



Highlights of results

Participants of an OHCHR-organized training on youth participation in Lesotho.
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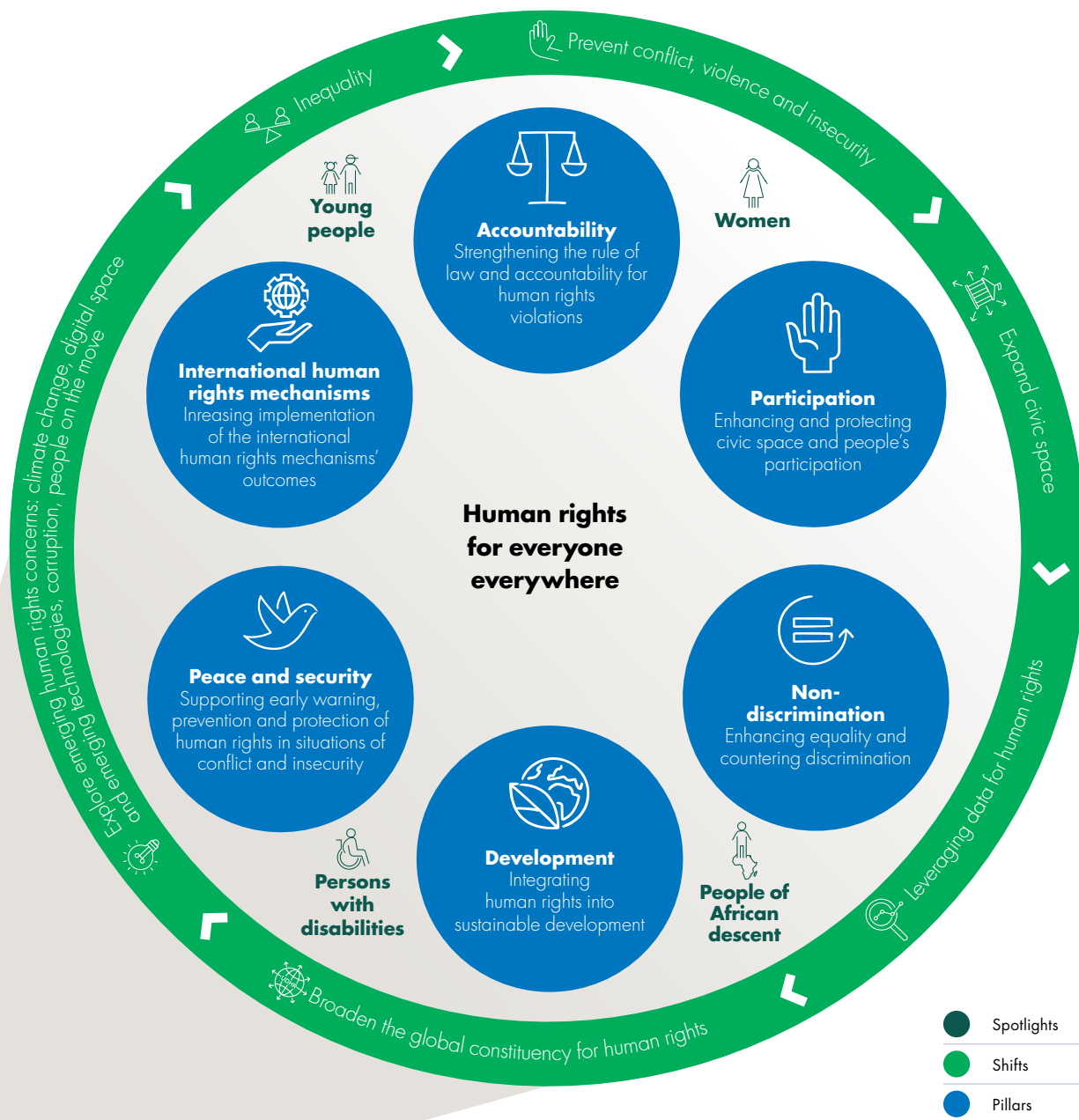
Implementing the OMP in 2022

The priorities, strategies and targets of UN Human Rights are set out in the OHCHR Management Plan (OMP). The OMP provides a results framework based on six pillars, six shifts and four spotlights and is an essential tool that enables the Office to be accountable to the people it serves, Member States and the entire UN system.

OHCHR's Management Plan usually covers a four-year period, but the 2018-2021 OMP was extended through 2023. The framework remained relevant during the COVID-19 crisis and provided the flexibility that was needed to respond to

changing circumstances. The extended OMP retains the six thematic pillars that underpin OHCHR's global efforts to ensure the enjoyment by all of their civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights and to combat all forms of discrimination. The extended OMP's spotlight populations were updated to emphasize the situation of people of African descent and two shifts, inequality and leveraging data for human rights, were added to bolster OHCHR's contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the principle of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB).

OMP at a glance



Overview of progress made towards achieving OMP results in 2022

Promoting and protecting human rights is vital to advancing the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). During the year, the impacts of the pandemic continued to be felt as it exacerbated poverty and inequality in many countries, particularly in accessing education. Pre-existing discrimination patterns were aggravated, including in relation to gender- and age-based discrimination, and rates of violence against women increased dramatically around the world.

The war in Ukraine and escalating global supply chain disruptions contributed to growing food insecurity and soaring energy prices. OHCHR's presence in Ukraine redirected its programming to respond to the serious deterioration of the human rights situation across the country and adapted its work to focus on monitoring, analysis, reporting and protection. Other OHCHR presences, particularly in Europe, were similarly required to take into account the new situation and adapt their work accordingly.

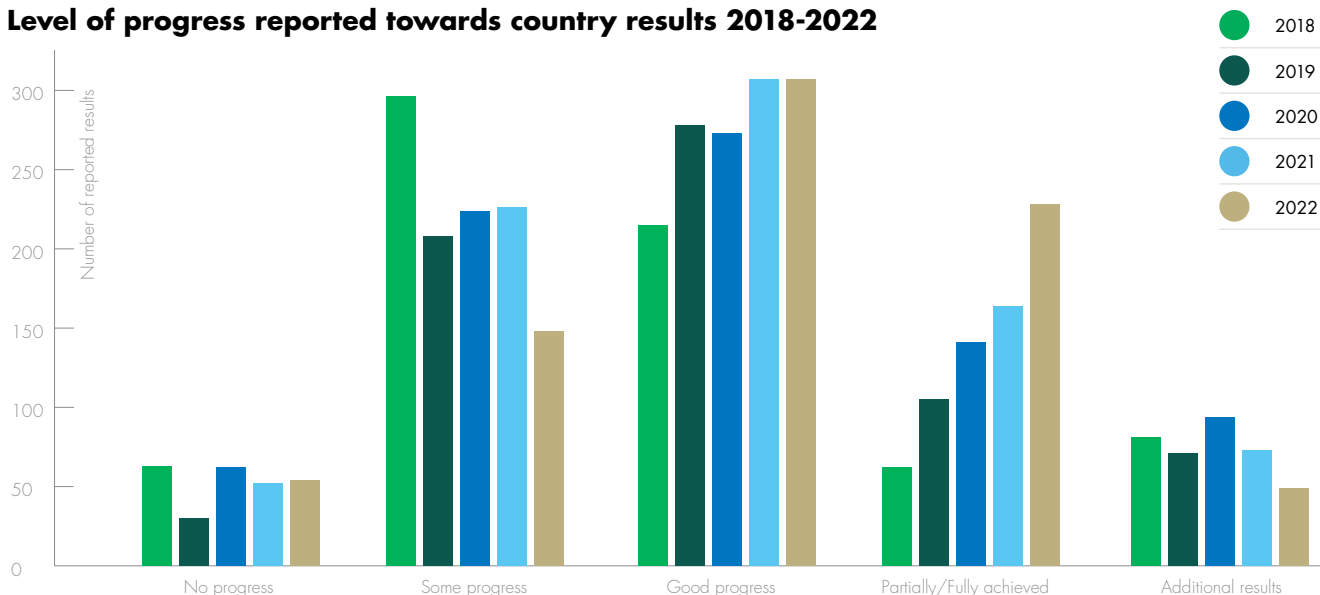
Further, the consequences of human-induced climate change, including more frequent and intense extreme events, continued to have widespread adverse impacts, such as reduced food and water insecurity, hindering the achievement of the SDGs. OHCHR took steps to

address these issues through its work on climate-related displacement in the Sahel, as well as projects in Kenya, Mexico and the Asia-Pacific region. OHCHR also engaged with more than 10 Resident Coordinator's Offices (RCOs) to develop system-wide guidance on the protection of environmental human rights defenders (HRDs) under the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights.

These overlapping global crises contributed to an unprecedented scale of challenges. As the Secretary-General warned in his Call to Action for Human Rights, these crises are happening within a context of widespread disregard for human rights, evidenced by egregious and systematic human rights violations in many parts of the world. In addition, the human rights agenda continued to be instrumentalized for political purposes at a time when people's trust in their leaders has eroded. OHCHR's role in tackling these challenges remains critical, founded on the promotion of a renewed social contract that is anchored in human rights.

The data that follow are based on the self-assessments undertaken by 125 reporting entities on their level of progress in achieving targets established in the OMP in relation to shifts, spotlight populations and country results, often in complex contexts as described above.

Level of progress reported towards country results 2018-2022



PROGRESS TOWARDS COUNTRY RESULTS

Office-wide progress in the achievement of country results steadily increased overall, particularly with reference to results that were reported as partially or fully achieved. In 2022, the percentage of achieved results ranged from 27 per cent (Development) to 35 per cent (Non-discrimination), which is considerably higher than in 2021 (15 to 19 per cent).

The lifting of restrictions on movement in many countries enabled staff members to carry out more in-person activities, such as training and capacity-building activities, advocacy, consultations with civil society, trial observations, human rights monitoring, including during demonstrations, and visits to detention facilities, including of migrants. More visits by special rapporteurs and independent experts were also undertaken in Afghanistan,

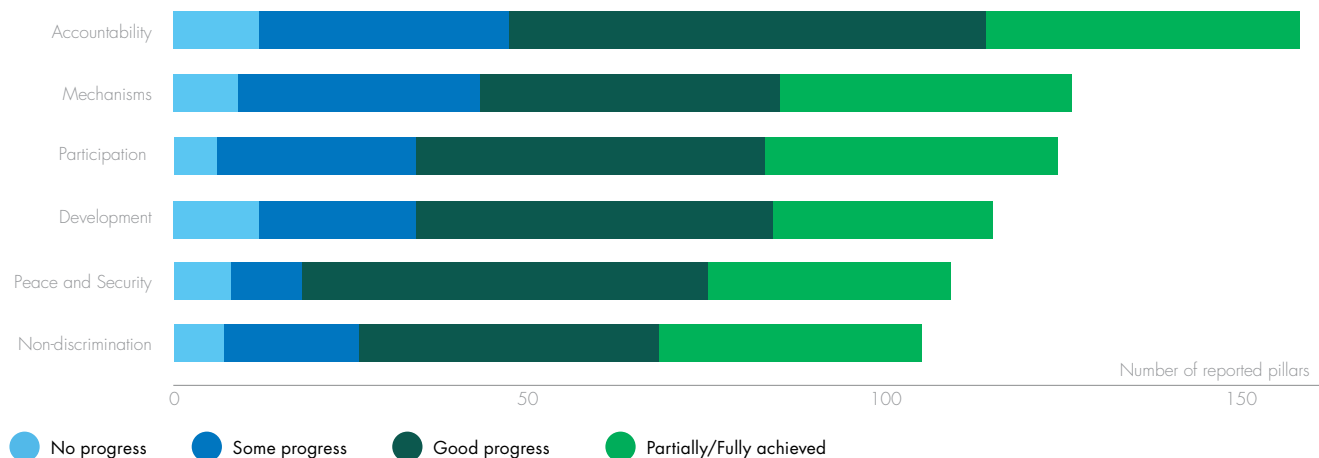
Bolivia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Somalia and the United States of America. Some of the practices that were implemented during the pandemic, such as remote monitoring and virtual and hybrid meetings, remained in use as needed or where they were deemed to yield better results. For instance, remote monitoring was employed during the year by staff working in Egypt, Ethiopia, the State of Palestine,¹ Venezuela and in the Central America and MENA Regional Offices.

The rates of results reporting no progress remained similar to those in 2021. The participation pillar had the lowest percentage of no progress results at five per cent, while the development pillar had the highest percentage at 10 per cent.

¹ All references to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with General Assembly resolution 67/19.

Field presences indicated that in cases where no progress was reported, it was primarily due to operational challenges. For instance, insufficient funding and staffing constraints required staff to prioritize between different needs and activities. Other obstacles arose from complex political contexts and/or difficulties with guaranteeing buy-in to activities at the national level. In most cases where some progress was reported, processes continued, though without notable breakthroughs. In a number of cases, delays in government policymaking resulted in processes that did not move as quickly as anticipated.

