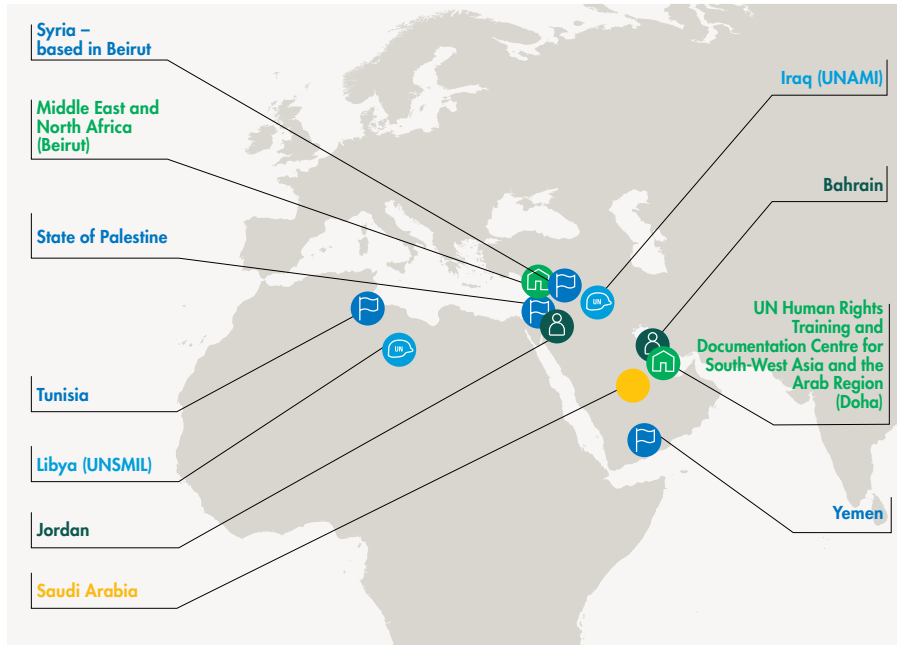


UN Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa



TYPE OF PRESENCE

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

LOCATION

State of Palestine ^b , Syrian Arab Republic (based in Beirut, Lebanon), Tunisia and Yemen
Middle East and North Africa (Beirut, Lebanon), UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha, Qatar)
Iraq (UNAMI) and Libya (UNSMIL)
Bahrain ^c and Jordan
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

^a Human rights advisers are deployed under the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group. All references to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.
^b On hold until funding is available.
^c On hold until funding is available.

LEGEND:

Spotlights:

- Disabilities
- Youth
- Women
- People of African descent

Shifts:

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

SDGs:



In 2022, the work and activities of UN Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa region covered 19 countries and included 11 field presences. The Office's engagement in the region was supported by the Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa in Beirut, the UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region in Doha; four country offices (the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt),¹⁴ the Syrian Arab Republic (based in Beirut, Lebanon), Tunisia and Yemen); two human rights advisers (HRAs) (one in Jordan and one to be deployed in Bahrain); two human rights components in United Nations peace missions (in Iraq and Libya); and a project in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Office continued to implement country programmes from headquarters, in Geneva, in the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Office provided support to two special procedures country mandates, namely, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Support to these mandates was provided through a number of activities, including contributions to mandated reports, communications and press releases on human rights issues and engagement with States and civil society.

The Office served as the Secretariat to the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, as mandated by the General Assembly. In addition, the Office cooperated with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, the Independent International Commission on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel and the Fact-Finding Mission on Libya. It also supported the establishment of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The year 2022 was marked by the lasting impacts of COVID-19, which were exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, contributing to increased food insecurity. Protests took place in various parts of the region in relation to inequality, governance, discrimination, the rights of women and representation. Meanwhile, some States strengthened or adopted new measures limiting or eroding the exercise of the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly and civic space was increasingly threatened, including online. Religious and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, LGBTI persons and other groups in vulnerable situations faced marginalization in some countries, which was exacerbated by hate speech both online and offline.

