

Funds Administered By UN Human Rights

Voluntary contributions in support of UN Human Rights are channelled and managed through nine trust funds and three special funds that are not trust funds as defined by the UN Financial Regulations and Rules.

Additional financial information related to these funds can be found in the extrabudgetary income and expenditure report for 2022 (on pages 126).

UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

In 1993, the United Nations Trust Fund for the Support of the Activities of the High Commissioner for Human Rights was established by the Secretary-General to supplement regular budgetary resources as a general funding pool. It is the largest fund administered by UN Human Rights, through which 79.9 per cent of all extrabudgetary funds, including unearmarked funds, were managed in 2022. Detailed information on the implemented activities and the voluntary contributions managed through the Trust Fund is shared in this report.

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY FUND FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights (VFTC) was established by the Secretary-General in 1987. It is the second largest fund administered by UN Human Rights. When requested by governments, the VFTC provides financial support for technical cooperation aimed at building a strong human rights framework, including effective national and regional institutions.

Since 1993, a Board of Trustees, which is appointed by the Secretary-General, has provided administrative and operational guidance. In recent years, its role has evolved to include the provision of advice on policy orientation, strategies on technical cooperation at a broader programme level and a global vision of the work of the Fund. In 2013, the Secretary-General entrusted the Board to also serve as a Board of Trustees for the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review. In 2022, the Board was composed of: Ms. Azita Berar Awad (Iran) (Chair); Mr. Santiago Corcuera-Cabezut (Mexico); Ms. Noziphó January-Bardill

(South Africa); Mr. Morten Kjaerum (Denmark); and Ms. Valeriya Lutkovska (Ukraine).

As of 31 December, the Fund had received a total of US\$21,388,454 in contributions, which added to the outstanding balance from 2021. Contributions in 2022 were slightly lower than in previous years and less than expected due to a funding shortfall of the MPTF. Over the years, the reserves had built up to ensure greater stability of the programmes that the Board wished to support and a more ambitious budget had been prepared. In 2022, the total expenditure of the Fund amounted to US\$25,079,879. In response to an expected shortfall in contributions, the expenditure rate was lowered. As of 31 December, the negative balance between contributions and expenditures was US\$3,691,425. This enabled the Office to secure an adequate level of reserves to ensure the continuity of its work in 2023 with a Fund balance that amounted to US\$20,362,071. The Board of Trustees expressed concern at the shortfall in contributions from Member States in their support for the deployment of human rights advisers (HRAs) under the UNSDG Strategy.

In 2022, the Fund provided resources for technical cooperation programmes designed to build strong human rights

frameworks at the national level in 69 regions, countries and territories (from 64 in 2021), through 53 HRAs and human rights mainstreaming projects in Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar (based in Bangkok), Nepal, Nigeria, the Republic of North Macedonia, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Samoa, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Caucasus (Georgia), Sri Lanka, Suriname, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Zambia and Zimbabwe; seven human rights components of peace missions in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Haiti, Iraq, Libya, Mali and Somalia; and six country offices in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania, Mexico, Niger and the State of Palestine.³

The Fund enabled the expansion of in-country human rights expertise through the joint UNSDG framework for the deployment of HRAs and by responding to increased demands for UN Human Rights to have an in-country presence. It also allowed allocations that supported its work on inequality and expanded assistance to the Country Offices in Burkina Faso and Niger.

With the support of the Fund, UN Human Rights facilitated national efforts to incorporate international human rights standards into national laws, policies and practices, with a particular emphasis on the human rights dimensions of the global health crisis and the provision of support for policies and practices aimed at addressing inequalities. In addition, UN Human Rights stressed the importance of supporting the implementation of and follow-up to the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms and the development of online mechanisms to supplement these efforts.

In light of the multiple impacts of the pandemic and the Ukraine crisis on progress made in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UN Human Rights enhanced its technical cooperation and advisory services to support the efforts of Member States to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Fund enabled UN Human Rights to provide ongoing support across all regions in the establishment and strengthening of national structures, institutions and capacities and to ensure their adherence to international human rights standards. Furthermore, UN Human Rights focused on supporting activities to strengthen the administration of justice, with an emphasis on increasing access for individuals and groups facing discrimination and exclusion, as well as delivering capacity-building initiatives to combat inequality and promote gender equality and women's rights.

In Chad, UN Human Rights provided technical advice during the drafting of a law for the protection of human rights defenders (HRDs), with a view to establishing a National Observatory of Gender Equality and Equity. It also published a report on the right to food that was based

on a study of the conflict between farmers and herders.

In Jordan, the HRA integrated recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms into the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027. Moreover, it mainstreamed human rights into the National Nutrition Strategy 2023-2030 and policy briefs about the right to food, electricity tariffs and revenue collection. The UNCT was assisted by the Office in publishing several papers to support Jordan's engagement with the mechanisms of UN Human Rights, ILO and UNESCO.