Progress reported under each pillar in 2022



CONTRIBUTIONS TO SHIFTS AND SPOTLIGHT POPULATIONS

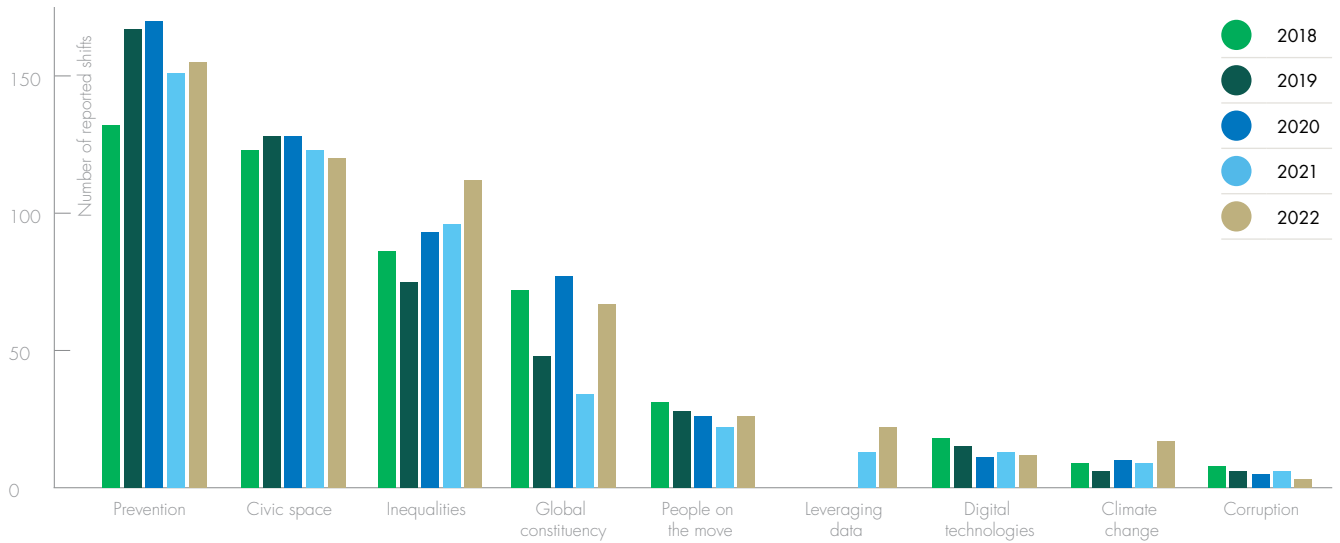
Five shifts are identified in the OMP, namely: 1) the prevention of conflict, violence and insecurity; 2) the expansion of civic space; 3) a broadening of the global constituency for human rights; 4) inequalities; and 5) leveraging data for human rights. In addition, the exploration of emerging human rights concerns is identified under the category of frontier issues, which has four sub-thematic categories, namely: climate change, digital space and emerging technologies, corruption and people on the move.

The spotlight populations identified in the OMP are women, youth, persons with disabilities and persons of African descent.

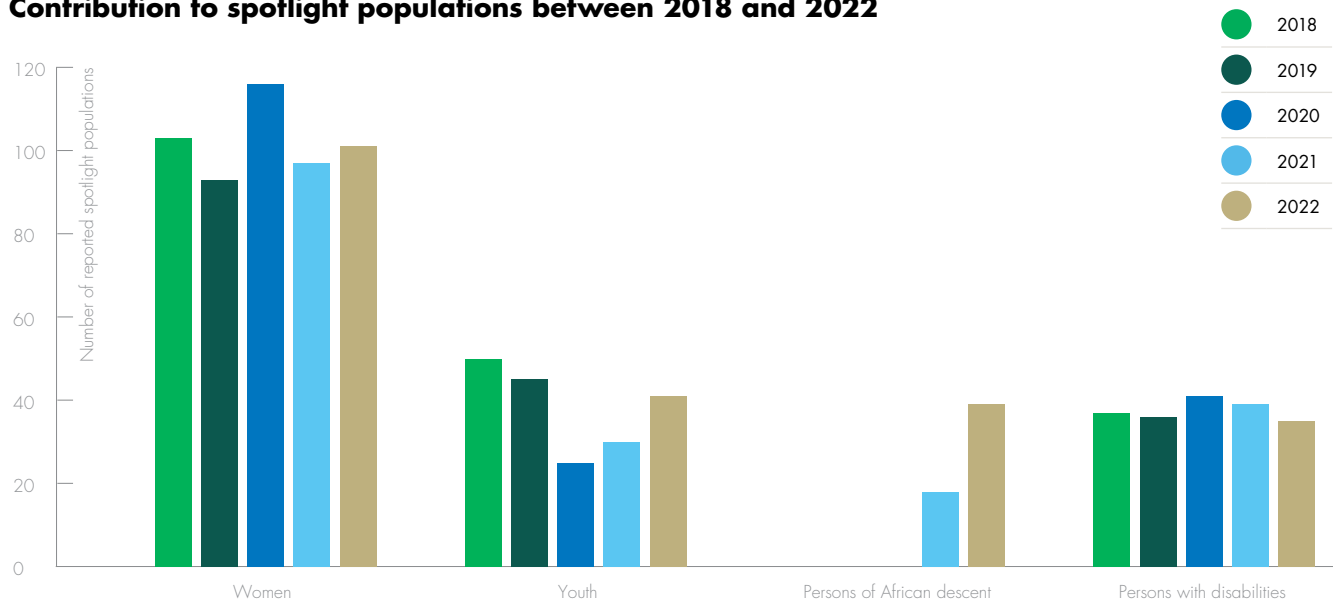
Prevention and civic space remained the most selected shifts by reporting entities. Inequalities and global constituencies shifts had a significant increase in uptake, which is likely due to the lifting of COVID-19-related restrictions. The uptake of the climate change and leveraging data shifts increased by more than 60 per cent. The frontier issues of corruption and digital technologies, which generally had low uptakes during recent years, saw a slight decrease in 2022. During the reporting period, approximately 41 per cent of results were reported as contributing to a shift, representing an increase from 35 per cent in 2021, when uptake was particularly low.

In 2022, approximately 17 per cent of reported results were directly associated with a spotlight population, representing a three per cent increase over 2021. As in previous years, the most commonly selected spotlight population was women. The number of results that contributed to the persons of African descent spotlight population increased by 116 per cent, the number of results contributing to youth increased by 37 per cent and the number of results contributing to persons with disabilities decreased.

Contribution to shifts between 2018 and 2022



Contribution to spotlight populations between 2018 and 2022



Mechanisms (M)

Increasing implementation of the outcomes of the international human rights mechanisms



TREATY BODIES



Experts

172 treaty bodies experts serving on the **10** treaty monitoring bodies



Recommendations

Adoption of **133** sets of concluding observations



Jurisprudence

Adoption of **294** views on individual complaints



General comments

3 new comments adopted (CESCR on land and economic, social and cultural rights; CEDAW on the rights of Indigenous women and girls; and CRPD on the rights of persons with disabilities to work and employment)



Capacity-building

134 capacity-building activities (95 held online, attended by more than 9,300 participants, including 3,500 women, to support engagement with the human rights treaty bodies, efforts towards ratification of treaties, implementation of recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms, establishment/strengthening of National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up)

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (HRC) AND UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)



UPR mid-term reports

16 documents submitted (on the implementation of recommendations issued during the second and third UPR cycles)

REPORTING AND FOLLOWING UP ON RECOMMENDATIONS



National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up

55 established and/or strengthened

SPECIAL PROCEDURES



Special procedures mandates

45 thematic and **14** country-specific



Standing invitations

Extended by **128** States and **1** non-member Observer State



Reports

135 presented to the General Assembly/HRC (25 on country visits)



Communications

654 communications sent (to 138 States and 101 non-State actors)
282 replies received

Following a moratorium on FGM in Liberia, victims are still seeking justice

“I was so happy to get my daughter back,” Deborah Parker said.

On 28 September 2021, Parker’s 15-year-old daughter was abducted by traditional leaders in Liberia, known as the zoes, and taken from Mount Barclay to the Sande Bush. There, she was forcibly initiated into the zoes’ secret society through female genital mutilation (FGM).

From the moment her daughter was abducted, Parker sought help from the police, knocked on the doors of government offices and contacted several NGOs, international organizations and UN presences in Liberia, including UN Human Rights.

By 10 November, Parker had grown tired of waiting. With the assistance of a local NGO, she went to a known location where her daughter and 42 other girls were being held and paid for her daughter’s release.

Since then, Parker has continued to speak out about the girls’ ordeals. She also went to the National Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia to demand an end to this practice.

On 10 February, several special procedures mandate holders issued a joint communication to the Government. They expressed their concern over violations of her daughter’s rights, including to life, physical integrity and liberty and not to be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

Despite a 2018 executive order to ban FGM for girls and a one-year ban imposed by traditional leaders in 2019, legal protections against FGM were no longer

being enforced when Parker’s daughter was abducted.

On 21 February 2022, the Government and the National Council of Chiefs and Elders announced a three-year moratorium on FGM.

Uchenna Emelonye, Country Representative for UN Human Rights in Liberia, welcomed the development and pointed out that Parker had become a strong voice against FGM. She was herself initiated into the Sande Bush secret society. Resisting societal pressure to keep quiet, she is one of the few Liberian women who speaks up on the issue.

“The desired end result would be the promulgation of a law that penalizes and abolishes [FGM] in Liberia,” he said.

Comfort Lamptey, UN Women’s Country Representative to Liberia, foresees an end to FGM in Liberia. “It will take time to

ensure that there are alternative livelihoods for women who engage in FGM, that communities learn about its harmful effects and that those who defy future legislation are prosecuted, but the foundations are being laid,” she added.

VICTIMS STILL SEEKING REDRESS

Parker has not received any compensation for the wrongs done to her daughter. As a result, she can no longer afford to pay her daughter’s school fees.

A three-year moratorium on FGM is not enough for Parker. She is calling on the Government to ensure that girls can go to school without fear of being kidnapped.

“The advice I can give to parents who are going through the same ordeal is to continue the fight. No one should give up until changes come.”



Deborah Parker. © OHCHR

Highlights of pillar results

Mechanisms (M)

The international human rights mechanisms – composed of the Human Rights Council (HRC), with its special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), and the human rights treaty bodies – are the backbone of UN Human Rights’ work. Their analyses, monitoring and interactions with States and stakeholders

help to identify strengths, weaknesses, gaps and opportunities in relation to all rights. Through their actions and recommendations, they provide the basis for engagement with States and other actors and support duty bearers to comply with their obligations and rights holders to claim their rights. UN Human Rights

provides secretariat support to these mechanisms and supports States in honouring their obligations. Through their procedures and country visits, the international human rights mechanisms give a voice to vulnerable persons and groups at the national level.

PILLAR RESULTS / SHIFTS / SDGs

RESULTS / SPOTLIGHTS **Spotlights:** Disabilities Women Youth People of African descent

M1 – NATIONAL MECHANISMS for REPORTING and FOLLOW-UP

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




OHCHR undertook a **compilation of State practices on the establishment and functioning of National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRFs)**, which was featured in a report of the High Commissioner that was presented to the Human Rights Council in June. This led to some States sponsoring a resolution that mandates the Office to move to a more perennial repository of practices through a digital knowledge hub for NMRFs, which will enable scaling up OHCHR’s and peer-to-peer support to NMRFs. With technical support from OHCHR, NMRFs have been established or strengthened in a number of countries. For instance, in **Guyana**, the Government established an NMRF in June. In addition, in **Ecuador**, the Office provided technical assistance to the Government to draft an Executive Decree that established the primary features and functions of the NMRF. The Executive Decree is expected to be approved in 2023. In **Mozambique**, following years of strong advocacy by OHCHR, an Interministerial Commission on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law was established by a Presidential Decree in April. The Commission is mandated to serve as a coordination body for the preparation of reports and other communications to the regional and international human rights mechanisms and to follow up on and support the implementation of their recommendations. Also, with support from the Office, the NMRF of **Serbia** developed a monitoring plan to follow up on the implementation of recommendations from the international human rights mechanisms, which was approved and accepted by the Government.

UN Human Rights launched a redesigned version of the **National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD)**, raising considerable interest from Member States. In July, the Office conducted a two-day workshop in **Malaysia**, attended by over 60 representatives from 19 State institutions, to launch the NRTD as part of an ongoing training programme aimed at strengthening Malaysia’s NMRF.

M2 – ENGAGEMENT with human rights MECHANISMS

Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.



 In **Benin**, OHCHR supported a process initiated by the NHRI to **collect the views of youth in the context of the fourth UPR cycle**, held in January 2023. The NHRI undertook consultations with a coalition of Beninese youth representatives from all provinces of the country to solicit their views on the implementation of the recommendations emanating from the third UPR cycle. This information fed into the alternative report that was prepared and submitted by the NHRI in anticipation of Benin's fourth UPR cycle.

The UPR of **Zimbabwe** took place on 26 January and, prior to the review, the Office provided technical support to the Government to draft its **National Report** and to the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission and CSOs to make relevant submissions. As a result, CSOs made a total of 23 joint submissions, compared to eight in the last cycle, and 16 individual submissions, compared to eight in the last cycle. The UN Country Team (UNCT) also made a joint submission.

UN Human Rights published the second edition of the **#Faith4Rights** toolkit and organized two expert workshops, in October, on the implementation of the Rabat Plan of Action and the "Faith for Rights" framework. Furthermore, the Forum on Minority Issues, at its fourteenth session, encouraged States, international and regional organizations and civil society to work closely in supporting the positive contributions of faith-based actors, including through the promotion of the Beirut Declaration and the #Faith4Rights toolkit. In March, the Human Rights Council included a related recommendation in its resolution on the prevention of genocide ([A/HRC/RES/49/9](#)). At the regional level, a recommendation on combating hate speech ([CM/Rec\(2022\)16](#)) of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers builds on the threshold test of the Rabat Plan of Action and the Council of Europe's explanatory memorandum refers to the peer-to-peer learning methodology of the UN "Faith for Rights" framework and toolkit as a useful tool.


