of General Assembly resolution 76/300, which recognizes that a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a human right**. In addition, the right to a healthy environment was integrated into the outcomes of “Stockholm+50,” the “Twenty-Seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change” and the “Fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.”

Together with UNEP, UNICEF and UNDP, UN Human Rights co-organized the **first Asia Regional Dialogue on Climate Justice for Children, Youth and Future Generations**, from 28 to 30 May. Children and youth from 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 regional and global levels, participated in an orientation on risk assessment for youth advocates and learned about the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to prepare General Comment No. 26 on children’s rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change.

OHCHR strengthened its partnerships and communications efforts with [Right Here, Right Now \(RHRN\)](#), the [Global Climate Alliance](#), the [“WikiforHumanRights” campaign on the right to a healthy environment](#), the UN inter-agency work under the Secretary-General’s Call to Action for Human Rights and the UN Issue Management Group on Human Rights and the Environment. The Office co-hosted the **“Right Here Right Now Global Climate Summit”** to advance rights-based climate action and supported the **“RHRN Cause Flash,”** with a social media voice of more than 420 million. The **“WikiforHumanRights” campaign** on the right to a healthy environment generated contributions to over 10,000 wiki articles in more than 35 languages, as well as 45 community events.

D6 – HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT assessment

Human rights assessments and impact analyses mitigate, prevent or redress the negative effects of economic, trade and development policies and projects.



OHCHR raised awareness on and advocated for the integration of human rights, including the right to development, into the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) processes and national implementation strategies. For instance, it organized a panel discussion on climate change and food security in Africa; a multi-stakeholder event on mainstreaming human rights into the implementation of the AfCFTA during the first African Business and Human Rights Forum, held in Ghana; and supported the organization of the Fifth Forum of the African Network of National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) in Gambia, dedicated to the inclusive and rights-based implementation of the AfCFTA. The Forums adopted resolutions on the integration of human rights into the AfCFTA, which were submitted to the African Commission on Human Rights and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR) and led to the **adoption by the ACHPR of a resolution on the application of an HRBA to the implementation of the AfCFTA**, on 7 March 2023. The ACHPR decided to promote the mainstreaming of human and peoples’ rights into the negotiations on and the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement, including in relation to national strategies that are adopted by AU member states, and urged African States to protect and promote greater policy coherence between their human rights obligations and the implementation of the AfCFTA.

OHCHR launched its **Remedy in development finance** publication and provided support for the implementation of its recommendations by various development finance institutions (DFIs) and their accountability mechanisms. OHCHR undertook advocacy to **integrate human rights into the operational policies** of the Asian Development Bank, the International Finance Corporation, the African Development Bank, the Green Climate Fund and the German Government's International Climate Initiative (IKI). The IKI's new safeguard policies incorporate most of OHCHR's recommendations and are an example of a good practice in this field.

D7 – HUMAN RIGHTS INTEGRATION in implementing the SDGs

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



OHCHR engaged with UNCTs in the **development or update of approximately 50 Common Country Analyses (CCAs) and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) to support the application of an HRBA** to these documents, including in Afghanistan, Angola, Brazil, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Chad, Chile, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, the Pacific, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam and Zambia. In **Venezuela**, OHCHR ensured that human rights were mainstreamed into the UNSDCF 2023-2026. More specifically, OHCHR's efforts led to the inclusion of persons deprived of their liberty as a priority group in the UNSDCF and the Leave No One Behind Strategy, thereby contributing to safeguarding their rights, reducing inequality and emphasizing the importance of protecting HRDs in UN operations in Venezuela.

In **Mozambique**, OHCHR delivered a series of briefings to the UNCT, the Programme Management Team and the Donor Coordination Platform on the UPR process and outcome of the third UPR cycle. As an outcome, the UNCT adopted the **UPR as a guiding framework** for UN planning and programming, with a view to implementing the UNSDCF 2022-2025. The UNCT also carried out a **mapping and analysis of recommendations** issued by the international human rights mechanisms (2018-2021) in relation to the UNSDCF outcomes, outputs and indicators to inform the development of joint action plans by results groups.

With support from OHCHR's Surge Initiative, the UNCT in **Jordan mainstreamed human rights into the National Nutrition Strategy 2023-2030** and a number of public and internal policy briefs on the right to food and energy prices.