Women faced discrimination in law and in practice in several States. At the same time, protracted conflicts and violence in the region led to the loss of life and damage to physical infrastructure, causing instability in the midst of ongoing violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. In a number of States, significant concerns were raised regarding the conduct of security forces and adherence to the rule of law, fair trial standards and due process. Arbitrary detention, extrajudicial killings, torture and disappearances were documented. Various States imposed the death penalty, including on child offenders. Positive developments were observed, however, including engagement with the international human rights mechanisms and partnerships with State and non-State institutions on initiatives aimed at the promotion and protection of human rights.

The Office monitored, publicly reported on and undertook strategic advocacy on the human rights situation in the region, alongside increased engagement, technical cooperation and capacity development with States, regional organizations, CSOs, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and other actors to strengthen the protection of human rights and prevent violations. The Office repeated calls for the promotion and protection of the rights of civilians in

¹⁴ Hereinafter, all references to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with General Assembly resolution 67/19.

situations of armed conflict through the preparation of reports and briefings to the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council. In order to enhance engagement with the international human rights mechanisms, the Office implemented tailored capacity-building and technical assistance initiatives at the national and regional level, as well as with regional organizations, such as the League of Arab States. Field presences worked with essential partners, including UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and Resident Coordinators (RCs), to support the integration of human rights into development agendas.

Looking forward, the Office will remain committed to engagement and technical cooperation, monitoring, reporting and strategic advocacy and supporting the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, including through its presences and country programmes working on Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, the oPt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen. The Office will continue to prioritize certain areas, such as the protection of civic space, prevention, building a global human rights constituency, including in the context of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights (UDHR), gender equality and economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs), as it works to achieve progress in relation to accountability, participation and peace and security.

IRAQ: UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR IRAQ (UNAMI)

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
44.50 million	435,000 km ²	0.686 (rank: 121/191 in 2021)	A Status (2021)
Type of engagement		Peace Mission	
Year established		2004	
Field office(s)		Baghdad, Basra, Erbil, Kirkuk and Mosul	
UN partnership framework		UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2020-2024	
Staff as of 31 December 2022		49	

XB requirements 2022

US\$879,000

Key OMP pillars in 2022



^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

A1 – Iraq respects the rule of law in the administration of justice. In particular, courts comply with due process and fair trial standards, in accordance with international law and the Constitution of Iraq. Allegations of torture are thoroughly investigated, victims are provided with appropriate care, protection and compensation and those responsible are held legally accountable.

16 

OHCHR strengthened advocacy efforts to prevent torture and ill-treatment and promoted local youth-led and capacity-building initiatives on issues related to social cohesion, tolerance between members of different religious communities and adherence to international human rights standards.

OHCHR continued to implement its detention and trial monitoring programme, with a specific focus on observing the trials of ISIL suspects, in order to monitor procedural guarantees, detention safeguards and fair trial standards in Iraq. OHCHR conducted 53 visits to places of detention, holding 82 detention monitoring interviews with five women and 77 men detainees, and monitored prison conditions in federal Iraq and the Kurdistan region. The Ministry of Justice denied a request to access facilities from 11 July to 31 December. As a result, detention monitoring was suspended in July. Dialogue with the Government is ongoing to resume this monitoring.

In 2022, OHCHR monitored 524 trials in Baghdad, Basra, Erbil, Kirkuk and Mosul; 76 cases of domestic violence and 29 civil cases in Baghdad related to

violence against women; 42 trials at the Rusafa Juvenile Court; and 62 anti-corruption trials.

On 2 June, OHCHR 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.

OHCHR conducted two capacity-building sessions: 1) from 11 to 13 January, three one-day trainings were delivered in Erbil to 55 participants from the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Ministry of Interior, including law enforcement officials on the protection of the rights of detainees in accordance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules); and 2) on 14 April, a presentation was delivered to 17 women staff members from different departments at two Asayish facilities, in Erbil, on the rights of prisoners and detainees.

In addition, OHCHR held a workshop with eight judges and prosecutors in Baghdad as part of its ongoing engagement with the High Judicial Council to develop judicial guidelines on fair trial standards and the rights of detainees that comply with international law and

national legislation. OHCHR will finalize the draft guidelines, incorporating recommendations from the workshop, and submit the draft to the High Judicial Council for its review, approval and subsequent dissemination among courts in federal Iraq.

A1 – Iraq has an independent NHRI that complies with the Paris Principles, fulfils its mandate under the Constitution and meets international standards.