M3 – USE of MECHANISMS' RECOMMENDATIONS

Policymakers, legislators and courts make increased use of the outcomes of the international and regional human rights mechanisms.



Since the visit of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences to **Mauritania**, in May, the Government has established two bodies to oversee the implementation of recommendations and monitor the Government's action against trafficking in persons. **A dedicated fund for the victims of contemporary forms of slavery was also established**, in line with the Special Rapporteur's recommendations.

In **Uzbekistan**, following repeated recommendations of the Committee against Torture and the Human Rights Committee to ensure that victims of torture obtain redress and have an enforceable right to fair and adequate compensation, Uzbekistan amended its Civil Code to implement the recommendation regarding **adequate compensation for victims of torture**. The payments will take the form of compensation for damages, including physical and mental harm, material damage or loss of profits, moral damage, as well as the costs of legal assistance, medication and medical services, psychological and social services. A View of the Human Rights Committee, ***Kungurov v. Uzbekistan***, regarding the denial of registration of a human rights association by the State Party's authorities, was implemented and the applicant NGO was registered on 22 September.

 In July, the Government of **Montenegro** adopted the new strategy for the **protection of persons with disabilities from discrimination and the promotion of equality 2022-2027**. It was developed with the technical support of OHCHR, UNICEF and UNDP and integrates recommendations issued by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The strategy aims to address violence against women and girls with disabilities, facilitate the deinstitutionalization of children and prioritize the increase of community-based services.

M4 – DEVELOPMENT of INTERNATIONAL LAW

International human rights mechanisms contribute to the elaboration of international law and jurisprudence, in particular in the context of emerging human rights concerns (frontier issues).



OHCHR took steps to close the human rights protection gap of older persons. OHCHR and DESA serve as the co-Secretariat of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, established by the General Assembly to elaborate international standards on the human rights of older persons and to support the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons. Key deliverables include the High Commissioner’s report on **Normative standards and obligations under international law in relation to the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons** (A/HRC/49/70); the convening of the first multi-stakeholder meeting to discuss the findings of the High Commissioner’s report (A/HRC/RES/48/3); and the development of methodology to integrate the concerns of older persons into OHCHR’s monitoring work in the field. OHCHR will continue its advocacy on issues such as ageism and age discrimination, including in the context of the United Nations Decade on Healthy Ageing, and foster its partnerships with UN focal points on ageing, NHRIs and civil society.

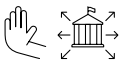
The Special Rapporteur on **adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living**, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context called on Member States to recognize severe, systematic or widespread housing rights violations, such as attacking and bombing civilian housing with explosive weapons, arbitrary housing demolitions and forced evictions as domicile, an international crime of its own standing (A/77/19Q). He urged States to end impunity for egregious violations of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs) and enable national and international tribunals to investigate and prosecute these crimes with the same commitment required to address other severe human rights violations. This is the first time that a UN human rights mechanism has called for the **recognition of domicile as a crime** under international law.

The **Permanent Forum on People of African Descent held its first session** in Geneva, from 5 to 8 December. More than 700 participants from States, civil society and UN agencies attended the session and 40 side events, demonstrating the heightened interest of stakeholders on the issue of promoting and protecting the human rights of people of African descent.

UN Human Rights continued to provide support to the Chair-Rapporteur of the intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development in the elaboration of a **draft convention on the right to development**. The second revised text of the draft convention (A/HRC/WG.2/24/2) contextualized the submissions received from States and other stakeholders in light of international law and its jurisprudence. These deliberations are reflected in a 168-page legal commentary (A/HRC/WG.2/24/2/Add.1).

M5 – EFFECTIVENESS of international human rights MECHANISMS

International human rights mechanisms are increasingly effective in promoting and protecting human rights.



The Human Rights Committee reviewed the third periodic report of the **Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**, in July. In recent years, OHCHR has advocated for a safe space for civil society engagement through coordination, protection and risk mitigation as the risks of reprisal have been higher for members of Hong Kong civil society since the National Security Law was enacted in July 2020. In November 2022, the Human Rights Committee issued **strong concluding observations, including a call to repeal the National Security Law**.

The **Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT)**, established under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT), carried out eight missions and visited 44 prisons, including facilities for women, 47 police stations, 11 detention centres for children, five psychiatric and health care institutions, 13 closed centres for undocumented migrants and three other places of deprivation of liberty. It conducted 730 individual or collective interviews with more than 2,300 persons, most of whom were detainees, in addition to officials, law enforcement personnel and medical staff. Notably, in **Brazil**, the Supreme Federal Court invalidated a presidential decree, adopted in 2019, that would have dismantled the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), following the visit by a delegation of SPT. In May, the Supreme Federal Court unanimously ruled that the presidential decree was unconstitutional, thereby enabling the NPM to continue its work (CAT/OP/8).

Progress was made in **integrating human rights information**, such as information generated by the international human rights mechanisms, **into the UN's Regional Monthly Review (RMR) process**. This was accomplished through the inclusion of prevention assessments undertaken by the human rights treaty bodies and a standard human rights slide in the RMR briefing tools, which is now an integral part of the RMR process. This increased awareness about the role international human rights mechanisms can play in engaging with national authorities on key risk areas that were identified in RMRs as having limited entry points for the UN system. For instance, the RMRs on Brazil and Tunisia identified the reviews of the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR as opportunities to enhance UN-wide engagement on human rights. The RMRs on Eswatini and Suriname identified specific entry points for UN engagement based on recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.



Workshop on the international human rights mechanisms, human rights and transitional justice, and the rights of Indigenous Peoples, organized by OHCHR for officers of the newly established Bangsamoro Human Rights Commission, in August, in Bangsamoro Autonomous Region, Mindanao, Philippines. © OHCHR

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

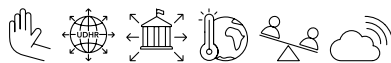
Judicial and non-judicial mechanisms hold business and other economic actors to account for rights abuses and provide remedies to victims.



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

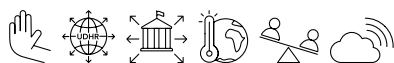
Public health approaches, including sexual and reproductive health policies, comply with international human rights standards and provide non-discriminatory access, especially to children, adolescents, women and migrants.



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.



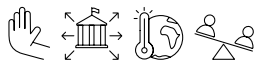
OHCHR worked closely with the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, UNEP and other UN partners, as well as States, CSOs, Indigenous Peoples and other relevant stakeholders, to advocate for the global 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

Peace and Security (PS)

Preventing violations and strengthening protection of human rights, including in situations of conflict and insecurity.



CONFLICT PREVENTION, EARLY WARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY



Emergency deployments

24 staff deployed

(in 12 countries with deteriorating human rights situations)



Investigations

13 Investigative and accountability mandates supported

(including 4 new mandates operationalized for Ethiopia, Iran, Nicaragua and Ukraine through the identification of experts, deployment of a start-up team and recruitment of Secretariat staff)



Emergency Response Teams (ERTs)

1 team established (to work on risk analysis, early warning and response coordination in the Pacific region. New Teams in East Africa and Central Asia to be established)



More than **125** staff recruited for investigative bodies

PEACE OPERATIONS



Role of human rights components

12 UN peace operations mandate renewals

(Member States supported in integrating human rights)



Guidance and technical support

Human rights integrated into

33 DPPA-DPO-DOS policy and guidance documents for UN peace operations



Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP)

implementation supported in **14** UN peace operations



Partnership

with the African Union (AU) and European Union (EU) on AU peace support operations

(to ensure compliance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law)

Ukraine: Behind the numbers

“It is hard to remember the exact date of my concussion. Under shelling, you get into this endless process, which has no dates,” said a man who had just fled Kharkiv in the east of Ukraine.

Nataliia* sits on the floor in the sports complex in Uzhhorod, in Ukraine’s west, listening to the man’s story. Nataliia is a Human Rights Officer (HRO) working with the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU).

One of her jobs is to gather first-hand information on allegations of abuses and violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law resulting from the armed attack of the Russian Federation on Ukraine. She listens to people’s stories, documents what has happened to them or their loved ones and looks for information that can help verify civilian casualty incidents.



A sports complex hosting internally displaced persons from affected areas by Russian Federation attacks in Uzhhorod, Ukraine.

© Michael Fostik/OHCHR

* Some monitoring staff in Ukraine are not fully identified for security reasons.

USING DATA TO “CLARIFY WHAT HAPPENED”

Monitoring these violations requires HROs to consult a broad range of sources. Collecting accounts of victims and witnesses is a vital element of this work. In addition, the Mission relies on an extensive network of trusted contacts and partners. Data are often gathered through publicly available sources, such as reports by local authorities, police and emergency services. It also monitors photos, stories and video footage posted on traditional or social media platforms.

All of these data are carefully corroborated, said Olga*, another HRO. “I am looking into different kinds of data on each and every civilian casualty case to clarify what, when and with whom it happened,” she said. “Then, I can request our field teams to verify this information on the ground with available sources,” Olga added.

Once these checks are complete and show that a civilian casualty happened, the HROs will consider the case to be verified.

MORE THAN JUST NUMBERS

Since the beginning of the armed attack on Ukraine, the Mission has been publishing civilian casualty updates on a daily basis. As of 15 February 2023, 8,006 people had died and 13,287 were injured. For the HROs, these updates are more than just numbers.

“We try to get the information about individual incidents in which a [person] was killed or injured...,” said Uladzimir

Shcherbau, Head of an HRMMU Unit. “We collect information on the cases that have been reported in previous days. [U]ltimately, we have a full picture of what happened to civilians.”

The HRMMU is recognized as a trusted source of verified information for governments, the media and international agencies reporting on or monitoring the war. “The civilian casualty information it provides is critical to advocating for change, ensuring justice for victims of human rights violations and holding perpetrators to account,” said Matilda Bogner, Head of the HRMMU.

“We need to ensure that we support victims and follow the do-no-harm principle. In the end, we [can] communicate...where there have been violations and how to take steps to remedy the situation and prevent further violations.”



OHCHR Human Rights Officer visits an improvised collective grave containing the bodies of civilians in Bucha, Kyiv region, Ukraine.
© OHCHR

Highlights of pillar results

Peace and Security (PS)

Maintaining international peace and security is one of the fundamental purposes of the UN Charter. Situations of conflict and insecurity invariably result in violations of human rights, which are often among the root causes of conflict and insecurity. UN Human Rights has a global mandate to promote and protect human rights and a specific responsibility

to mainstream human rights throughout the work of the UN. When violence and conflict occur, the promotion and protection of human rights is not only essential for the protection of rights holders, especially civilians, it also holds the key to rebuilding peace under the rule of law and preventing reoccurrence. Human rights are a powerful tool for conflict

prevention. They provide a sound basis for addressing issues of concern, which, if left unaddressed, can lead to conflict. As a result, international human rights mechanisms can support early warning and accountability and inform UN peace and security efforts.

PILLAR RESULTS / SHIFTS / SDGs

PS1 – PROTECTION of CIVILIANS, CONFLICT and PEACE

Parties to conflict and actors involved in peace operations increasingly comply with international human rights law and international humanitarian law and provide greater protection to civilians.



RESULTS / SPOTLIGHTS

Spotlights: Disabilities Women Youth People of African descent

The Human Rights and Protection Group (HRPG) of the United Nations Assistance Mission in **Somalia** (UNSO) continued to **build the capacities of the Somali National Army (SNA) and the Somali Police Force (SPF) to investigate and respond to alleged human rights violations**. In February and March, the HRPG facilitated sessions on the Human Right Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces during four virtual induction trainings for 118 elements of the United Nations Guard Unit, including 24 women. The sessions aimed to raise awareness about the Policy and compliance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law. From 6 to 7 June, in Puntland, the HRPG delivered human rights training sessions for 300 officers of the Puntland Police Force, including 13 women. The training covered several human rights issues, such as international human rights law, arrest and detention, standards on the treatment of prisoners and the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV).

From 15 to 16 December, the United Nations Assistance Mission for **Iraq** (UNAMI) and UNOCT held a policy dialogue with senior government officials, with a view to developing a **road map towards enhanced adherence to international human rights standards** as part of efforts to counter terrorism.

PS2 – Counter-TERRORISM and preventing VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism comply with international law.



The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in **Mali** (MINUSMA) Human Rights and Protection Division (HRPD) implemented two seven-month projects for the **empowerment of youth** in the Goundam and Mopti regions of Mali to prevent their radicalization and recruitment by extremist groups. The projects included vocational trainings and awareness-raising sessions on human rights, democracy and citizenship and were made available to 62 youths, including two women with disabilities. The beneficiaries acquired new skills in carpentry, sewing, floor tiling, solar energy and motorcycle or small engine repair. According to consultations with community leaders, youth councils and communal authorities, these trades were in demand and well paid in their localities. Participants were trained on the basics of financial literacy and enterprise management and sensitized on human rights principles. Beneficiaries also received a lump sum and toolkits for their settlement in their respective regions and were mentored by master craftsmen and community leaders on their return. A total of 72.5 per cent of the beneficiaries are now making a living from acquired skills.