In April, OHCHR and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) signed a **cooperation agreement on the Escazú Agreement**, the first environmental treaty of Latin America and the Caribbean, thereby reaffirming a commitment to support the full and effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement through the application of an HRBA.

D8 – DISAGGREGATED human rights DATA

National institutions, assisted by communities, systematically collect, disaggregate and use data relevant for advancing human rights when they monitor and implement the SDGs.



With the support of UN Human Rights, a **national methodology for developing and contextualizing indicators from the perspective of human rights** was developed in the **Republic of Moldova**. The national methodology was developed to ensure the data collection process in the area of official statistics was based on a strong human rights foundation and that official statistical indicators can be used for human rights analysis and implementation. The methodology is also intended to be used as a reference point for the coordinated implementation of and follow-up on recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. The methodology was validated at a workshop with the participation of more than 25 representatives of public authorities and institutions. The indicators developed in the workshop will be finalized and piloted to collect data relevant to the right to health.

 In October, the Central Bureau of Statistics of **Sudan** granted OHCHR membership in the Technical Committee of the **Multidimensional Poverty Index Survey**. OHCHR participated in its meetings and offered technical support to advocate for the application of an HRBA to data and the inclusion of indicators on ESCRs in the Survey. The Committee agreed to incorporate a number of OHCHR-suggested indicators, including in relation to education, a standard of living and health. Notably, the Committee unanimously agreed with OHCHR's suggestion to include the Washington Group Questions on Disability, allowing officials to estimate the number of persons with disabilities in Sudan, their overall poverty level and the extent to which they enjoy or are deprived of their rights to education, a standard of living and health. The latest available statistics on disability in Sudan were generated following the 2008 census.

People share priorities in first review of Guinea-Bissau's Sustainable Development Goals

Sambu, now 43, attended school until the fifth grade and was married according to the customs of her Mansoancas ethnic group. She currently has her own small business, making clothes to support her family, but she wants to make it clear that schooling matters.

“The best thing in the world is to have health to grow well, then enroll in school and finish your education,” she said.

Sambu's story was gathered during a wide-ranging consultative review of Guinea-Bissau's progress on the SDGs. For the first time since their 2015 adoption, Guinea-Bissau undertook a review of its efforts to achieve them.

To do so, the country enlisted the support of the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) and UN Human Rights through its Surge Initiative. The Surge Initiative accelerates the realization of economic and social rights by helping to create conditions to rebuild economies, with people at the centre, and reduce inequalities.

A GROUNDBREAKING, INCLUSIVE AND PARTICIPATORY SDGS REVIEW PROCESS

Ranking 177 out of 189 countries on the 2021 Human Development Index, Guinea-Bissau is one of the world's Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Of its 1.8 million inhabitants, 60 per cent are estimated to be younger than 25 years of age and more than half are women. Over 70 per cent of the population lives below the



Local official explains the SDGs, in Creole, during a consultation. © NL da Luz

poverty line and in rural areas, resulting in significant inequalities. Data indicates that the wealthiest 10 per cent of the population earns 42 per cent of the national income.

Over the course of a month, a team composed of UN agencies, the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Integration and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized consultations in all nine regions of Guinea-Bissau. The consultations facilitated a dialogue between local and national government representatives and citizens from across the country, including professional associations, traditional and religious leaders and representatives of those who are at risk of being left behind, such as women, children, persons with disabilities and those living in remote areas.

More than 300 people participated in the consultations and expressed their

concerns and visions for the development of Guinea-Bissau. Through the consultations, officials assessed the degree of implementation of some of the SDGs and those of greater concern, such as access to clean water, health services and education and combating inequality and poverty.

The consultations also raised awareness about the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including its links to human rights. To that end, the SDGs were translated into Guinea-Bissau creole (Kiriol) and widely distributed.

“The Voluntary National Review (VNR) is a process that should involve all stakeholders,” said Elisabeth da Costa, Senior Human Rights Adviser, who helped lead the Surge Initiative team on the project. “Thanks to the Surge Initiative, we supported the Government in ensuring an open, participatory and inclusive VNR. The voices of representatives of those most left behind were heard.”



Elisabeth da Costa, Senior Human Rights Adviser, listens during a consultation. © NL da Luz