OHCHR continued to strengthen the capacities and functioning of Iraq's High Commission for Human Rights (IHCHR) to ensure the promotion of human rights in legislative processes.

OHCHR continued to promote the independent functioning of the IHCHR and the selection of its commissioners, in accordance with the Paris Principles. Since July 2021, when the four-year term of the IHCHR Board of Commissioners expired, disagreements between Iraqi political factions regarding its composition prevented the selection and appointment of a new Board. With the formation of the new Government in Iraq, in November 2022, OHCHR engaged with the second Deputy Speaker of the Council of Representatives and discussed the selection process, including the nomination procedures, and advocated for the procedures to be carried out in compliance with relevant domestic law and the Paris Principles.

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



OHCHR enhanced monitoring, reporting and advocacy and continued to promote legal reforms to ensure accountability for victims of SGBV/CRSV crimes.

Four consultative workshops were conducted between June and September. During the workshops, participants elaborated on the challenges faced in the administration of justice and recommendations were proposed to promote accountability. On 8 December, OHCHR and UNAMI collaborated with the Kurdistan Regional Judicial Council and High Council for Women and Development to conduct a high-level policy dialogue on accountability for criminal violence against women and girls in domestic settings. As a result of these activities, authorities committed to increasing the number of female judges working in domestic violence courts and expanding the mandate of the Directorate of Combating Violence against Women to enable the investigation of criminal violence against women and girls.

In October and November, OHCHR and UNAMI conducted focus group discussions with more than 100 women survivors in camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs), in Duhok, to learn about their current living conditions. Another two workshops were organized in Duhok, with 40 survivors from different camps. The objective was to empower them to

claim their rights, rebuild their lives and support others. In collaboration with CSOs and donors, additional efforts will be pursued to support survivors in rebuilding their lives.

Non-discrimination

ND1 – Iraq develops as a multi-ethnic and religiously inclusive State in which the country’s ethnic and religious minority communities are protected from violence and can fully participate on equal terms in political, social and economic life. All sectors of Iraqi society are protected from violence and have equal access to justice without discrimination, irrespective of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability or other status.

5 10 16 

OHCHR contributed to protecting the human rights of women and girls and members of minorities through advocacy and awareness-raising initiatives.

OHCHR and UNAMI organized five workshops in Baghdad, Basra, Erbil, Kirkuk and Mosul on basic human rights concepts. The workshops aimed to strengthen the protection of the human rights of ethnic and religious minorities and promote social cohesion. They were attended by 75 youths, including 25 women, from various religious and ethnic groups. A series of roundtables were organized in Baghdad, Basra, Erbil, Kirkuk and Mosul between October and December, with the same objectives. The roundtables gathered together more than 120 participants, including Arabs, Armenians, Chaldean Assyrian, Faili Kurds, Iraqis of African Descent, Turkmen, Yazidis and Sabeen Mandeans, who shared their ideas on challenges facing Iraqi society and

recommended solutions. The outcomes of these roundtables informed OHCHR's ongoing advocacy with the Government, including to implement the necessary legislative and policy measures to prevent discrimination and promote diversity and inclusion.

In collaboration with representatives of minority communities, linguistic experts, academics, CSOs and HRDs, OHCHR and UNAMI translated the UDHR into eight minority languages, namely Avestan, Bahdinan, Fali Kurd, Macho, Mandaic, Shabaki, Sumerian and Turkmen. The translations, which were published on the OHCHR website on 28 November, will help to build knowledge and strengthen and expand awareness-raising efforts.

On 17 May, OHCHR and UNAMI and the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide (OSAPG) co-facilitated a dialogue on countering hate speech, discrimination and marginalization. Nineteen representatives (five women, 14 men) from CSOs, the IHCHR, the Iraqi Bar Association and the Communications and Media Commission in Iraq raised concerns and identified solutions for countering hate speech in Iraq.

On 30 June, OHCHR and UNAMI held an event for children from different communities entitled “We are Iraq.” The goal of the event was to counter hate speech and celebrate diversity. It was attended by 32 primary school children, including 19 girls, as well as five tribal leaders, four government officials, three teachers and civil society representatives. Performances, such as songs, dances, poetry and play, highlighted the consequences of hate speech.