In **East Africa**, as part of a joint project with the AU and the World Bank to strengthen the early warning and conflict prevention systems of the AU, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs), a virtual expert roundtable was held, in June, on **integrating gender into early warning, conflict prevention and response mechanisms**, bringing together early warning analysts and gender experts from the AU, RECs and the European Union (EU). The objective of the roundtable was to share knowledge and experiences and explore innovative ways to integrate gender and apply gender-sensitive approaches to early warning frameworks and tools. Further, OHCHR provided financial and technical support for the development of a Guidance Note for the African Union on integrating gender-sensitive approaches into early warning systems. The next phase will be the roll-out of the Guidance Note and support for the establishment of a community of practice among early warning and gender experts.

PS3 – HUMAN RIGHTS protection in PREVENTION/RESPONSE

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



The United Nations endorsed the **“Policy on integrating a human rights-based approach to United Nations efforts to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse.”** OHCHR led the development and finalization of the Policy, which formally recognizes the linkages between sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and human rights and provides guidance on the application of a human rights-based, victim-centred approach to prevent and respond to SEA. OHCHR worked closely with UNCTs and other UN entities on its implementation. It also coordinated with members of the SEA Working Group on the development of additional policies and tools to support the implementation of a victim-centred and human rights-based approach to prevent and respond to SEA across the UN system. Moreover, OHCHR worked closely with the Office of the Victims Rights Advocate (OVRA), IOM and the Chief Executives Board (CEB) Task Force on Addressing Sexual Harassment to develop a **training module on the rights and dignity of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment** for UN staff. OHCHR will remain engaged in the process of rolling out the training.

OHCHR promoted the **integration of human rights into United Nations strategies to prevent and respond to conflict and strengthened human rights language in Security Council resolutions renewing peace operations**. OHCHR engaged with Security Council members and ensured the incorporation of human rights, including with regard to SGBV and transitional justice, in Afghanistan, Haiti, Libya and Mali. OHCHR provided inputs to 33 UN policy documents, including on gender-related issues, the protection of civilians, child protection and the screening of security forces. OHCHR contributed to centralizing human rights and accountability in Libya’s political and reconciliation process to prevent further conflict and help achieve sustainable peace.

In **Colombia**, at the request of the Government, OHCHR participated in the formulation of the **National Police Reform Bill** and played a key role in training for disciplinary judges on international human rights standards for their application in cases of alleged human rights violations.

PS4 – Transitional JUSTICE and ACCOUNTABILITY

Justice mechanisms, including for transitional justice, provide increased accountability for conflict-related violations.



On transitional justice, the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Mission in **South Sudan** (UNMISS) supported public consultations on the **establishment of the Commission on Truth, Reconciliation and Healing (CTRH) and the implementation of Chapter V of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS)**. Chapter V calls for the establishment of the CTRH, a Hybrid Court for South Sudan and a Compensation and Reparation Authority to address the impacts of the protracted conflict and massive violations that hinder progress towards reconciliation and nationhood. The Division provided technical assistance and capacity-building support to the Transitional Justice Working Group (TJWG) to enable it to streamline its activities and identify priorities for advocacy and engagement on Chapter V. In March, the Division assisted the TJWG to review its Transitional Justice Strategic Plan. Following the review, the 2023-2026 plan was adopted. Further, the Division assisted the TJWG to conduct the Transitional Justice Monthly Forum, in Juba, under the theme “To accelerate the implementation of the transitional justice mechanism for a peaceful South Sudan.”

OHCHR supported the Executive Office of the Secretary General (EOSG) and the drafting and consultation process on the revision of the **Secretary-General’s Guidance Note on Transitional Justice**, providing guidance and coordination for future UN support in relation to transitional justice.

OHCHR supported the Government of Ethiopia, in cooperation with the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC), in the context of the recommendations issued following joint investigations that were undertaken through transitional justice consultations with victims and affected communities. Key findings and good practices on transitional justice were documented in an OHCHR-EHRC Joint Advisory Note that was developed and shared to inform conversations on policy options and the development of a **comprehensive transitional justice policy for Ethiopia**, in line with the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement.

PS5 – INFORMATION and EARLY WARNING

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 issued an **assessment of human rights concerns in China’s Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region** on 31 August, following allegations of serious violations (against Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim communities brought to the attention of OHCHR), particularly in the context of the Chinese Government’s policies and measures to combat terrorism and “extremism.” Acting under its early warning and urgent action procedure, on 24 November, the **Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) called on China to immediately investigate all allegations of human rights violations in Xinjiang**, including those of torture, ill-treatment, sexual violence, forced labour, enforced disappearances and deaths in custody.

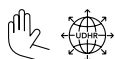
OHCHR coordinated the **integration of human rights risk analysis into global UN prevention processes**, including RMRs, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) on Early Warning, Early Action and Readiness Report and the work of UNOCC. OHCHR submitted 1,366 inputs to UNOCC, 80 per cent of which were included in its daily reports. OHCHR prepared risk analyses for 25 RMR meetings and 10 regional scans and submitted 38 inputs to the IASC.

OHCHR established its **seventh Emergency Response Team (ERT)** in its Regional Office for the Pacific in Fiji (following Bangkok, Dakar, Panama City, Pretoria, Santiago de Chile and Yaoundé) to develop regional capacities in relation to early warning and information management and to support RCs/ UNCTs on human rights risk analysis in development and humanitarian settings.

OHCHR deployed **13 surge teams** to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Chad, Gabon, the Gambia, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan/Tajikistan, Peru, São Tomé and Príncipe, Tunisia and Ukraine to scale up the collection, analysis and reporting of human rights issues and inform timely action.

PS6 – HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE POLICY

United Nations' support to national and regional security forces, law enforcement agencies and non-State actors integrate human rights and comply with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.



In **Somalia**, the UNSOM HRPG coordinated the **development of risk assessments for the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) on weapons ammunition management and United Nations support to the National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA)**. In July, the HRPG communicated NISA's mitigation measures to the Federal Government and the implementation of the measures was initiated. In addition, the HRPG provided support to the drafting of risk assessments for the Somali Custodial Corps and an addendum to the General Preliminary Risk Assessment for the SPF on the Darwish. The HRPG developed a methodological tool and drafted three Guidance Notes to strengthen the HRDDP Task Force information-sharing system. The methodological tool documents concrete actions undertaken by entities that provide support and links the actions to mitigation measures. The Guidance Notes focus on training as a mitigation measure, background checks and monitoring of the implementation of the HRDDP.

MINUSMA completed 25 HRDDP risk assessments in response to requests for support from the G5 Sahel Joint Force. After the withdrawal of **Mali** from the Joint Force, in May, no support requests were submitted by the Joint Force for the Malian battalions. As a result, the assessments conducted for the Joint Force decreased from nine to seven per quarter. Subsequently, 17 measures were determined to mitigate identified risks and enhance the human rights compliance and accountability of the Joint Force. These measures included: the provision of updated information by the Joint Force on progress achieved in internal investigations and judicial proceedings in relation to grave human rights violations on specific cases; facilitated the UN's access to any detainees held at battalion locations; the development of a standard operating procedure (SOP) on casualties incurred during operations; and measures adopted in accordance with the SOP on the capture, detention and transfer of detainees.

In **Libya**, from 26 to 30 June, OHCHR convened INGOs, NGOs and members of the international community in Tunis to discuss the elements that are required to advance the implementation of the HRDDP, including updating the country's risk assessment and identifying joint mitigation measures. A **draft incident report and a vetting sample were developed** and presented to partners for endorsement before being sent to the Government.

PS7 – NEW TECHNOLOGIES, WEAPONS, TACTICS and PRIVATE SECURITY

The use of private military and security companies and the development and deployment of new technologies, weapons and tactics are increasingly consistent with and respect international human rights law and international humanitarian law.



In coordination with OCHA and other stakeholders, OHCHR was instrumental in developing a **common UN position on explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA)**, including by providing legal advice and analysis, participating in meetings with key permanent missions in Geneva and providing information on the human rights impacts of EWIPA (based on OHCHR monitoring), for use in UN advocacy. This contributed to the adoption, in June, and subsequent endorsement by 60 States of the Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences arising from the use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas.

The people behind the numbers: Using data for human rights protection in the Syrian Arab Republic



Volunteers walk on the rubble of a building damaged by a devastating earthquake in rebel-held al-Maland village, in Idlib province, Syria.
© Reuters/Khalil Ashawi

In 2022, OHCHR reported to the HRC that an estimated 306,887 civilians had been killed during the 10 years of armed conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic. That is an average of 84 civilians killed each day, every day, for a decade. This staggering number highlights the brutal impact of the conflict and indicates the commission of massive human rights and international law violations. Behind this number is an untold story of courageous individuals and organizations that have documented and reported deaths during active hostilities.

During the 10 years of the conflict, the OHCHR-Syria monitoring and reporting team and several CSOs have carried out the grueling work of collecting reliable data. Although these human rights defenders operate in difficult and dangerous environments, they remain committed to ensuring that individual

lives are counted and that their stories are told.

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) has carried out this work for more than 10 years. “On a daily basis, we have monitored many areas and residential neighborhoods that were stormed by the parties to the conflict or bombings and we faced enormous security challenges, having lost colleagues who were killed or arrested,” said Fadel Abdul Ghany, Founder and Executive Director of SNHR.

Recognizing the risks and obstacles of this work, Rami Abdurrahman, Founder and Director of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), also underlines the importance of cooperation among those undertaking this work.

In addition, restricted access, including due to active hostilities or displacement of people, means that data are not always exhaustive. To address these limitations, OHCHR’s Methodology, Education and Training Section (METS) is leading a project that connects innovative statistical and data science techniques with human rights monitoring.

Through a partnership between statisticians from OHCHR and data experts and statisticians from the Human Rights Data Analysis Group (HRDAG), the project cross-references data from multiple documentation groups. Using cutting-edge data science and advanced statistical techniques, estimates were produced for different periods of the conflict that

demonstrated gaps in documentation. Of the estimated 306,887 civilians killed in Syria between 1 March 2011 and 31 March 2021, more than half of those deaths (163,537), were never documented.

“The conflict-related casualty figures in this report are not simply a set of abstract numbers. They represent individual human beings,” stressed Michelle Bachelet, former High Commissioner for Human Rights, when presenting the findings to the HRC. The Office was mandated to produce a report on the impacts of casualty recording on the promotion and protection of human rights in HRC resolution 50/11.

“These collaborative efforts can help advance human rights objectives, inform policymaking and decision-making and secure justice and accountability,” said Radwan Ziadeh, Executive Director of the Damascus Centre for Human Rights Studies (DCHRS). Radwan adds, “We are very fortunate to have this cooperation with UN Human Rights and we hope to continue this engagement in the future.”



Survivors of CRSV take part in art therapy as part of a project supported by the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), which aims to empower survivors and provides them with medical and psychosocial services. © Medica Gjakova

Non-discrimination (ND)

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination



LAWS, POLICIES AND PRACTICES



Combating discrimination in all its forms

580 participants from **79** countries in the **15th** session of the **Forum on Minority Issues** (under the theme “Review. Rethink. Reform.” 30th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on Minority Rights“)

700 participants attended the **1st** session of the **Permanent Forum on People of African Descent** (300 statements on the issues of systemic racism, climate justice, reparatory justice, equality for people of African descent and the elaboration of a draft United Nations Declaration on the Human Rights of People of African Descent)



Acting upon complaints:

Women
90
communications
(sent by the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls)

People of African descent
15
communications
(sent by the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent)

CIVIL SOCIETY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



Preparation of the High Commissioner’s Agenda Towards Transformative Change for Racial Justice and Equality

Online consultations held with

116 persons

(71% women, 80% people of African descent)

CAPACITY-BUILDING



Fellowship Programmes: Training provided to

11 people of African descent
(8 women and 3 men from 11 countries)

20 Indigenous Persons
(10 women and 10 men from 17 countries)

12 persons from minority groups
(4 women and 8 men from 12 countries)



CALL FOR EQUALITY AND TOLERANCE

PUBLIC CAMPAIGNS:

International Women’s Day (March 8)

4 videos of human rights defenders and the High Commissioner and

9 engagement cards in support of gender equality
(750k impressions and 19k likes)

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (March 21)

#FightRacism posts across platforms, including through a partnership with Peace One Day to host the “Anti-Racism Live” event
(675k views and 15k engagements)

International Migrants Day (December 18)

“MyGreat Cookbook,” celebrating the culinary journeys and experiences of women who migrated and sharing their recipes, in partnership with Nik’s Fudo (103k views)

International Albinism Awareness Day (June 13)

Albinism Awareness Day posts, including through **5** TikTok content producers/influencers (445k impressions and 20k engagements)

“We’re all made of the same ingredients”: MyGreat Story brings the UN Human Rights #StandUp4Migrants initiative to Australia

In September, the UN Human Rights Office in Bangkok launched the MyGreat Story campaign in Australia, as part of the global “#StandUp4Migrants” initiative. Despite its rich multicultural history and diversity, narratives on migration remain complex and contested in the country. The campaign was developed to produce positive human rights-based narratives on migrants and migration and was widely shared on the UN Human Rights Asia social media platforms.

Produced in partnership with Love Frankie, an Asia-Pacific social impact communications agency, the campaign is composed of a four-part video series featuring eight individuals who represent the diverse migrant community of Australia. They come from Filipino, Ghanaian, Indian, Malaysian, Maltese, Polynesian and South African backgrounds and are prominent in their respective fields of sport, fashion, food, art and culture.

The campaign slogan, “We are all made of the same ingredients,” is brought to life in each video, which showcases a pair sharing a meal and conversation, demonstrating

that food can provide a way to connect and generate mutual respect and empathy. The videos reached 789,623 people and garnered 384,335 views online, with 46,902 people reacting and making comments across all platforms.