In Mongolia, the VFTC funded a study on the right to housing of persons with disabilities. The findings will support the implementation of the new UNSDCF.

³ All references to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with General Assembly resolution 67/19.

UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Voluntary contributions in 2022

DONOR	US\$	EARMARKING
Finland	2,439,024	VFTC
India	200,000	VFTC
Philippines	50,000	VFTC
Republic of Korea	620,000	VFTC
United States of America	1,150,000	VFTC
(a) Total contributions earmarked to VFTC	4,459,024	
Australia	537,273	Activities in the Asia-Pacific region (allocated to Bangladesh, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Timor-Leste)
	358,680	The Philippines (UN Joint Programme)
Austria	2,665,245	Deployment of Human Rights Advisers
	30,120	Human Rights Adviser Bosnia and Herzegovina
	40,161	Burkina Faso
France	140,562	Chad
	100,402	Niger
	100,402	Mauritania
	152,007	Bosnia and Herzegovina
	517,063	Deployment of Human Rights Advisers
Germany	103,413	Mauritania
	127,710	Republic of Moldova
	219,058	The Philippines (UN Joint Programme)
IOM	27,730	Haiti (response to the needs of vulnerable Haitian migrants and displaced persons)
Ireland	102,881	Deployment of Human Rights Advisers
	95,331	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
Luxembourg	775,595	Rwanda
Malta	14,535	Libya

	417,711	Haiti
	185,649	OHCHR's work in the Sahel region (allocated to Burkina Faso)
Norway	464,123	OHCHR's work in the Sahel region (allocated to Chad)
	278,474	OHCHR's work in the Sahel region (allocated to Mauritania)
	232,062	OHCHR's work in the Sahel region (allocated to Niger)
	417,711	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
Norwegian Refugee Council	288,574	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
Saudi Arabia	200,000	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
	51,706	Equatorial Guinea
	51,706	Niger
Spain	470,527	Technical cooperation for geographic priorities (including Afghanistan, State of Palestine*, Sahel)
	103,413	Technical cooperation in Small Island Developing States
Sweden	2,740,227	Burkina Faso
	540,541	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
Switzerland	150,000	Rwanda
	3,200,000	Deployment of Human Rights Advisers
UNDP	535,433	Kenya (sustainable transformation project)
	217,000	Kenya (counter hate speech and incitement ahead of 2022 elections)
UNESCO	79,849	Mozambique (human rights of persons with albinism)
UNFPA	51,531	Mexico (implementation of the Extraordinary Forensic Identification Mechanism)
UN Women	145,027	Kenya (addressing Violence against Women by Strengthening Access to Justice - Phase III)
(b) Total contributions earmarked to specific projects	16,929,430	
Unearmarked funds allocated to VFTC		Unearmarked
(c) Total unearmarked funds	0	
Total (a) + (b) + (c)	21,388,454	
Expenditure	25,079,879	

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

UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR A HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN CAMBODIA

In 1992, the United Nations Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia was established by the Secretary-General. The original aim of the Trust Fund was to contribute to the development and implementation of a human rights education programme that would promote the understanding of and respect for human rights in Cambodia. Since then, it has been used to implement all of the activities of the Office in Cambodia. In 2022, the Trust Fund received US\$893,703 in voluntary contributions. For more information, see pages 281 of the online report.

UN TRUST FUND FOR A HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN CAMBODIA

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2022

Donor	US\$
Australia*	67,159
Sweden	826,544
Total	893,703
Expenditure	238,084

* Allocated from a contribution earmarked for activities in the Asia-Pacific region.

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY FUND FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW MECHANISM

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism was established by the Secretary-General in 2008, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 6/17. The Voluntary Fund facilitates the participation of developing States, particularly Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process. Under its terms of reference (ToRs), the Voluntary Fund secures funding for a delegate to present the national report from her/his country and participate in the interactive dialogue at the Working Group session during which their country is being considered. The delegate also attends the HRC's plenary session when the UPR outcome is adopted. This support for their participation enables States to contribute to a universal and interactive dialogue, with recommendations that are constructive, specific, action-oriented and implementable. It also contributes to raising awareness among delegations about the need for close coordination of implementation efforts at the national level. Since its establishment, 112 States have benefited from the travel assistance of the Fund. In 2022, the Fund facilitated the travel of 19 State delegates to attend the proceedings of the fortieth session of the UPR Working Group (the Republic of Moldova, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe), the forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions of the HRC (Eswatini, Papua New Guinea, Suriname, Tajikistan and Trinidad and Tobago), the fifty-first session of the HRC (Sudan, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe) and the forty-first session

of the UPR Working Group (Algeria, Brazil and Ecuador). The Voluntary Fund also covered the hybrid conference costs of the fortieth and forty-first sessions of the UPR Working Group in order to facilitate the widespread participation of government representatives from capitals.