Peace and Security

PS1 – Civilians are protected, to the greatest extent possible, from the effects of armed conflict. The policies of the Government and the Iraqi Security Forces to combat terrorism, armed violence and conflict fully respect and protect human rights at all times and in all circumstances and comply with international humanitarian law.

5 16

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

From 1 January to 31 December, OHCHR and UNAMI documented 158 incidents of armed conflict, causing 327 civilian casualties (114 killed, including six women, 10 girls and 23 boys; and 213 injured, including 40 women, 15 girls, 37 boys and two children whose sex was unknown). This represents a 58 per cent decrease in civilian casualties compared with 2021. The highest number of civilian casualties were caused by explosive remnants of war (37 deaths, 69 injuries), followed by the indirect fires of mortar and rocket rounds (14 deaths, 61 injuries), small arms fires (35 deaths, 37 injuries), improvised explosive devices (IEDs) (10 deaths, 26 injuries), air attacks (eight deaths, nine injuries) and abductions and executions (10 deaths).

OHCHR, UNAMI and UNOCT conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop with 20 government officials, from the Ministry of Interior Training Academy, from 6 to 8 March, to mainstream human rights into counter-terrorism operations. Another workshop was held for Ministry of Interior recruits, from 9 to 10 March,

to promote compliance and the application of a human rights-based approach (HRBA) for law enforcement officials involved in counter-terrorism operations. A third workshop was held from 12 to 13 December for 20 law enforcement officials. Participants reviewed the domestic legal framework of Iraq and relevant international human rights law and identified areas for further improvement.

From 15 to 16 December, UNAMI and UNOCT held a policy dialogue with senior government officials, with a view to developing a road map towards enhanced compliance with international human rights standards as part of the Government's efforts to counter terrorism.



Mechanisms

M1 – Iraq develops a plan to implement the recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies and those issued by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) that it accepted. By the next reporting deadline, Iraq is implementing all recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies and has accepted the recommendations issued by the UPR.

16 17

OHCHR supported the launch of the Human Rights National Action Plan of Iraq and continued to engage the Government regarding the implementation of the recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies.

OHCHR facilitated the visit to Iraq, from 12 to 24 November, by a three-member delegation of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED). The delegation visited Anbar, Bagdad, Erbil, Mosul and Sinjar and held 24 meetings with at least 60 government officials and seven group

discussions with 171 victims and CSOs. The delegation shared its preliminary findings with the Government, including: that enforced disappearance is not criminalized under the Iraqi legal framework; the institutional fragmentation and complexity in federal Iraq and the Kurdistan Region is revictimizing victims; families of disappeared persons are being extorted for false promises that their loved ones will be located or released; victims are experiencing intimidation, threats and reprisals; no centralized database exists for persons deprived of their liberty and missing persons, including victims of enforced disappearances; and allegations related to secret detention facilities. The Committee will adopt a full report about the visit at its twenty-fourth session in Geneva, scheduled for March 2023.



Participation

P1 – The rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly are fully respected and protected in law and policy. The roles of journalists and media professionals are respected and protected by law and policy and are protected from threats, intimidation or violence when they carry out their professional duties.

16



OHCHR continued to engage with civil society and the Government for the promotion and protection of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

OHCHR supported digital security assessments for 13 Iraqi NGOs. The assessments classified the digital security environment for activists, human rights defenders (HRDs), bloggers, journalists and CSOs as high risk. OHCHR and UNAMI partnered with the Iraqi Network for Social

Media (INSM) to launch a social media campaign entitled “Be safe.” The campaign raised awareness about digital security and highlighted the security risks in the digital space. It included daily tips for HRDs and CSOs to stay safe both online and offline.

On 31 October, UNAMI and INSM published a manual entitled *Online protection and digital security: User guide for human rights defenders*. The guide provides HRDs and journalists with practical information on how to mitigate online risks, protect privacy and data and preserve their rights and freedom online.

During October and November, OHCHR and UNAMI collaborated with the Iraqi Women Journalists Forum and conducted 18 online dialogues with over 150 women journalists, young influencers and bloggers to enhance their understanding about the gender dimensions of the challenges they face in the course of their work.