The campaign was founded on multi-method research that was commissioned by UN Human Rights. The research suggested that more than two-thirds of Australians are willing to welcome newcomers into their neighbourhoods and that more than 75 per cent of Australians believe their communities are stronger when people support one another.

“The story of migration is our human story, [particularly] in Australia where more than half of the country has a migrant background,” said Pia Oberoi, UN Human Rights Senior Adviser on Migration and Human Rights in the Asia-Pacific. “We hope that the campaign may eventually contribute to bringing change to the migration conversation here in Australia.”

The launch was organized in Sydney and 40 participants attended, including

journalists, influencers and social activists. The video series was presented during a panel discussion with a Red Cross representative and the social media influencers featured in the videos.

In addition, a media workshop was held for journalism students and early-career journalists on the preparation of inclusive narratives about migrants and migration. Held in partnership with the Google News Initiative, the workshop was open to students from journalism schools and interns from news outlets. It equipped the 40 participants, many of whom were from migrant and minority backgrounds, with the knowledge and confidence to feature migrant stories in their reporting and provided them with an important networking opportunity.

“If you want to learn about someone’s culture, you eat their food,” Alvin Quah, a MasterChef contestant of Malaysian descent tells LFresh, a Sikh hip-hop artist, during their shared meal.

The videos remind us that the things that connect us are often much more powerful than those that divide us.



Screening of campaign video series at the launch event held in Sydney, Australia, on 14 September 2022. © Love Frankie



Panel discussion with social media influencers featured in the video series at the launch event, held in Sydney, Australia, on 14 September 2022. © Love Frankie

Highlights of pillar results

Non-discrimination (ND)

Enhancing equality and non-discrimination for all is at the core of international human rights law. With a call to Leave No One Behind, the 2030 Agenda has created an 'equality' momentum. Taking advantage of this opportunity, UN Human Rights seeks to remove structural barriers

that exacerbate and perpetuate discrimination, exclusion and inequalities. The Office supports efforts aimed at strengthening laws, policies, institutions, practices and attitudes conducive to equality and non-discrimination. It strives to increase public support for diverse and inclusive

societies and enhance coherent and rights-based UN responses to exclusion and discrimination. The SDGs provide a common reference for this work, including through linkages with economic, social and cultural rights.

PILLAR RESULTS / SHIFTS / SDGs

ND1 – NORMATIVE FRAMEWORKS to combat DISCRIMINATION

Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms and responsible authorities actively work to Leave No One Behind, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.



RESULTS / SPOTLIGHTS



In **Jamaica**, OHCHR collaborated with the UNCT Gender and Human Rights Theme Group and the leadership of the RCO to advocate for the **entry into force of the Disabilities Act (2014)**. The Act came into force on 14 February, marking a milestone in the lives of persons with disabilities. It includes provisions to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, prohibit all forms of discrimination and safeguard and enhance their welfare. The Act also requires: the establishment of a Disabilities Tribunal; the restructuring of the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities (JCPD); the development and implementation of codes of practice to provide practical guidance on the inclusion of persons with disabilities; the preparation of a confidential register of persons with disabilities; and consultations with stakeholders to assist in the formulation of the policy that informs disabilities regulations.

In **North Macedonia**, the Human Rights Adviser (HRA) provided technical advice on drafting the **Gender Equality Law**, which recognizes diverse gender identities for the first time and envisions a robust gender equality machinery. More specifically, the HRA and several UN agencies produced a comprehensive assessment of the draft law, which is in the final stages of review by the Government.

OHCHR reinforced the call by organizations of persons with disabilities (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, on 4 May, the Government adopted a **draft resolution 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.

OHCHR supported **South Africa's implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerances**. The NAP aims to facilitate social cohesion in light of widespread xenophobia, hate speech and racism in the country in the past

few years. OHCHR worked closely with the South Africa Department of Justice and Constitutional Development to strengthen the implementation of the NAP. A road map was adopted that includes OHCHR as the Secretariat for the NAP governance structure and foresees its contribution to the establishment of a Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) for the NAP through a mapping of existing early warning systems that respond to racist and xenophobic incidents.

In **Uganda**, OHCHR cooperated with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) and the albinism community in relation to the **launch of the National Action Plan on Albinism**. OHCHR supported various advocacy efforts, including through the production of a situational analysis, the commemoration of International Albinism Awareness Day and the preparation of information, education and communication (IEC) materials. Moreover, the Office supported the MGLSD to launch and adopt the NAP in June. The NAP will contribute to the National Comprehensive Action Plan on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2020-2024). The Plan outlines strategic actions to address albinism in Uganda.

The OHCHR/Equal Rights Trust [publication](#) **Protecting minority rights: A practical guide to developing comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation** was published. It provides guidance on legislation that States must enact to fulfil their international human rights law obligations to prohibit discrimination.

ND2 – JUSTICE SYSTEMS investigate DISCRIMINATION

Justice systems and related institutions increasingly monitor and investigate discrimination and provide redress to victims.



OHCHR supported the **establishment of the International Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement (EMLER)**, which held its first private session from 28 February to 4 March. It carried out its first country visit to Sweden (31 October to 4 November) and held its first regional consultation on South America in Santiago, Chile (28 November to 2 December), with 150 participants from 10 countries, including government officials, police oversight authorities, civil society and affected individuals and communities. EMLER presented its first report at the fifty-first session of the HRC, during an enhanced interactive dialogue. The dialogue focused on the collection, publication and analysis of data disaggregated by race or ethnic origin with regard to interactions of Africans and people of African descent with law enforcement and the criminal justice system.


In a **femicide case** involving a young Wixárika Indigenous woman in the northern state of Jalisco, **Mexico**, OHCHR remained in contact with the Jalisco State Prosecutor's Office, the State Executive Commission on Attention to Jalisco Victims, the Secretariat for Substantive Equality between Women and Men and other relevant actors. OHCHR provided information on international human rights standards related to access for justice for Indigenous women, as well as judicial safeguards that integrate a gender and intersectional perspective. In June, Mexican authorities charged her husband with first-degree murder.


In **Somalia**, the UNSOM HRP supported the Federal Government to establish measures for equal opportunities, redress violations and protect the rights of women and marginalized groups and those affected by discrimination. With the HRP's support, a reporting template for a gender-based violence (GBV) mechanism in Puntland State was developed and adopted to **increase monitoring and assessments and enable GBV responses and interventions** at the field level.


ND3 – WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION and PROTECTION

Legal and social frameworks increasingly promote the autonomy and choices of women and girls and protect them from violence, including in the digital space.



 In **North Macedonia**, following the January 2021 adoption of the **Law on Prevention and Protection from Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GBV Law)**, OHCHR supported its implementation by providing advice on the application of a holistic, victim-centred approach to prevention, protection, support and the criminal justice response in secondary legislation, in compliance with international human rights standards. This support included comments and advice on the congruence and compliance with new and existing legislative initiatives on improved access to justice, new legal provisions to curtail violence against women and girls and secure compensation for GBV victims, with a focus on addressing intersectional and multiple forms of discrimination, as well as negative gender stereotypes and narratives associated with GBV.


 In the **occupied Palestinian territory**,² OHCHR ensured the **systematic integration of gender into its monitoring, reporting and capacity-building** activities. Monitoring focused on the gendered impacts of occupation, violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, GBV, violations against women human rights defenders (WHRDs) and violations against women in Israeli and Palestinian detention facilities. Of the 133 cases that were recorded, 15 cases involved violations of women’s rights. Twenty-three cases that integrated a gender perspective were monitored. The Office remained one of the few entities that carried out visits to female detention facilities in Gaza and the West Bank, which were crucial to making linkages between GBV, discrimination and the detention of women.

 From 12 to 21 April, OHCHR and SOS-FEVF (an NGO), launched a **campaign of mobile consultations to support victims of GBV**, in Niamey, **Niger**. This led to the registration of 65 cases, including 22 cases of psychological violence, 14 cases of denial-of-service opportunities, nine cases of physical violence, seven cases of forced and early marriage and three cases of alleged rape. As a result, victims were provided with psychological, medical, legal and judicial assistance.

ND4 – ERADICATING HARMFUL NORMS

Judicial institutions, the media and other sectors increasingly recognize and challenge harmful gender stereotypes and gender norms, with a view to their eradication.



 The Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material integrated an **analysis of harmful gender stereotypes and practices** into her thematic reports. She also provided guidance to States on actions needed to achieve SDG 5.3 on the elimination of all harmful practices, including through measures to mitigate the underlying root causes and by responding to the demands and protection needs of children in vulnerable situations. In the Special Rapporteur’s 2022 report to the HRC, she highlights practical measures to address the sale and sexual exploitation of children and measures needed to eliminate these harmful practices. The Special Rapporteur’s report to the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly focuses on addressing the vulnerabilities of children to sale and sexual exploitation within the framework of the SDGs and identifies children who are at risk or vulnerable to sale and sexual abuse and exploitation under SDG targets 5.3, 8.7 and 16.2.

ND5 – DIGITAL SPACE

Principles and practices effectively counter discrimination and hate speech in the digital space.

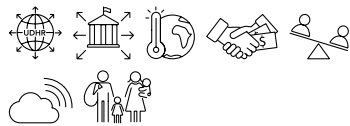


OHCHR participated in the **global debate on disinformation and hate speech** and advocated for the application of an HRBA to all efforts undertaken by the UN, States and companies. It continued to engage with digital platforms in relation to issues such as content moderation policies and practices. This included work on the use of artificial intelligence (AI), biometrics and spyware and their impacts on discrimination and exclusion. OHCHR reviewed and provided comments on national legislation regarding hate speech in the digital space and UN system-wide efforts in this field, including by participating in the Internet Governance Forum, which was held in November.

² All references to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with General Assembly resolution 67/19.

ND6 – MIGRATION

The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.



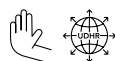
OHCHR increased its activities with regard to **Venezuelan migration** with the dual objective of: 1) applying an HRBA to the work of the protection groups of the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V); and 2) engaging with national stakeholders in host and transit countries. OHCHR contributed to the work of the special procedures by submitting cases of human rights violations of Venezuelan migrants in Curacao, Panama and Trinidad and Tobago, which resulted in communications sent to the respective Governments. Further, OHCHR established technical cooperation with the NHRI network on migration of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen (FIO). This resulted in the elaboration and publication, in May, of a new protocol entitled **“Prevention and response to possible vulnerabilities and human rights violations of people in the context of international human movement,”** which coordinates assistance to migrants in the region and takes into consideration new challenges brought about by the migration crisis from Venezuela. Additionally, OHCHR provided human rights expertise in relation to activities of the Quito Process and undertook joint activities with UN agencies, in particular UN Women, UNODC and IOM, to improve access to justice for refugees and migrants who are victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and minors. In response, a network of CSOs was established, supported by UNODC and OHCHR, that will coordinate their interventions to facilitate access to justice for victims of trafficking in persons.

OHCHR maintained its commitment to **reshaping harmful narratives against migrants and migration**. This led to efforts to contextualize and socialize the Office’s campaign and toolbox **“#StandUp4Migrants,”** including a podcast, two comic stories on migration and climate change, a cookbook and series of cooking classes with women migrant chefs, a performance that shared migration stories, a video hosted by an influencer, an artistic workshop for migrant and local youth and a mural painting.

The Office provided technical assistance to States and other stakeholders in **designing and implementing human rights-compliant migration governance measures**. To this end, it finalized a training package on the application of an HRBA to migration and guidance on **human rights monitoring in the context of migration**.

ND7 – PUBLIC MOBILIZATION for INCLUSION

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



On 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Office launched its **“Change the history” social media campaign in Guatemala**. The campaign featured a video of men, calling on viewers to question common stereotypes and ideas about masculinity and urging them to take action to eliminate violence against women. The Twitter post that included the video reached over 3,000 persons. The video was also played in Transmetro buses and the offices of Banco Industrial.

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 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 Resident Coordinator and the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, who acknowledged that the National Inclusive Education Policy does not include LGBTI students. The Minister committed to addressing this gap, while highlighting the need for relevant training for teachers and school staff. 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.

Through the **UN Free & Equal campaign**, OHCHR raised awareness about and advocated for the human rights of LGBTI persons on social media, reaching more than 131.5 million social media feeds in 2022. The Free & Equal campaign videos were seen by more than 23.3 million people and social media posts received more than 8.1 million interactions from people around the world. The campaign advocated for LGBTI equality at the national level in 11 countries. In **Panama**, the Office supported the production of a three-minute film and digital materials as part of the “Yes, I accept” initiative to promote acceptance of same-sex marriage. The materials were widely shared through traditional media (radio and television) and digital social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others). According to 2020 and 2021 surveys, social acceptance of LGBTI rights, including same-sex marriage, has increased by 10 per cent.

ND8 – UN response to INEQUALITY and DISCRIMINATION

The UN system implements a coherent and human rights-based response to inequality and discrimination, including intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination.



The HRA contributed to drafting the **new UNSDCF 2023-2027** for **Montenegro**, as well as designing the vision, priorities, theory of change and indicators. The new UNSDCF was signed by the Government and the United Nations, in July. It sets out an overall vision of increased respect for human rights, social justice and the inclusion of the most vulnerable. One of the three priorities focuses on improved implementation of the rule of law, human rights, strengthened social cohesion and people-centred governance, in accordance with recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. Some of the outcome indicators that will be used to measure the enjoyment of human rights include employment, gender equality, prevalence of child marriage and violence against children, discrimination, access to health care and education, equality before the law, the rule of law and accountability. In 2023, the HRA will lead the new inter-agency group on human rights and the LNOB principle.