The Voluntary Fund supports information briefings prior to the sessions of the Working Group to assist countries with the preparatory process. During these briefings, the policies, procedures and modalities of the UPR are examined. Information is exchanged and good practices and lessons learned are discussed concerning the organization of national consultations, the establishment of National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRFs), the drafting of national reports and participation in the interactive dialogues that are held during the sessions of the Working Group and the HRC.

Further, the Fund contributes to promoting the engagement of parliaments and parliamentary human rights committees in the UPR process, focusing on the role that parliaments play in translating international commitments into national policies and laws, in line with HRC resolution 35/29 and the report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/38/25). In September, OHCHR cooperated with the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to organize a workshop on strengthening the capacities of parliamentarians from OIF member states. Members of Parliament from Andorra, Belgium, Cambodia, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Greece, Haiti,

Lebanon, Mauritius, Niger, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Seychelles and Togo participated in the workshop.

In 2022, the Fund received a total of US\$89,239 in pledges and contributions, compared to US\$103,706 in 2021. The total expenditure in 2022 amounted to US\$248,251. With regard to the fourth UPR cycle, additional voluntary contributions (amounting to US\$300,000 per annum) will be needed to enable the Voluntary Fund to increase the active engagement of LDCs/SIDS and other developing States in the UPR process; respond to requests for training by eligible States on the preparation of national reports for the UPR; establish and support a network of UPR focal points in the regions of delegates that participated in UPR proceedings; and organize trainings and workshops with partners to share good practices of linking the outcomes of the UPR and other international human rights mechanisms with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY FUND FOR FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

The Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review was established in 2008, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 6/17. It was further strengthened by resolution 16/21 in 2011. This mechanism was created to provide a source of financial and technical assistance to help countries, in particular LDCs and SIDS, implement the recommendations emanating from the UPR, with the consent of and in consultation with the countries concerned.

Since its establishment, the Fund has supported projects in 76 countries in all regions of the world. Technical assistance has focused on five priority areas, namely:

implementing key recommendations emanating from the UPR; strengthening the institutional capacities of governments to ensure comprehensive follow-up to and reporting on progress achieved, including support to NMRFs; enhancing the role of parliaments; and strengthening the UNCTs to support national efforts to integrate the recommendations issued by the UPR into the UNSDCFs and the SDGs. Policy guidance on the operationalization of the Fund is provided by the Board of Trustees, which is composed of the members of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights.

Throughout 2022, the Fund provided vital technical support to States, with projects in 22 countries in all regions (Belize, Bhutan, Brazil, Chad, Comoros, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mozambique, the Republic of Moldova, Saint Kitts, Serbia, Somalia, Tunisia, Uruguay and Uzbekistan).

In 2022, the Voluntary Fund received a total of US\$246,787 in pledges and contributions, while the total expenditure of the Fund amounted to US\$1,058,132. To ensure that States receive adequate support during the fourth UPR cycle, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 51/30, in October, on “Strengthening the Voluntary Funds for the Universal Periodic Review mechanism of the Human Rights Council.” The resolution, adopted by consensus, acknowledges the significant and impactful support provided by both UPR Voluntary Funds to States and decided to convene, at the HRC’s fifty-second session, a high-level panel discussion on the achievements, good practices

UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE UPR

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2022

Donor	US\$
OIF	53,305
Poland	10,934
Saudi Arabia	25,000
Total	89,239
Expenditure	248,251

UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UPR

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2022

Donor	US\$
Belgium	51,706
France	20,080
India	100,000
Kazakhstan	15,000
The Philippines	25,000
Saudi Arabia	25,000
Singapore	10,000
Total	246,787
Expenditure	1,058,132

and lessons learned in the implementation of the Funds. It also requested the Secretary-General to strengthen the dedicated capacity of OHCHR to implement the mandates of the Funds, including by scaling up the dedicated capacity of the Universal Periodic Review Branch in each regional office, and encouraged all States to consider contributing to the UPR Voluntary Funds.

VOLUNTARY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TRUST FUND TO SUPPORT THE PARTICIPATION OF LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES IN THE WORK OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the Work of the Human Rights Council was established under HRC resolution 19/26 in 2012. The Fund became operational in 2014. The objective of the Fund is to enhance the institutional and human rights capacities of LDCs and SIDS through tailored training courses and travel assistance for delegates attending regular sessions of the HRC and participating in the Fellowship Programmes. The Fund also provides training sessions for government officials, in accordance with the HRC mandate outlined in resolution 19/26.