JORDAN

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
11.29 million	89,000 km ²	0.720 (rank: 102/191 in 2021)	A Status (2016)
Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser		
Year established	2018		
Field office(s)	Amman		
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in Jordan (2018-2022)		
Staff as of 31 December 2022	2		

XB requirements 2022 **US296,000**

Key OMP pillars in 2021



^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

PILLAR RESULTS:
 **Development**

D7 – States integrate human rights, including the right to development and the outcomes of the international human rights mechanisms, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other development and poverty eradication efforts. The United Nations supports them in these objectives and integrates human rights into its own development work.



OHCHR helped to improve the level of compliance with international human rights standards of the policies, programmes and practices of the UNCT and national institutions, including through technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives.

The HRA supported the UNCT in integrating human rights into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027. UPR recommendations were added to the UNSDCF as an infographic. In addition, a 50-page matrix was prepared, linking human rights recommendations with the results matrix indicators to inform the use of the human rights markers in the Joint Workplan 2023-2024.

As Jordan prepared its second Voluntary National Review (VNR), the Senior Human Rights Adviser (SHRA) engaged in the process. It also provided support to the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO)/ UNCT in advocating for the integration of human rights into the VNR through: advocacy meetings with authorities; the delivery of three webinars with UNDP,

UN Women, UNESCO, UNODC and ILO on the application of an HRBA to data and indicators for SDG reporting for the Ministry of Planning, Department of Statistics, SDG16 Taskforce members and UN colleagues; the organization of briefings for civil society on the links between human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the preparation of a document on good practices related to the VNR for the UNCT; the development of a resource tool for data collection for SDG16 Taskforce members; inputs on the draft VNR report; and supporting the launch of the Amman Voluntary Local Review.

With support from the HRA, the UNCT published a series of papers on prioritizing a norms and standards-driven development agenda in Jordan's engagement with the [UN human rights](#), [ILO](#) and [UNESCO](#) mechanisms.

The HRA and the Economist of the RCO supported the finalization of a joint UN/ Economic and Social Council in Jordan (JESC) policy brief on Domestic revenue mobilization: A human rights-based approach to tackling inequalities. As a part of this work, the RCO entered into a new partnership with JESC to implement the recommendations of the policy brief, in accordance with Maximum Available Resources (MAR) obligations.

Further, the HRA supported the UNCT to mainstream human rights into the Jordan National Nutrition Strategy 2023-2030 and a number of public and internal UN policy briefs on the right to food and energy prices.



Participation

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

16

OHCHR contributed to enhancing the legal, policy and accountability environment to protect civil society groups, HRDs and activists.

In ensuring a participatory approach to the drafting of the UNSDCF 2023-2027, the HRA organized a consultation with 25 civil society members, including human rights organizations, on the draft results framework of the UNSDCF. Technical assistance from the HRA ensured that one of the UNSDCF's four priorities is dedicated to strengthening the accountability of institutions and ensuring meaningful participation. The UNCT will seek to achieve results in relation to all four of these priorities, while also taking into account people's perspectives, empowering them to be agents of change and ensuring their access to justice.



Mechanisms

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

16**17**

OHCHR contributed to increasing awareness about Jordan's engagement with the international human rights mechanisms and facilitated synergies between different implementation and reporting processes.

At the request of the Government, the HRA supported the Government's Coordinator for Human Rights in the Office of the Prime Minister and the Director for Human Rights in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in preparing Jordan's fourth State report to the UPR (the review is scheduled for early 2024). In cooperation with the Danish Institute for Human Rights, a national workshop for 30 members of the drafting committee was conducted, from 16 to 18 September, to enhance the knowledge of participants about human rights and Jordan's engagement with the international human rights mechanisms, provide more technical details on UPR reporting and explore how to further institutionalize engagement in relation to human rights issues across all line ministries, in consultation with governmental and non-governmental entities. On 7 November, the previous UPR report was jointly assessed by representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Prime Minister's Office and other line ministries. Technical assistance will continue in 2023.