OHCHR provided guidance to the RCO in Serbia to finalize and launch the **Tool for the introduction of the ‘Leave No One Behind’ principle into legislative and strategic acts of the Republic of Serbia**. The Tool provides policymakers with practical guidelines for integrating the LNOB principle into national policies and strategies across all sectors in order to help tackle inequalities and discrimination. During the year, the principle was integrated into the Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Anti-Discrimination Strategy. Discussions are underway to make the use of the tool mandatory for national policymakers and to ensure that capacity-strengthening support is provided, in partnership with civil society and academia.

The **SDG 16 Survey Initiative**, including the survey questionnaire and implementation manual, was presented at the UN Statistical Commission, in February, and at the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in May. The United Nations Statistical Commission welcomed the Survey Initiative to improve data availability of the SDGs. This represents the first time that OHCHR’s work to monitor equality and non-discrimination with data that is disaggregated by ethnicity, Indigenous status and gender identity was included in the decisions of the highest body for international statistical methods and standards. In 2022, the Survey was implemented in El Salvador, Togo and Tunisia. The data collected through the discrimination module will be used in relation to the SDGs and other thematic reporting.

Building capacity and know-how in the fight for equality in Georgia

The comfortable community centre sits on a hilly, tree-lined street in one of the capital's many residential areas. There is no sign on the door. Visitors are requested not to disclose the location and to avoid taking photographs that may identify the building.

Such discretion is necessary in a country with traditional social mores regarding sexual orientation and where violence against non-heterosexuals and activists remains relatively common. Georgia has a solid legal framework that prohibits discrimination and upholds equality, including through the Constitution, the Labour Code, the Criminal Code and a ruling of the Constitutional Court on sexual orientation and gender identity. This should prevent violence and hate crimes against members of the LGBTI community, yet, there is a long way to go in practice.

Following a visit to Georgia in 2018, the UN Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity concluded that “systemic factors deny lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse persons the right to live free and equal in Georgia.”

In February 2022, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights issued a report that states: “LGBTI people remain affected by instances of hate crimes and pervasive discrimination in the fields of education, work, health care and social services and they experience serious challenges in safely exercising their right to peaceful assembly and association.” According to the report, this is

compounded by a failure to hold perpetrators to account.

Georgia has a vibrant civil society and UN Human Rights works to ensure that groups have the tools and knowledge they need to combat discrimination. While national courts can be useful, the attention of the international human rights mechanisms can have a powerful impact at the national level.

Many community groups agree.

Engaging with the international human rights mechanisms was a central topic of discussion during a workshop delivered by OHCHR and UNDP on building NGO capacities.

David Javakhishvili, an international litigation lawyer with the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA), said learning how to use the human rights treaties to fight discrimination was a revelation.



Lika Gulbani of TEMIDA discusses the group's work. Gulbani participated in a recent human rights workshop held by OHCHR.
© Gela Bedianashvili/OHCHR

“We have also learned important skills, such as preparing alternative reports for the UN mechanisms and disseminating knowledge,” said Lika Gulbani of TEMIDA, a queer association in Tbilisi.

Most of those who work on human rights in Georgia believe that change will not happen overnight. But they also share a vision and hope for improvement.

“We did a recent survey and found that many stereotypes around gender have changed over five years,” said Kaikhosroshvili. “The attitude towards the transgender community seems to have shifted the most.”

Georgia is in the process of developing a human rights strategy and action plan that human rights defenders hope will reduce some of the persistent social discrimination and impunity for rights violations and strengthen the implementation of existing laws.

Accountability (A)

Strengthening the rule of law and accountability for human rights violations



JUSTICE SYSTEMS, TRIALS AND PRISON CONDITIONS



Trials
1,291
court cases
monitored



Places of detention
1,377
visits
undertaken



Monitoring missions
5,828
human rights
situations documented

NON-JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS



Human rights mechanisms
88 opinions adopted by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (43 urgent appeals, 107 allegation letters and 4 other letters initiated or joined)

71 communications sent by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (16 urgent appeals, 51 allegation letters and 4 other letters initiated or joined)

117 communications sent by the Working Group on business and human rights (11 urgent appeals, 103 allegation letters and 3 other letters initiated or joined)



Paris Principles-compliant national human rights institutions (NHRIs)
120 countries with established/enhanced NHRIs (including 89 accredited with "A" Status and 31 with "B" Status)



Human rights-based approach to data and indicators
operationalized in **19** countries (between NHRIs and national statistical offices and other government agencies)

South Sudan: Alleged perpetrators identified in Unity State violence

“When Padeah was attacked on 16 February, I was taken from my village, along with more than 20 other women and our children. [The attackers] forced us to carry food items and other goods they had looted from our village. They beat and lashed us with sticks until we reached Mirmir Payam, where we were repeatedly raped in front of our children. Most women gave in to the rape because they were afraid their [daughters would be] raped instead of them.”

This account from a rape survivor in Padeah, Unity State, South Sudan, is one of the numerous testimonies collected by UN Human Rights and investigators from UNMISS following the violence against civilians that took place in the region from February to May.

Investigators conducted 32 verification missions in three counties and neighbouring areas and reported gross violations and abuses of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law in southern Unity State, including forced displacement and attacks on humanitarian facilities and personnel. Their findings were documented in a report that was published in September.

The report reveals that the violations were committed during clashes between government forces and affiliated armed militias and elements of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition (SPLM/A-IO (RM)).



The United Nations Mission in South Sudan has helped humanitarian workers in relocating displaced persons. © Eric Kanalstein/UNMISS

VIOLATIONS AND ABUSES

At least 28 villages and settlements were impacted. It is estimated that 173 civilians were killed, 12 were injured and 37 women and children were abducted. Many abductees were subjected to sexual violence. A total of 131 cases of rape and gang rape were documented, including girls as young as eight years old. A nine-year-old girl was gang raped and murdered. In total, approximately 44,000 civilians were displaced from at least 26 villages.

Since December 2013, the southern part of Unity State has experienced repeated violent clashes between military forces and armed militias within the larger South Sudanese power struggle between President Salva Kiir Mayardit and former Vice-President Riek Machar. The 2015 Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan was violated in July 2016 and the 2018 Revitalized Agreement led to a period of relative calm until February 2020.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

UN Human Rights and UNMISS have identified nine individuals believed to bear the greatest responsibility for the violations committed between February and May. They urged the Government of South Sudan to address the lack of accountability for crimes under international and national law, stressing that this is critical for the resolution of the prolonged conflict in Unity State and lasting peace in South Sudan.

“The Government is duty-bound under international law to protect civilians, investigate allegations of human rights violations and hold suspected perpetrators accountable, in compliance with fair trial standards,” said Nicholas Haysom, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMISS.

UN Human Rights and UNMISS continue to urge the Government to undertake adequate measures to protect civilians.

Highlights of pillar results

Accountability (A)

The legal protection of all human rights requires various actors to fully assume their obligations to respect, protect and fulfil human rights. This includes States as the primary duty bearers, as well as private actors, armed groups, other non-State actors and individuals who, under certain circumstances, can be held criminally accountable for their actions. To

enhance accountability and promote peaceful, prosperous and inclusive societies, UN Human Rights helps to build human rights-compliant institutional frameworks. It supports the adoption of regulations that domesticate international human rights law and promotes policies and practices that guard against transgressions (i.e., the misuse of criminal law,

arbitrary detention, torture, gender-based violence and censorship). UN Human Rights also supports the establishment of independent, impartial and fair courts and non-judicial mechanisms that address claims and grant remedies, including commissions of inquiry, fact-finding missions and other investigations.

PILLAR RESULTS / SHIFTS / SDGs

A1 – ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE and LAW ENFORCEMENT

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



RESULTS / SPOTLIGHTS



On 27 May, following OHCHR's strategic advocacy and technical support to promote the **abolition of the death penalty** and compliance with international human rights law, the National Assembly of the **Central African Republic** unanimously adopted a law abolishing the death penalty. Similarly, in **Equatorial Guinea**, OHCHR advocated for the implementation of UPR recommendations calling on the Government to abolish the death penalty. A new Penal Code, abolishing the death penalty for civil offences, was adopted in August and took effect in December, 90 days after it was published in the official bulletin, on 7 September.

On 25 October, the Government of **Thailand enacted the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance Act 2022**. OHCHR provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice, the custodian of the Act, in relation to its development. 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 achieving zero-tolerance for torture and enforced disappearances and ensuring access to justice for the victims of torture and enforced disappearances. The Act also provides victims of torture and involuntary and enforced disappearances and their families with the necessary framework to seek legal redress and hold accountable the perpetrators of such crimes.

In **Belize**, UN Human Rights provided technical assistance to the Belize Police Department, particularly with regard to the integration of human rights into the standard **training of law enforcement officers and police recruits**. As a result, the Police Training Academy now includes a curriculum on human rights that accompanies the training on the Policy on the Use of Force. The Office also supported the development and dissemination of public communication materials on the responsibilities of law enforcement officers and the rights of citizens when engaging with the police.

UN Human Rights organized advocacy meetings on **illegal detention and the fight against impunity** in connection with emblematic crimes for a wide range of authorities in Haiti. These meetings prompted the judicial authorities of Port-au-Prince and Petit Goave to organize 32 special habeas corpus hearings, with the technical and financial support of the Office, which led to the release of 155 detainees

from October to December. Some of these detainees had been held on minor charges, in inhumane conditions, for more than 10 years, without a trial.

In **Mali**, progress was made in supporting the right to remedy of victims of human rights violations after the 15 November **promulgation of legislation on reparations of gross human rights violations**. Law No. 2022-041 was adopted by the National Transitional Council on 3 November. Article 3 of the Law recognizes the right to remedy and reparation for victims as a fundamental right. The MINUSMA HRPD participated in the drafting process to ensure that the Law and its implementing decree reflect human rights norms and standards, including those governing the protection of victims.

Following sustained advocacy by CRSV survivors in **Nepal**, who were supported by the Office, the Government held consultations to inform them about 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.

In **Mali**, the MINUSMA HRPD provided years of technical advice to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in order to strengthen its capacities, rules and procedures. On 29 March, it was **accredited with "A" Status** by the **Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)** Sub-Committee on Accreditation. Furthermore, at its March session, the Sub-Committee granted "A" Status to the National Human Rights Commission of the **Gambia**. OHCHR contributed to this result through advocacy and supported Gambian authorities in drafting the NHRC Bill and building the capacities of NHRC staff members.

In **Kenya**, OHCHR provided specialized training, including case mentoring on the investigation and prosecution of serious human rights violations for investigators and prosecutors, through its grantee, Partners in Justice International. This enhanced cooperation on investigations and prosecutions of violations by police officers and led to progress in elections-related cases. For instance, on 28 October, a decision was taken by the Director of Public Prosecutions to charge senior police officers with crimes against humanity for murder, torture and rape committed during the 2017 electoral period. This case represents the **first time that crimes against humanity have been domestically prosecuted**, the first criminal prosecution of electoral SGBV and the first prosecution that applied the doctrine of superior command.

In **Kazakhstan**, on 5 November, OHCHR's long-term advocacy efforts resulted in the adoption of a Constitutional Law on the Ombudsperson, thereby strengthening the legal basis for the NHRI, as well as its impact at the local level. Following the long-awaited **establishment of the NHRI** presence at the subnational level, OHCHR and UNDP jointly conducted an introductory training for 31 newly recruited NHRI staff members at the regional and central level. In **Botswana**, the long-awaited Ombudsperson Act, which expands the mandate of the Office of the Ombudsperson into an **independent NHRI with a wider human rights remit**, was adopted by the Parliament. A high-level panel is considering the Ombudsperson's new structure.

On 2 June, UN Human Rights and UNAMI co-published a report entitled **Update on Accountability in Iraq: Limited progress towards justice for human rights violations and abuses by 'Unidentified Armed Elements.'** This was the seventh issue published on the subject since October 2019. The report, which covers the period from 1 May 2021 to 15 May 2022, highlights progress made on compensation for victims, but notes that progress towards accountability remains limited. It further underlines that many of those seeking accountability have been subjected to threats and violent intimidation. The report makes **recommendations to the Government aimed at ending impunity, ensuring redress for victims and protecting families and witnesses from threats.**

A2 – ACCESS TO JUSTICE and REMEDIES


Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.





A3 – Investigation of GENDER-related CRIMES


Justice systems investigate and prosecute gender-related crimes more effectively.



 As part of its advocacy to promote compliance with international human rights standards, UN Human Rights provided technical assistance to national institutions in **Libya** on key legislative reform processes, including the drafting of the **new Law on Violence against Women**. OHCHR worked closely with UNFPA, UN Women and the United Nations Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict (ToE) to convene the Committee of Libyan Experts in Tunis, in May, to discuss provisions and develop an advocacy strategy in the lead up to its endorsement. In February 2023, the draft Law was officially submitted to the House of Representatives.

 The Office continued to promote the adoption of the Latin American Model Protocol for the **investigation of gender-related killings of women**. Three new countries in the region adopted national investigative protocols to deal with femicide cases, including the Protocol for Investigating Femicide in **El Salvador**, which was officially endorsed by the Attorney General, in November.

 The Office contributed to the development of the Framework for the **Prevention of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence** and the evaluation of Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (MARA), conducted by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. This work ensured the systematic gathering of timely, accurate, reliable and objective information on CRSV.