2022 was a landmark year for the LDCs/SIDS Voluntary Trust Fund. First, it marked the tenth anniversary of the Voluntary Trust Fund. On that occasion, the annual high-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming, held on 28 February during the HRC's forty-ninth session, was dedicated to the importance of universal participation to the

mainstreaming of human rights throughout the UN system, with particular consideration given to the representation and engagement of LDCs and SIDS. The Secretariat of the Trust Fund prepared a video featuring the testimonials of former beneficiary delegates, which was screened during the annual high-level panel discussion. Second, the Council adopted a new resolution on strengthening the Trust Fund (HRC resolution 49/32), which was sponsored by a record 177 Member States, and OHCHR presented a report on the operations of the Trust Fund (A/HRC/49/92). Both the resolution and the OHCHR report refer to the achievements of the Trust Fund since its inception and the significant and impactful support it has provided to the delegations of LDCs and SIDS. They also outline recommendations on further strengthening the Trust Fund.

In 2022, the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund supported 26 government officials to participate in the Council's regular sessions, representing the second largest cohort of beneficiary delegates (27 in 2019) since the Fund was created. In addition, two new donors joined the Trust Fund's family of donors, namely, Cyprus and Mauritius.

In 2022, the Trust Fund received US\$341,959 in voluntary contributions, compared to US\$469,083 in 2021. The total expenditure amounted to US\$443,182.



The President of the HRC with delegations/beneficiaries of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund attending the fiftieth session of the HRC. © OHCHR

VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF LDCs AND SIDS IN THE WORK OF THE HRC

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2022

Donor	US\$
Australia	3,358
Cyprus	15,512
Denmark	1,601
France	50,201
Georgia	7,000
India	50,000
Italy	10,040
Mauritius	10,000
Netherlands	55,991
Poland	21,869
Portugal	53,305
Singapore	5,000
Slovenia	10,341
Switzerland	10,000
United Kingdom	37,742
Total	341,959
Expenditure	443,182

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY FUND FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

In 1985, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples was established by General Assembly resolution 40/131 to provide Indigenous Peoples with opportunities to raise issues faced by their communities in the UN's mechanisms, meetings and processes.

The Fund provides support to the representatives of Indigenous Peoples to participate in the sessions of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII), the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), the sessions of the HRC, including its UPR, and the human rights treaty bodies. With the expansion of the Fund's mandate in 2019, it now enables Indigenous Peoples to participate in the Forum on Business and Human Rights (FBHR) and meetings of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

In addition, the Fund acts as a mechanism to assist in building the expertise and capacities of Indigenous representatives to ensure their meaningful and effective participation in UN meetings and processes.

After three years of non-operation due to the pandemic, the Fund resumed its regular programming, in April, and supported the participation of 126 Indigenous representatives (68 women, 57 men and one transwoman) in 11 UN meetings and processes that were specific or relevant to Indigenous issues, including the PFII; EMRIP; the United Nations Expert Workshop on possible ways to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the work of the Human Rights Council; the human rights treaty bodies; the HRC and the UPR process. For the first time, the Fund facilitated the participation of

Indigenous Peoples in the FBHR, the Meetings of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform and the 2022 Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 27).

In 2022, the Fund received a total of US\$800,892 in voluntary contributions, compared to US\$51,091 in 2021. The total expenditure of the Fund amounted to US\$895,106 in 2022, compared to US\$255,716 in 2021.

UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2022

Donor	US\$
Australia	3,358
Canada	622,835
Estonia	21,322
Mexico	16,683
New Zealand	13,828
Norway	92,825
Peru	5,042
Philippines	25,000
Total	800,892
Expenditure	895,106

Participating in the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues



© Diphetogo Anita Lekgowa

My name is Diphetogo Anita Lekgowa from the San people in the Okavango Delta in Botswana. I had the opportunity to attend the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, in New York, in April, thanks to the support of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples. There, I delivered statements that gave a voice to my people, including one on the issue of free, prior and informed consent.

In 2022, Botswana conducted a review of its Constitution and all Batswana were invited to participate in the process. As a grantee of the Fund, I was able to meet and network with other Indigenous representatives, talk about how we are not recognized as Indigenous Peoples in Botswana and discuss our constitutional review process. I made important contacts and was able to seek legal assistance.

When I got back home, I explained to my people that we had to challenge the Government. I secured funding for us to initiate a consultation process within the San communities and a legal adviser helped us draft our submission to the Government.

The consultation process took place in our communities and our elders were delighted that our youth were teaching them about the constitutional provisions that are important to us as Indigenous Peoples. During the process, we connected with 34 San villages. We also made a submission to the Presidential Commission.