LIBYA: UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT MISSION IN LIBYA (UNSMIL)

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
6.81 million	1,676,000 km ²	0.718 (rank: 104/191 in 2021)	B Status (2014)
Type of engagement		Political Mission	
Year established		2011	
Field office(s)		Tripoli and Tunis, Tunisia	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2025	
Staff as of 31 December 2022		14	

XB requirements 2022 **US\$162,000**

Key OMP pillars in 2021



^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

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

16

OHCHR contributed to enhancing the compliance of legislation, criminal procedures and related laws with international human rights standards by providing technical assistance to the judiciary and facilitating increased coordination with partners.

As part of its ongoing advocacy to promote compliance with international human rights standards, OHCHR provided technical assistance to national institutions 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 Team of Experts on Rule of Law and Sexual Violence 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. OHCHR also partnered with UNICEF and UNODC in the establishment of a team of national experts to review legislation on the rights of the child, in collaboration with the Supreme Council for Childhood.

Further, OHCHR, the International Center for Transitional Justice and other partners presented a joint analysis of the draft reconciliation law to the Presidency Council and the Legal Drafting Committee, with the goal of developing a victim-centred transitional justice process. The primary observations of this analysis focused on the rights of victims to justice, accountability, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence.

In addition to supporting national legislation processes, OHCHR increased its technical assistance to the Bar Association in Libya, resulting in the adoption of its first Code of Ethics and related by-laws. OHCHR organized five capacity-building trainings for 49 Libyan junior female lawyers, which enhanced their understanding of international human rights standards and their practical application. The second phase of the training is scheduled for the first week of May 2023, in Benghazi, aimed at enhancing the capacities of 60 junior female lawyers from across Libya.

To improve the coherence and effectiveness of efforts aimed at strengthening Libya’s judicial system, OHCHR established a Working Group on the Rule of Law, composed of UN entities, INGOs and members of the international community operating in Libya. The Working Group met on a monthly basis to discuss arbitrary detention, conditions of detention and the effectiveness of the Libyan justice system, which led to an improved alignment of action, transparency and information-sharing between contributing organizations.

A1 – Detention centres are operating legally and under the control of the State, with trained judicial police officers, and procedures are in place to prevent torture and ensure the release of those who have been unlawfully detained.



By leveraging regional cooperation, OHCHR contributed to increasing capacities in the justice sector, with a view to ensuring that the reform of prison services was in compliance with international human rights standards.

While working in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Judicial Council, CSOs and other relevant actors in the judicial system, OHCHR provided technical assistance to the judicial police to ensure the reform of prison services was aligned with international standards and commitments. As one of its initiatives to improve prison conditions, OHCHR prepared a situation assessment on the security of prisons and issued recommendations to improve the safety and security of inmates, particularly women and children, including unaccompanied minors. With advisory support from experts from the United Nations Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI), OHCHR developed an advisory road map to strengthen the capacities of the judicial police to deal with arbitrary arrests and detentions in accordance with international human rights standards.

Between March and June, OHCHR facilitated two study visits for representatives of the Attorney General's Office (AGO) to Egypt and to Italy in order to share lessons learned and good practices on the management of the Public Prosecution Service.

As a result, the Attorney General established a Judicial Inspection Department within the AGO, in May, which is mandated to monitor the work of public prosecutors at the national level and provide technical assistance. Advocacy with the AGO to increase national capacities to better respond to human rights complaints resulted in the establishment of Human Rights Offices across the country. These offices, which are all linked to a centralized Human Rights Department at the AGO, are tasked with monitoring the human rights situation in Libya and following up on reported violations. They also serve as monitoring mechanisms for the performance of the public prosecutors, including by ensuring they observe and respect international standards while assuming their duties and responsibilities.

With the goal of fostering regional cooperation on the review of the penal system, OHCHR and the AGO of Egypt organized a pilot capacity-building training for 23 Libyan senior chief prosecutors, during the second half of 2022, at the Public Prosecution Training and Research Institute of Egypt, in Cairo. The training focused on new investigation techniques of crimes of terrorism, transnational organized crime and trafficking in persons. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between UNSMIL's Human Rights Component and the AGO of Egypt on mutual cooperation in criminal matters, an exchange of visits and the delivery of several training workshops for Libyan prosecutors in Cairo.

A1 – Those who are charged are prosecuted within a reasonable time. Crimes committed after 2011 are prosecuted.