 In **Guinea**, as a member of the ToE, OHCHR assisted national authorities in the **investigation and prosecution of sexual violence crimes in conflict and post-conflict settings**. The ToE are members of the Steering Committee, which is responsible for organizing the trials involving several senior military officials for the killing of more than 150 persons and sexual violence against more than 100 women and girls at the Conakry Stadium in September 2009. Continued engagement by the ToE with authorities, CSOs, the UN system and the diplomatic community contributed to the historic opening of the trials on 28 September, in the presence of 13 of the accused parties, including former President Dadis Camara. In collaboration with the UNCT, OHCHR is drafting an integrated UN strategy to effectively support the trials, which includes trial monitoring, the protection of victims and witnesses, training for justice officials and reparations.

A4 – ACCESS to INFORMATION

States undertake measures to ensure that their decision-making, policies and actions are more transparent and that the public has access to information for accountability purposes.



OHCHR's work on **indicators, data analysis, strengthening transparency and accountability in Mexico** began in 2008 and focuses on ESCRs and civil and political rights, as well as the rights of specific populations and cross-cutting issues, such as non-discrimination and equality. Mexico is the leading country in the world in which OHCHR's methodology has been continuously implemented. These indicators have been adopted by over 180 public institutions at both the federal and state level and are used in nearly 80 institutions as impact measurement tools for numerous public policies, thereby enhancing efforts to implement, monitor and exercise human rights. In 2022, indicators on the right to water and sanitation were validated and generated, in collaboration with the Mexican Institute of Water Technology. The Office also developed the conceptual framework and indicators for measuring labour justice and the rights of persons with disabilities within the justice administration system. In collaboration with the judiciary of the State of Mexico, a framework was prepared to measure and record these variables, including variables on human rights compliance by the business and private sector. Furthermore, indicators were developed for measuring physical and mental disabilities in the administration of justice. A framework for measuring non-sensory/non-physical disabilities was prepared and will be validated in 2023.

A5 – UN ACTION on RULE of LAW

UN efforts with regard to the rule of law, justice, counter-terrorism and accountability put human rights at the core.



In its engagement with partners, UN Human Rights continued to **promote the rule of law and equal access to justice** in relation to **Syria**. In particular, it supported the work of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria (OSES) with the Constitutional Committee. To this end, the Office shared proposals to strengthen language in order to improve rights protection and address critical issues arising from the conflict, such as missing persons and housing, land and property rights. As a result, the OSES became more outspoken about rights-related issues, such as detention and missing persons, including in their briefings to the Security Council and in public statements.

OHCHR worked closely with the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law to develop the Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open-Source Investigations, which was published in January. The aim is to provide a **practical guide on the effective use of digital open-source information for the investigation of violations** of international criminal, human rights and humanitarian law. Further, **guidance for new and ongoing UN human rights investigations** was prepared to optimize the potential use of collected information for accountability purposes. The guidance will support investigative bodies to fulfil their multifaceted mandates by helping them to strengthen their collection, documentation, preservation and processing methodologies. The protocols, tools and templates for collecting and preserving information outlined in the guidance will enable the investigative bodies to systematize their processes and ensure the quality and integrity of their information base.

The long road to comprehensive reparations in Bolivia



Flaviano Unzueta speaks to national authorities and OHCHR on the right of victims to reparations during a regional meeting in Cochabamba department, in Bolivia. © Gloria Moronta/OHCHR

Between 1964 and 1982, a series of military coups and dictatorships in Bolivia resulted in the murder, torture, disappearance or exile of hundreds of people. Political repression touched every sector of society, but it was especially hard on mine workers and university students.

Flaviano Unzueta was one of those university students. His activism began as a young student leader. “I graduated from university in 1970. Since they knew I was a leader, they persecuted me and raided my house,” he recalls.

Then, in 1980, he was arrested. “I was persecuted and I was tortured in different detention centres. The ICRC and the Episcopal Conference managed to get me abroad as an exile. I spent two years in Venezuela as a political refugee, only to return to Bolivia, on 10 October 1982,

just when the democratic phase began,” Unzueta explains.

In the following decades, he has tirelessly advocated for reparations to be paid to those who suffered human rights violations during the dictatorships. In 2004, as president of the National Union of Victims of Political Violence (UNAVIPO), he participated in a collective hunger strike that led to the adoption of Law No. 2640. Although the Law provided for partial economic compensation for 1,714 victims, it was controversial as 80 per cent of the funds were reportedly to be paid by external sources instead of the Bolivian State. Further, many victims claimed they were not properly registered, which left them without access to compensation.

Since 2021, the OHCHR Technical Mission in Bolivia has worked with the State to develop a comprehensive reparations policy for victims of serious human rights violations. It also organized meetings to discuss different options and sought the active participation of the victims in the process.

“The State is responsible for providing reparations. [This] is an important step forward and we believe we will reach a successful conclusion...as long as the UN continues to support the victims of political violence,” says Unzueta.

“Comprehensive reparations include restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition. While countries may differ in the way they implement some of these measures, it is essential that they follow international standards and recommendations,” said Antonio Menéndez de Zubillaga, Chief of the OHCHR Mission in Bolivia.

In July 2022, the Government enacted Law No. 1446 to allocate the outstanding compensation to victims of political violence. On Human Rights Day (10 December), the Ministry of Justice announced that the reparations policy would be implemented.

Unzueta and members of his organization hope this new commitment to the payment of reparations will in turn lead to an acknowledgement of the full impact the dictatorships had on the lives of thousands of Bolivians. OHCHR will continue to raise awareness and review former files to encourage more victims to come forward.



OHCHR accompanies the protest commemorating eight years since the enforced disappearance of 43 students of the Isidro Burgos Rural Teachers' College, in Mexico. © Prometeo Lucero

Participation (P)

Enhancing participation and protecting civic space



PUBLIC MOBILIZATION



Global campaigns

11.5 million followers on social media

(across all UN Human Rights platforms, 7.6% more than in 2021)

108 feature stories

(UN Human Rights website and social media)

4,300 persons from **158** countries expressed support (by sharing a photo on social media with a filter inspired by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the opening of the year-long Human Rights 75 campaign in December 2022)

33 active personalities (profiles of social media influencers supporting UN Human Rights messaging on digital platforms)

221 video stories

(including video messages from the High Commissioner)



In the field

805 advocacy campaigns

Data coverage in **93** countries (226% increase, compared to 41 countries in 2015, in global reporting on killings and enforced disappearances of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unions)

2,789 press releases/statements

INFORMATION AND OUTREACH MATERIALS



Publications

Over **290,000** publications/advocacy materials distributed (in more than 60 countries)

30% increase in visitors to UN Human Rights website (since the launch of the new website in March 2022)

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS



With CSOs

6,417 women's rights organizations

860 youth-led organizations

781 organizations of persons with disabilities

ENGAGEMENT WITH UN HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS



HRC and UPR Voluntary Trust Funds

19 delegates of **16** States supported to attend UPR reviews and/or HRC outcome adoptions

51 requests processed by the HRC Help Desk for Small States (during regular sessions of the HRC)



Intimidation and reprisals against those cooperating with the UN

New cases/developments from **42** countries



Social Forum

Over **500** participants attended online and in person (focusing on good practices, lessons learned and challenges in the implementation of the International Decade for Action on "Water for Sustainable Development," 2018-2028)

Ensuring the meaningful participation of children and youth in Asia in climate justice

When a young climate activist from Pakistan joined other children and youth from across Asia at a Regional Dialogue on Climate Justice, in May, little did she know that her country would soon be hit by the most severe flooding in its recent history. Scientists believe it was likely caused by human-induced climate change.

The activist was selected by her peers to share their collective ideas and experiences at the event.

The first “Asia Regional Dialogue on Climate Justice for Children, Youth and Future Generations,” held from 28 to 30 May, focused on climate change and its impacts on young people, their hopes and dreams and how they could become agents of change.

Co-convened by the OHCHR Regional Office for South-East Asia, the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, UNICEF and other local partners, the Regional Dialogue provided a platform for children and youth to learn, inspire one another and discuss how to engage in meaningful climate action.

The event gathered together more than 986 children and youth between nine and 35 years of age, who had shared their experiences and ideas in 31 national consultations held in 12 Asian countries, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam. The Regional Dialogue enabled the participants to discuss the ideas, plans and goals that emerged from those enriching consultations.

“[Children] are already suffering some of the worst effects of environmental destruction and climate change,” said Katia Chirizzi, Deputy Representative of the UN Human Rights Office for South-East Asia. “The Regional Dialogue sought to ensure that the best interests of children and youth are placed at the core of relevant policies and that they...can contribute and participate meaningfully in any decisions that affect them.”

“[T]his conference and these discussions...mean so much to young people like me and...people across the region who see this venue [as an opportunity] to influence reality and build a movement to create a better reality and a better understanding of our world,” said Louise Mabulo, while sharing her experience when Typhoon

Ulysses hit her home in the Philippines, in 2020, forcing her and her family to flee for their lives. The Philippines is one of the countries in Asia that is most adversely affected by climate change.

“May the fire of hope that sparked in us during this event keep us going as we continue to tackle climate change and climate justice,” said a nine-year-old boy from South Korea. The country’s capital city, Seoul, was subjected to the heaviest rain in a century, in August, which experts confirmed was due to climate change. “The protection of our planet is an intergenerational responsibility. We merely inherited this home from past generations. We must take good care of it or [improve it] so that the next generations can also enjoy it,” he said.



The main banner of the Asia Regional Dialogue on Climate Justice for Children, Youth and Future Generations. © OHCHR, UNDP, UNEP, UNICEF

Highlights of pillar results

Participation (P)

The participation of rights holders and their representative organizations, reflecting the diversity of society and ensuring those most underrepresented are involved, is key to realizing the promise of human rights for all people. When civil society engages freely and actively in policy development and implementation, policies are more informed, effective, efficient and sustainable. Furthermore, civil society is

generally the closest point of assistance for victims of human rights violations and provide legal, medical, social and financial support. Major obstacles to civil society participation exist at all levels, including within UN forums, and shrinking civic space creates a major gap in the promotion and protection of human rights. While new technologies facilitate the expansion of civil society networks,

they also create new avenues for control of civil society movements and speech, often under the pretext of security. UN Human Rights is uniquely placed to monitor and protect civil society space and the international human rights mechanisms rely heavily on civil society to collect information and support the implementation of their recommendations.

PILLAR RESULTS / SHIFTS / SDGs

P1 – ENABLING NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK for civil society

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



RESULTS / SPOTLIGHTS



OHCHR supported the organization of and participated in the pre-COP 1 and COP 1 meetings of the **Escazú Agreement**, during which a **resolution on HRDs was adopted**. In addition, participants decided on a **road map to draft a Plan of Action on article 9 of the Agreement**, which could become one of the most important regional policies on protecting environmental HRDs. That resolution led to the organization of the “First Annual Forum on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean,” which was co-hosted by OHCHR, UNEP and ECLAC. The Forum provided a space for dialogue regarding the protection of environmental HRDs and gathered together authorities, judges, prosecutors, human rights specialists, NHRIs, HRDs, Indigenous Peoples and community representatives, with a view to discussing the Plan of Action.

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.

In **Libya**, following a number of cases of surveillance and arbitrary detention of civil society representatives, OHCHR collaborated with the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association to support HRDs in the preparation of a **draft law on proceedings, collecting evidence, investigations and the protection of victims**. This was instrumental to introducing the concept of civil society-run referral mechanisms for HRDs.

In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO) undertook advocacy and provided technical assistance to the Parliament for the preparation of a **draft law on the protection of the rights of HRDs**, which was adopted by the National Assembly, in December. OHCHR’s sustained advocacy campaign included the delivery of workshops and the mobilization of NHRIs, CSOs and HRDs and other relevant partners to ensure their voices were heard. The campaign culminated in the enactment of the Maniema Edict for the protection of HRDs in early

November. Ongoing advocacy will focus on the **draft laws on access to information and peaceful demonstrations**, which are tabled for the National Assembly's session from March to June 2023.

OHCHR increased its advocacy regarding the application of an **HRBA to the use of digital technologies**, including in a **landmark report to the Human Rights Council on surveillance technologies**. It also shared key messages related to major threats to civil society activism, such as the widespread marketing of surveillance tools, the imposition of restrictions of encryption and the promotion of surveillance of public spaces and monitoring of social media. In doing so, it contributed to a growing global awareness about the multifaceted human rights implications of digital technology. Further, OHCHR engaged in hearings on the use of surveillance at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the EU Parliament and reviewed and analysed national legislation on human rights and the digital space.

P2 – PROTECTION of CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS

The UN system and international, regional and national mechanisms provide increased, timely and effective protection to civil society organizations and individuals, including from reprisals.



In **Mexico**, OHCHR contributed to **strengthening the capacities of the Mechanism and authorities responsible for protecting HRDs and journalists** to comply with international human rights standards and increasing public awareness about the central role played by HRDs/journalists in democratic societies. This was particularly relevant in light of the difficulty in holding dialogues between civil society and the Government in the context of the pandemic. In August, OHCHR proposed that the Governing Board of the Mechanism form a Working Group for the Strengthening of the Protection Mechanism. The Working Group is composed of different government institutions and a consortium of 15 NGOs ("Espacio OSC"). The Office prepared draft guidelines for its operation and a tool for monitoring and evaluation. OHCHR's findings and recommendations were fully accepted by the Government and were also referred to in the ruling handed down by the Inter-American Court for Human Rights (IACtHR) in the case of the *Family of Digna Ochoa y Placido v. Mexico*, as part of a plan to reinforce the Mechanism. OHCHR will continue to provide technical assistance and mediation in the two-year-long evaluation process (formally established in September).