Our inputs to the constitutional review were successful and it inspired many others. People were proud of us. If the Government recognizes the San community as Botswana's Indigenous Peoples, it would help us enjoy our rights. We could also contribute to the development of policies and the implementation of projects in our community. This is how free, prior, informed consent should be implemented. We need to begin at the grassroots level and consult with concerned communities on issues that matter to them. As a grantee of the Fund, I was able to participate in the PFII, which was crucial to my involvement in this process.



© Sirjana Subba

My name is Sirjana Subba and I belong to the Limbu Indigenous community in Nepal. Currently, I am serving as an OHCHR Senior Indigenous Fellow at the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) in Nepal. I am working with the Human Rights Team and looking after Indigenous Peoples' issues, along with another Senior Minority Fellow, who looks after minority issues. As a Senior Fellow, I became the Focal Point for Indigenous Peoples and provided my inputs from the perspective of Indigenous Peoples regarding various UN documents on the realization of the rights of Indigenous Peoples. Since my arrival in the Office, Indigenous Peoples have increased their participation in events and processes organized by the UN.

As a Senior Indigenous Fellow, one of the key highlights of my work in 2022 was leading the organization of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples in Nepal, on 9 August, in cooperation with the UN under the theme "The role of Indigenous women in the preservation and transmission of traditional knowledge." The celebration highlighted some of the skills and knowledge Indigenous women have used since time immemorial in relation to the preservation of their culture, education, language, food and health. The panel discussion stressed the need for the documentation, promotion and protection of the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous scholars and Indigenous HRDs demonstrated their interest in being part of that process. As a result, an informal group was formed to work on this issue, to which I provide support.

Working as a Senior Fellow, I have learned about the UN's organizational culture and values and became better acquainted with the UN system. The office environment enabled me to hone my existing skills and knowledge about the rights of Indigenous Peoples. Additionally, working with a co-Fellow, who belongs to a Dalit community, expanded my knowledge about minority rights, persons with disabilities and other minority groups. It also motivated me to study, address intersectionality issues and advocate for the rights of those who are not Indigenous Peoples.

UNITED NATIONS HUMANITARIAN FUNDS

UN Human Rights provides joint secretariat support to two grant-making funds, namely, the Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. Together, they are known as the UN Human Rights Humanitarian Funds. They were established by the General Assembly to provide direct assistance and rehabilitation to individuals whose rights have been violated in the context of contemporary forms of slavery and of torture, respectively. This assistance translates into yearly grants that are primarily awarded to CSOs that provide humanitarian, medical, psychological, social and legal assistance to victims. They are financed through voluntary contributions and are formally administered by the Secretary-General, who acts on the advice of their Boards of Trustees.

In 2022, the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery received a total of US\$878,893 in contributions, compared to US\$1,510,218 in 2021. In 2022, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture received a total of US\$10,011,671 in contributions, compared to US\$10,564,313 in 2021.

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery was established by General Assembly resolution 46/122 in 1991, with the mandate of providing direct assistance to victims of contemporary forms of slavery. It awards annual grants to CSOs, including rehabilitation centres, trade unions, shelters for victims and legal redress programmes. Contemporary forms of slavery are brought to light on a regular basis, including serfdom, forced labour, bonded labour, traditional slavery, trafficking in persons and in human organs, sexual slavery, the worst forms of child labour, early and forced marriage, inherited widows, the sale of wives and other forms of slavery.

The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery awarded 43 annual direct assistance grants in 33 countries, in all of the world's five regions, thereby assisting more than 13,000 survivors of slavery in 2022. During its twenty-seventh session (28 November to 2 December), the Slavery Fund's Board of Trustees recommended 38 annual grants for CSOs to assist over 7,700 slavery survivors in 32 countries in 2023. In addition, the Fund launched a Special Call for the Sahel region (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger) to address the needs of survivors of traditional/descent-based slavery, under which nine grants were awarded in four countries to assist more than 4,400 slavery survivors.

To commemorate its thirtieth anniversary, the hybrid event, "Road to recovery: 30 years of supporting slavery survivors," was held on 2 December, the International

Day for the Abolition of Slavery. The event was co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Germany, with the participation of practitioners and survivors who were supported by the Fund in Nigeria and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, its causes and consequences.

UN VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2022

Donor	US\$
Andorra	10,288
Australia	141,034
Germany	410,539
Luxembourg	15,756
Portugal	10,661
Qatar	20,000
Saudi Arabia	85,000
Spain	20,683
United Arab Emirates	60,000
United Kingdom	104,932
Total	878,893
Expenditure	1,150,781

Access to justice and cultural change in Mauritania

A rigid caste system is still present in Mauritania. The Haratine, or Black Moors, comprise a significant part of Mauritania's population and suffer disenfranchisement and exclusion based on their membership in the "slave caste."