OHCHR contributed to the increased compliance with international human rights standards and rule of law principles of national reform efforts undertaken by the justice and military sectors.

OHCHR provided substantive support to the UN Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya, including monitoring cases of arbitrary arrest and detention and facilitating two visits by the International Criminal Court, one of which included the Prosecutor. This contributed to increased evidence-based advocacy related to detention facilities in Libya.

OHCHR supported the visit of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, in December. This visit was instrumental to discussions with Libyan experts about the compliance of the draft law on violence against women with international human rights standards and the country's human rights commitments. OHCHR also promoted compliance of national efforts to reform the Penal Code and the military justice system, including on provisions related to the death penalty and sharia law, with international provisions on the rule of law. Through regular contact, the sharing of good practices with judicial bodies and communications with the Supreme Court, OHCHR consistently highlighted Libya's international obligations regarding the reform of criminal law, while simultaneously collecting information and updates about ongoing death penalty cases.



Participation

P1 – Strengthened networking and coordination among national and international stakeholders, including to create civil society-operated referral mechanisms for HRDs and victims related to legal aid and other forms of assistance for victims of torture or other violations.

16

OHCHR contributed to enhancing protection and referral mechanisms in support of HRDs, particularly survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), with an emphasis on preserving civic space and engaging with the international human rights mechanisms.

In response to the alarming erosion of civic space in Libya due to 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 criminal law on proceedings, collecting evidence, investigations and the protection of victims. This led to the introduction of the concept of civil society-run referral mechanisms for HRDs. At the same time, OHCHR monitored trends in online hate speech and incitement of violence and reported cases to authorities and other stakeholders. During the protests, in July, OHCHR engaged with Facebook and Twitter to remove online content that incited violence against women and youth activists. Moreover, OHCHR is developing a strategy for the establishment of a joint commission on the protection of HRDs.

While raising awareness about persistent gaps in referral mechanisms for SGBV survivors, OHCHR responded to several requests for support. It referred 10 cases to Tunisia-based INGOs and 10 survivors received legal aid from the OHCHR-supported Legal Aid Coalition. In partnership with No Peace Without Justice, OHCHR promoted the creation of a complaints system within the Libyan Bar Association. Under the Working Group on Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (MARA), OHCHR strengthened coordination with other UN agencies on protection mechanisms for survivors of CRSV.

To promote meaningful engagement and participation with the international human rights mechanisms, OHCHR organized a workshop, from 6 to 8 December, for 20 civil society representatives on the implementation of UPR recommendations. Outcomes included strengthening the skills of participants on data collection, engagement with the UPR process and the use of the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD).



Peace and Security

PS1 – Violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law are monitored and reported by HRDs, leading to increased responsiveness of the international community, with a special focus on abuses by armed groups, in particular arbitrary and unlawful detention, torture, hostage-taking, extrajudicial killings, protection of civilians and freedom of expression and the elimination of discrimination against women and migrants.

5

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OHCHR contributed to strengthening national capacities, increasing evidence-based advocacy and promoting regional coordination to address human rights violations against migrants.

A new report was released by the Office, in October, which sheds light on gaps in the human rights protection of migrants who are assisted to return to their countries of origin from Libya. While such returns are in principle “voluntary,” the report finds that many migrants in Libya are unable to make a truly voluntary decision to return, as provided by international human rights law and standards, including the principle of free, prior and informed consent.

Although the space to investigate violations was limited, OHCHR organized a regional workshop on the rights of migrants and international borders (in Tunis, from 23 to 24 November), convening 30 INGO and NGO representatives from Libya, Morocco and Tunisia to exchange good practices and strengthen the UN Network on Migration in Libya. The workshop provided participants with an opportunity to discuss the situation of vulnerable migrants and the application of an HRBA to border governance in North Africa. One of the primary recommendations of the workshop was the need to build capacities to monitor violations related to interceptions, search and rescue operations, enforced disappearances, immigration detention, refoulement and return procedures. To bring this about, participants agreed to establish a referral network to assist migrants and asylum-seekers, which will include legal aid.

PS4 – Vetting processes, transitional justice processes and compliance mechanisms are established or strengthened.