In **Madagascar**, the HRA contributed to the establishment of nine **regional human rights observatories** in Antananarivo, Antsiranana (Diego), Fianarantsoa, Mahajanga, Morondava, Sambava, Taolagnaro, Toamasina and Toliara. This was achieved in the context of the HRA's work with the Rary Aro Mada Project, funded by the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), which includes engagement with youth HRDs, peacebuilders and civil society networks to facilitate information-sharing on human rights activism and the protection of HRDs. The observatories are fully functioning and the youth HRDs are active participants in civic space, empowered by their skills, networks and support from OHCHR. The Office regularly collected quantitative data on human rights violations to increase awareness about human rights trends in Madagascar. Data collected by the youth observatories addressed a gap in the collection of regular and reliable data on human rights violations in the country. Reports are shared through social media and with the Ministry of Justice, UN and national partners. As a result, responses to human rights concerns are better informed and more strategic.

OHCHR co-led the Generation Equality Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership. More specifically, the Office contributed to the development of the Coalition's working methods and accountability framework and the organization of events. It also continued strengthening the visibility of positive, inclusive narratives around gender equality through its communication campaign, "#IStandWithHer." Regional Gender Advisers in Central America and the Caribbean, Eastern Africa, the Middle East and Northern Africa and Western Africa supported the **establishment of networks and the capacity-building of WHRDs**.

P3 – PUBLIC SUPPORT for CIVIC SPACE

Business, policymakers and the public at large increasingly value and support civic space.



The **UN-EU High-level Policy Dialogue, “Protecting the safety of journalists, media freedom and pluralism in the European Union: Challenges and opportunities”** took place on 24 February. Approximately 100 attendees participated in the dialogue, both online and in person, including high-level representatives of UN bodies, all three EU institutions and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, the Council of Europe, OSCE, member states, civil society, media actors, representatives of online platforms, academia and think tanks. It provided an opportunity for OHCHR to showcase its work and identify areas for cooperation and synergy between the UN and EU.

In **South Sudan**, the Human Rights Division of UNMISS took steps to sensitize the public through the radio talk show, **Know your rights**, on UN Radio Miraya. A total of 31 segments were aired that were facilitated by panels of experts composed of CSOs and government partners. The segments covered various topics, including the protection of victims and survivors of human rights violations, women’s empowerment, prolonged detention, the equal and effective participation of women in decision-making processes, equal access to education for persons living with disabilities and the role of the Government and CSOs in the implementation of transitional justice initiatives. The goal of the segments was to increase the community’s awareness about human rights issues and empower citizens to claim their rights, denounce violations and share early warning alerts with UNMISS to prevent human rights violations.

P4 – ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS

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



The **United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT)** awarded 174 annual direct assistance grants, seven capacity-building grants and five emergency grants to rehabilitation centres and legal aid programmes in 92 countries, in all five of the world’s regions, thereby assisting more than 46,000 survivors of torture and their family members. During its fifty-sixth session (10 to 14 October) the UNVFVT Board of Trustees recommended strengthening this support in 2023 through 184 annual direct assistance grants and six capacity-building grants for CSOs, which will assist over 53,000 torture survivors in 90 countries.

The **United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (UNVTFDFS)** awarded 43 direct assistance grants to rehabilitation centres, trade unions, shelters for victims and legal redress programmes in 33 countries, in all five of the world’s regions, thereby assisting more than 13,000 survivors of slavery. 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. During its twenty-seventh session (28 November to 2 December), the UNVTFDFS Board of Trustees recommended strengthening this support in 2023 through 38 annual grants for CSOs, which will assist over 7,700 slavery survivors in 32 countries.

From 12 to 14 December, in Yemen, OHCHR facilitated a three-day consultation to **empower the National Union of Yemeni Disabled Associations in relation to CRPD**. Discussions focused on identifying issues of concern, intervention priorities and practical implementation mechanisms. In addition, OHCHR disseminated its recent thematic report on the situation of persons with disabilities and presented a short film it developed, which addresses the right to education of persons with disabilities. The sessions were attended by 28 participants, including eight women. The report was disseminated at an event organized by OHCHR to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (4 December). The event was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Rights and was attended by 30 participants (six women, 24 men). It provided a unique forum for the exchange of views and experiences between associations of persons with disabilities and relevant authorities, including the State Handicap Care and Rehabilitation Fund.

P5 – CIVIC SPACE MONITORING

More systematic monitoring of the environment for civic space, including threats to it, takes place.



In **Nicaragua**, the Office focused on **monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation in order to protect HRDs**. OHCHR submitted two reports to the HRC, in March and September, and delivered two oral updates, in June and December. Following the submission of the report, in March, the High Commissioner for Human Rights reiterated that accountability measures needed to be strengthened for serious human rights violations. In response, the Council adopted resolution 49/3 to create a group of human rights experts for Nicaragua and reinforce the Office's work in the country. OHCHR and international NGOs advocated for the establishment of the group of human rights experts, which is promoting accountability measures and the verification of human rights violations to identify individual perpetrators wherever possible. The Office provided monthly flash reports about Nicaragua, which have been cited by international and national media outlets, thereby increasing the visibility of the situation of Nicaragua.

In **Honduras**, OHCHR significantly strengthened its work on civic space by developing and implementing **a comprehensive system for monitoring and documenting attacks against HRDs, journalists, demonstrators and other persons of interest**. This enabled OHCHR to identify 224 victims of attacks during 2022 and to coordinate emergency responses. Further, OHCHR contributed to preventing the misuse of criminal law against HRDs and those who exercise their right to freedom of expression in Honduras through an analysis designed to identify patterns and trends. The Office created several tools, including a documentation methodology that is based on case files related to criminalization and a file registration system that allows findings to be systematized, providing disaggregated data on types of victims, criminal charges and the contexts in which they are brought, arrest records and the exercise of the right of access to information by victims. The findings of this process were shared with the national HRD community at the National Meeting of HRDs, which took place from 27 to 28 February 2023, with the participation of approximately 200 Honduran HRDs, providing a platform to discuss the human rights situation in Honduras and generate proposals for concrete actions.

Expansion of the data coverage for SDG 16.10.1 (killings and other attacks against journalists, human rights defenders and trade unionists) continued with the establishment of national data collection mechanisms in Kenya and the Philippines. The NHRI and the National Statistics Office of the Philippines agreed to recognize the NHRI as the national custodian of SDG Indicator 16.10.1. The UN Joint Programme for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Philippines (UNJPP) utilizes this Indicator as a part of its results-based monitoring and evaluation framework. In Kenya, the adopted methodology for data collection on SDG 16.10.1 incorporates citizen-generated data and envisages the designation of the NHRI as the national custodian of SDG Indicator 16.10.1.

In raising awareness about the **negative human rights impacts of Internet disruptions**, OHCHR engaged with different actors, including academic organizations, tech companies, UN partners and civil society, to expand their capacities to process data on shutdowns by gathering real-time data on countries undergoing apparent shutdowns. As a result, OHCHR and human rights mechanisms publicly commented on at least 22 Internet shutdowns around the world, including in India, Iran and Kazakhstan.

P6 – PEOPLE HAVE a VOICE

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



OHCHR strengthened its **engagement with youth**, including through the organization of an all youth workshop, in collaboration with UNESCO and OSGEY, in the margins of the ECOSOC Youth Forum, held in April. During the workshop, participants discussed how education can contribute towards just, sustainable and peaceful futures for all. In addition, the **Youth Rights Advocacy Toolkit was developed**. The Toolkit focuses on young people in situations of vulnerability and seeks to empower them to stand up for their human rights. It is anticipated that it will be implemented at the country level in 2023.

In November, OHCHR supported the organization of and participated in the annual Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Summit in Lusaka, Zambia. The theme of the Summit was “A journey to sustainability: Protecting civic space through strengthening institutions for and networks of environmental and human rights defenders in Southern Africa.” More than 200 HRDs from across Southern Africa were in attendance. OHCHR used the opportunity to launch an **advocacy brief on *Protecting Human Rights and Civic Space Online in Southern Africa***. The brief provides an overview of the online civic space landscape and the challenges faced with respect to content regulation and censorship, surveillance, Internet connectivity and disruptions and makes recommendations on how civil society, States and private entities can address associated risks in accordance with international human rights law. OHCHR will use the brief in its work to encourage the revision of laws, policies and practices in the region. Further, during the Summit, the **Southern Africa Women Human Rights Defenders Network (SAHRDN) was formally launched** on the International Day for Women Human Rights Defenders (29 November). This is an initiative that OHCHR has supported since 2019. The Network will work to ensure that gender-specific responses are strengthened as most mechanisms in the region are not exclusively designed for WHRDs. It is also a recognition that specific responses are needed to address the particular risks and forms of violence that WHRDs face in conducting their work.

The **United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples** supported the participation of 126 Indigenous representatives, including 69 women and 57 men, in 11 UN meetings and processes relevant to Indigenous issues, such as the eleventh session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII) (20 grantees from 19 countries), the fifteenth session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) (25 grantees from 20 countries) and the United Nations Expert Workshop on Enhancing the Participation of Indigenous Peoples in the Work of the HRC (24 grantees from 21 countries). Grantees of the Fund also received preparatory training delivered in English, French, Spanish and Russian to enable them to fully and effectively participate in these processes. Further, the Secretariat of the Fund provided the necessary technical and substantive guidance to the grantees to strategically enhance their advocacy work. Under the Senior Fellowship Programme, the shadowing training programme continued in 2022. A total of 32 former Indigenous and Minority Fellows from 27 countries, including 14 women, were posted to OHCHR headquarters and field presences for up to two years.

With the support of UN Human Rights, in the **Republic of Moldova**, 22 human rights activists and representatives of groups at risk of exclusion from the Transnistrian region completed an 18-month **human rights capacity-building programme**. As a result of the programme, four advocacy papers and one video animation were developed and submitted by human rights activists to duty bearers to address human rights issues and concerns in relation to persons with disabilities, survivors of domestic violence, Roma and persons living with HIV/AIDS. In addition, during April and May, human rights activists from the Transnistrian region organized and conducted 19 human rights awareness-raising trainings and informational sessions for 280 representatives of groups at particular risk, including persons with disabilities and family members, persons from the Roma community, persons living with HIV/AIDS and women who experienced GBV. Participants increased their knowledge and practical skills related to the application of an HRBA and relevant regulatory frameworks, international standards and human rights obligations.

Senegal: Civil society and human rights defenders mobilize for a transparent election

“As human rights defenders, it is important that we help mobilize young people to become more involved in defending their civil and political rights,” said Jaly Badiane, a Senegalese human rights activist and blogger.

Badiane was part of Senegal Vote, a “civi-tech” initiative that combined citizen engagement and ICT to encourage participation in the country’s recent election, especially among younger people. The initiative was led by the Wa Mbedmi Association (“those in the street” in Wolof), a non-profit dedicated to participatory citizenship.

“[T]he Wa Mbedmi Association... challenges those in power and engages in collaborative and community dynamics,” Badiane said. “The goal of our initiative is to make relevant electoral information understandable, in a language that is accessible to a large number of voters.”

To guarantee the fairness of the 2022 elections in Senegal, human rights defenders and CSOs worked to ensure free, fair and transparent elections. One of those was the Women’s Watch Platform for Peace and Security, known as Ètu Jamm (Peace Space in Wolof), which is an election monitoring group composed of 50 Senegalese and pan-African women’s CSOs that is coordinated by Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS).

Ètu Jamm monitored and observed the election from 30 July to 1 August. According to Coumba Fall Venn, Director of the Pan-African Centre for Gender, Peace and Development and the FAS Regional Director of Programmes, Ètu Jamm served as “an early warning and rapid response mechanism to possible unrest or other forms of violence during electoral processes.” Its establishment was “inspired by [Security Council resolution 1325](#) and the African Union Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa.”

Ètu Jamm and Senegal Vote were supported by the UN Human Rights Regional Office for West Africa. OHCHR “strengthened the capacities of election observers through trainings on human rights, gender and elections,” said Mouhamadou Sow, a Programme Analyst for the Office. “OHCHR provided two training sessions over two days to a group of over 100 observers from different parts of the country, who were deployed by Ètu Jamm to monitor parliamentary elections.”



Mouhamadou Sow, OHCHR Programme Analyst, speaks to Emmanuel Baloucoune, a volunteer in charge of election observation at the Demba Diop Stadium voting centre, and Jaly Badiane of the Senegal Vote initiative. © Habibou Dia/OHCHR

Senegal Vote undertook online monitoring before and during the elections and young people were given online tools and content they could use before election day. It also deployed volunteer observers, primarily in the 14 regions of Senegal, who provided regular feedback on the conduct of the election with images and videos.

During the elections, Ètu Jamm deployed 60 women observers and 20 journalists, who monitored the elections at 350 polling stations in Dakar and in the regions. At the polling stations, many women voters asked women monitors for guidance about the process and were reassured that they had the right to enter the polling stations to cast their votes. The interventions of Ètu Jamm and Senegal Vote contributed to an election day with few incidents of violence, both online and offline.



At the Demba Diop Stadium voting centre in Dakar, Senegal, a voter puts her ballot paper in a box at polling station number 1.

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