Brothers Said and Yarg were born into slavery under this caste system, inheriting this status from their mother.

Said and Yarg were denied access to education and were stigmatized within their household.

"When referring to me, everyone would say 'Said, the slave of this family.' This hurt me. I questioned why I wasn't allowed to play football like the other children," Said explained.

Instead, they were forced to work full days. At first, they completed tasks around the house. Then, when they were older, they spent days in the hot sun tending to camels. The boys were frequently subjected to beatings. They never had a day off.

In 2011, when Said was 11 years old and Yarg was eight, they managed to escape. Minority Rights Group International hired a lawyer to represent them.

In November 2011, Said and Yarg's master was found guilty under Mauritania's 2007 anti-slavery law, which makes the practice of slavery a criminal offence.

"We've been waiting a long time and our lives are very different. We are proud because we are free. We feel like we are people now," said Said. Both boys were able to attend school and have ambitions to defend other victims of slavery.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR THOSE FORMERLY ENSLAVED

In 1981, Mauritania became the last country to abolish slavery, but it only became a criminal offence in the country in 2007.

In this context, the work of Minority Rights Group International and its partner organization, SOS-Enclaves, has been groundbreaking. The 2011 case of Said and Yarg was the first successful prosecution under the 2007 law criminalizing slavery. Since then, encouraging progress was made, including the adoption by the Government of a circular relating to the prosecution of slavery in 2021. Several cases of slavery recorded since 2007 were heard by a specialized court, which should lead to the conviction of perpetrators of slavery-like practice, a significant renewal of political will on the part of the Mauritanian State.

With the support of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Minority Rights Group International has provided crucial information leading to the prosecution of dozens of slavery cases and engaged with domestic, regional and international mechanisms to achieve outcomes.

SOS-Enclaves also works to provide slavery survivors with social support, enabling them to obtain the documentation they need to access services and for children to go to school.

There is far more work to be done, in particular ensuring that the sentences slave owners receive are sufficient. Despite many challenges, Minority Rights International



Said and Yarg were born into slavery. After receiving assistance through a programme supported by the United Nations Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, they were able to attend school and now want to defend other victims of slavery. © Minority Rights Group International

is working to create cultural change and eradicate slavery in Mauritania.

Minority Rights International, in partnership with SOS-Enclaves, received its first grant from the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery in 2011.

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE VICTIMS OF TORTURE

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, established by General Assembly resolution 36/151 in 1981, is mandated to provide direct assistance to victims of torture and their families. The Fund awards annual and emergency grants to CSOs, including to support rehabilitation centres, grassroots organizations and legal aid programmes.

In 2022, the Fund awarded 181 annual direct assistance grants, seven capacity-building grants and five emergency grants in 92 countries, in all five of the world's regions, thereby assisting more than 46,000 survivors of torture and their family members. Due to shrinking civic space, seven of the 181 direct assistance grants had to be cancelled. During its fifty-sixth session (10 to 14 October) the Fund's Board of Trustees recommended 184 annual direct assistance grants and six capacity-building grants for CSOs to assist over 53,000 torture survivors in 90 countries in 2023.

To commemorate its fortieth anniversary, the hybrid event, "Road to reparation: 40 years of assisting victims of torture," was held in Chile, on 24 June. It was co-organized with the OHCHR Regional Office for South America, Chile's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice and Human Rights.

UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2022

Donor	US\$
Andorra	10,288
Austria	20,080
Canada ^a	78,641
Chile	5,000
Czech Republic	8,247
Denmark	701,754
France	100,402
Germany	152,007
India	50,000
Ireland	145,161
Italy	10,040
Kuwait	10,000
Liechtenstein	80,819
Luxembourg	15,756
Mexico	10,000
Norway	185,649
Peru	1,866
Portugal	10,661
Qatar	30,000
Saudi Arabia	65,000
Switzerland	300,000
United Arab Emirates	20,000
United States of America	8,000,000
private donors	298
Total	10,011,671
Expenditure	11,595,563

^a Includes a contribution of CAD40,000 from the the Government of Québec.

Collective against Impunity and the Stigmatization of Communities (Burkina Faso)

The first sign of a resurgence of violence in the Sahel came in 2015, when Burkina Faso faced mounting violence from non-State armed groups, especially the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (EIGS). In response, self-defence groups, such as the “Koglweogo,” formed in many rural communities.

Before long, these groups were committing serious human rights abuses, including unlawful killings, kidnappings and torture in the name of community policing. In 2016, experts from the Committee against Torture expressed its concern about the grave human rights attacks attributable to members of self-defence groups.

Following two coup d'états in 2022, one man documented and spoke out about the atrocities committed by non-State armed groups, self-defence groups, the army and its civilian auxiliaries (Volontaires pour la Défense de la Patrie). That man is Dr. Daouda Diallo.

Daouda is a pharmacist and human rights advocate who formed the Collective against Impunity and the Stigmatization of Communities (CISC), in 2019. He began documenting violations and abuses after the Koglweogo groups attacked several villages and killed mainly Fulani men.

“Burkina Faso...is under attack, threatened and powerless in the face of attacks by armed terrorist groups and growing banditry,” Daouda told PassBlue, an independent newspaper that covers the United Nations. “[P]rivate justice has become more powerful because Burkinabè citizens no longer turn to the courts to solve

their problems. They take justice into their own hands.”

A COUNTRY-WIDE SAFEGUARD

Organized at the national level, the CISC is composed of approximately 30 civil society and humanitarian organizations and has representatives in each region, as well as focal points in the provinces and different communes to identify cases of human rights violations and abuses. When an alert is received from a focal point, the CISC takes steps to find victims of enforced disappearance and kidnappings, passes on information to the families of victims and contacts governors, prosecutors and others to take legal action. With support from the Voluntary Fund, the CISC’s services are free and accessible to survivors and their families.

Daouda hopes the situation will change and stakes a normal life (not hiding from recurring death threats, living among his peers and with his family) on it. “The President of the Patriotic Movement for Safeguarding and Restoration/ Mouvement patriotique pour la sauvegarde et la restauration (MPSR) must act urgently to make each citizen understand that in a nation, the negation of the other has no place. He must also act urgently for the protection of human rights because the tree of peace is watered with...justice,” Daouda said.

As a result of his efforts to defend human rights, Daouda was selected as one of the winners of the 2022 Martin Ennals Award, an annual award that recognizes



Daouda Diallo. © Illustration by Vérane Cottin, photograph by CISC

the struggles, sacrifices and impacts of human rights defenders. Following this international recognition, he was welcomed and decorated by the authorities of his country. With humility, he vows that these recognitions will challenge him to work with more commitment and determination in the pursuit of human rights.

The Collective against Impunity and the Stigmatization of Communities received its first grant from the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture in 2022.

SPECIAL FUND ESTABLISHED BY THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

The Special Fund is a unique mechanism of torture prevention and the only operational fund established by an international human rights treaty. Its support for National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs), the establishment of which is a core obligation under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT), has been crucial in preventing torture at the national level. The Special Fund helps to finance the implementation of recommendations issued by the Subcommittee for Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT) after a visit to a State Party and supports educational programmes of NPMs.

OPCAT SPECIAL FUND

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2022

Donor	US\$
Czech Republic	8,247
Denmark	143,287
Germany	144,778
Portugal	15,991
Spain	20,683
Total	332,986
Expenditure	672,943

The OPCAT Special Fund awarded a total of 18 grants to projects aimed at implementing recommendations issued by the SPT, with an emphasis on establishing or strengthening NPMs or for educational programmes of NPMs in 16 eligible States (Argentina, Benin, Bolivia, Chile, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Mexico, Niger, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, Senegal, Spain, South Africa and Togo) for a total of US\$552,459.

CONTINGENCY FUND

The Contingency Fund is a flexible funding mechanism that was established in 2006 to carry out activities and implement the priorities and strategies of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, particularly in response to human rights and humanitarian emergencies. This was primarily achieved through the rapid deployment of human rights staff and the provision of necessary logistical support.

The Fund, which is financed through voluntary contributions, aims to maintain a balance of approximately US\$1 million at all times. Cash advances are withdrawn from the Fund to enable the implementation of emergency response activities without administrative delays. When additional funding is received from other sources, the Fund is reimbursed. Since the inception of the Fund, the capacity of UN Human Rights to provide conceptual and operational support to unforeseen mandates or situations requiring rapid response has significantly increased.

In 2022, OHCHR utilized the Contingency Fund to implement nine emergency deployments. A total of 17 human rights officers (seven women, 10 men) were deployed to eight countries in response to human rights crises arising in several thematic contexts, including

armed conflict, internal disturbances and tension and elections.

In response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, OHCHR deployed a surge team to Ukraine to enhance the capacity of the Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) to monitor and report on alleged violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law in the context of the armed conflict.

OHCHR implemented emergency deployments in response to internal disturbances and tension in six countries. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, a surge team was deployed in response to political tensions, which arose following the blockage of State institutions and threats that Republika Srpska would secede. In Burkina Faso, in the context of armed violence that followed the military coup, a team was deployed to carry out human rights monitoring and capacity-building initiatives. Similarly, in São Tomé and Príncipe, a surge team was deployed to conduct a human rights assessment following an alleged attempted coup d'état and reported cases of torture and extrajudicial executions. In Haiti, two emergency deployments took place to gather information related to sexual violence involving gangs, including links between sexual violence and the illicit smuggling and circulation of weapons and ammunition. In Kazakhstan, an enhanced monitoring mission was conducted to assess the human rights situation in the aftermath of the January unrest. In Peru, a technical team was deployed to conduct human rights monitoring and preventive action in response to political instability and polarization.

The Contingency Fund provided critical financing in the context of elections in Gabon, where a surge team was deployed to support the Resident Coordinator (RC)/

UNCT response, aimed at preventing violence and human rights violations in relation to the upcoming 2023 presidential elections.

In 2022, the Fund received a total of US\$71,175 in pledges and contributions to enable these deployments, representing a dramatic decrease in received funds, compared to US\$485,319 received in 2021. In 2022, the total expenditure of the Fund amounted to US\$365,212, compared to US\$285,438 in 2021. As of 31 December 2022, the remaining balance of US\$520,370 was well below the reserve target of US\$1 million, thereby negatively impacting on OHCHR's capacity to implement rapid response deployments.

SPECIAL FUND FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE SOCIAL FORUM, THE FORUM ON MINORITY ISSUES AND THE FORUM ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Special Fund for the Participation of Civil Society in the Social Forum, the Forum on Minority Issues and the Forum on Business and Human Rights was established by HRC decision 24/118 in 2013. The goal of the Fund is to facilitate the broadest possible participation of civil society representatives and other relevant stakeholders in the annual meetings of the three Forums. In 2022, the Special Fund received no contributions.

The fifteenth session of the **UN Forum on Minority Issues** took place from 1 to 2 December, focusing on identifying and analysing good practices, challenges, opportunities and initiatives related to the implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities under the theme "Review. Rethink. Reform: Thirtieth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on Minority Rights." Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions in some parts of the world, and to facilitate access to the Forum, the event was held in a hybrid format. The plenary sessions were webcasted from the Palais des Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland. Over 580 participants from 79 countries registered for the session, including representatives of Member States, United Nations mechanisms, bodies and specialized agencies, inter-governmental organizations, regional organizations and mechanisms in the field of human rights, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and other national bodies, academics and experts on minority issues, representatives of

minorities and NGOs. Interpretation was provided in the six official UN languages, as well as international sign language. Captioning in English, French and Spanish was also made available. This year, the Forum encouraged minority artists to exhibit their work through a dance performance at the opening ceremony. A documentary was screened at a movie theatre in Geneva, in partnership with Cine ONU and the European Union (EU) Delegation.

Discussions held in the Forum complemented the outcome and recommendations of the four regional forums organized by the Special Rapporteur in 2021, with the support of the Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations in Switzerland. The Special Rapporteur will present the recommendations to the Human Rights Council in March 2023, which will contribute to SDGs 10 and 16 to ensure that minorities will "not be left behind."



Forum on Minority Issues. © OHCHR

CONTINGENCY FUND

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2022

Donor	US\$
France	60,241
Poland	10,934
Total	71,175
Expenditure	365,212

The eleventh **Forum on Business and Human Rights** was held from 28 to 30 November under the theme “Rights holders at the centre: Strengthening accountability to advance business respect for people and planet in the next decade.” Over 2,500 participants from more than 130 countries registered to participate in the Forum, which was, after two virtual editions, held in a hybrid format. The Forum’s agenda included 27 thematic, regional and high-level sessions that enabled participants to engage in a three-day multi-stakeholder dialogue on business and human rights. More than 140 panellists, including States, businesses and business associations, civil society, rights holders, Indigenous Peoples, HRDs, trade unions, policymakers and academics, shared their experiences and took stock of efforts to secure accountability and access to remedy. The goal was to focus on how the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) can be

accelerated from the perspective of rights holders, in alignment with the recommendations outlined in the UNGPs 10+ *Road map for the next decade of business and human rights*. A special session was dedicated to discussing progress achieved in tackling the action areas identified in the Road map entitled “Raising the ambition, increasing the pace,” during the Forum’s tenth edition.

The Human Rights Council convenes the **Social Forum** on an annual basis. In 2022, the Forum provided a vital space for constructive dialogue among States and stakeholders. In accordance with HRC resolution 47/20, this year’s edition focused on water for human rights and sustainable development. The broad participation of more than 500 civil society representatives and other relevant stakeholders that were supported by the Special Fund, both online and in person, contributed to the discussion on good practices, lessons learned and challenges in the implementation of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development,” 2018-2028. The objective of the discussions was to develop human rights inputs to contribute to the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development,” scheduled for 22 to 24 March 2023. The Fund enabled resource persons to travel to the Forum, providing civil society with an opportunity to make meaningful contributions to the UN 2023 Water Conference.



Forum on Business and Human Rights. © OHCHR



Social Forum. © OHCHR