16

OHCHR facilitated an inclusive and rights-based approach to the national reconciliation process through technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives.

By promoting exchanges on lessons learned and good transitional justice practices with globally recognized experts from North Africa, Latin America and South Asia, OHCHR contributed to increasing the awareness of the Libyan Presidential Council about the foundational principles of transitional justice, thereby promoting an inclusive, victim-centred and rights-based approach in national efforts. OHCHR engaged the African Union (AU) in this process, including by participating in the Preparatory Forum for the National Reconciliation Conference. OHCHR submitted its observations on the Presidential Council's draft reconciliation law, in partnership with the International Center for Transitional Justice. Based on widespread consultations and OHCHR's observations, the draft reconciliation law was amended, placing victims more at the centre and guaranteeing amnesties would not be granted for international crimes. While the law has yet to be finalized, OHCHR consulted with victims of gross human rights violations in Libya to record their views, needs and demands and ensure their active and informed participation in future transitional justice efforts in Libya.

OHCHR also finalized a report on killings in Tarhuna, which will be published in 2023. The report documents grave atrocities that were committed and promotes accountability for perpetrators.

PS6 – With the UN's support, risk assessments of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces are conducted for all national security forces, including non-State actors and de facto authorities as applicable, and appropriate mitigation measures are adopted and acted upon.

16



UNSMIL continued to implement the HRDDP in Libya and leveraged new tools developed by OHCHR.

From 26 to 30 June, OHCHR convened INGOs, NGOs and members of the international community in Tunis to discuss central elements required to facilitate 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.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates
Year established	2002
Field office(s)	Beirut, Lebanon and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Staff as of 31 December 2022	17

XB income	US\$2,408,073		
XB requirements 2022	US\$4,324,000		
XB expenditure	US\$2,238,836		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴	
73%	16%	11%	
\$1,641,406	\$340,571	\$256,859	

RB expenditure	US\$236,351
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Personnel

\$236,351

Key OMP pillars in 2021



⁴ Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

A1 – Enhance the capacity of States to adopt legislation/policy to protect human rights that is in compliance with international human rights norms and standards.

16

OHCHR contributed to improving access to justice and remedy for human rights violations, in compliance with international human rights norms and

standards, through capacity-building, technical support and advocacy.

In partnership with the Arab Organization for Human Rights, OHCHR organized a regional conference on the independence of the judiciary, on 5 April, in Beirut, Lebanon. The conference brought together over 100 representatives from the justice sector, NHRIs and civil society, as well as academics, government officials and United Nations experts.

Participants shared good practices and recommendations on how to initiate legislative reforms to strengthen the independence of the judiciary. They also reflected on challenges and opportunities to ensure alignment with international human rights law and standards. In addition, OHCHR provided technical assistance to the Justice and Administration Parliamentary Committee, the Ministry of Justice, the Beirut Bar Association and the Tripoli Bar Association on the draft law on the independence of judges and lawyers, which has not yet been endorsed.

These activities were combined with increased efforts to enhance the capacities of non-judicial mechanisms, including NHRIs, to support the rights of victims of human rights violations to remedy. In **Lebanon**, advisory support was provided to the National Human Rights Commission in the development of its report to the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT), which was presented in May.

OHCHR continued to provide strategic support to countries in the region on the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. In **Lebanon**, OHCHR provided technical assistance for the review of the national human rights strategy and its action plan. A road map was finalized for the development of a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights. In **Saudi Arabia**, OHCHR organized a workshop, from 18 to 19 December, on business transparency and the right to access information.



Participation

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

16



OHCHR contributed to promoting civic space, participation and engagement with the international human rights mechanisms through youth engagement, evidence-based advocacy efforts and technical assistance.

By leveraging its regional network, OHCHR galvanized youth action through various initiatives aimed at raising awareness about human rights and hate speech. In August, 31 youth representatives from 14 countries in the Arab States region participated in a two-day forum that was organized by OHCHR entitled “The role of youth in countering hate speech and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies.” The forum examined the rise in hate speech in the region, including the root causes of intolerance, and emphasized the role of youth in promoting peaceful, diverse and inclusive societies. On Human Rights Day (10 December), OHCHR launched an art competition that will run until June 2023, inviting young people to present an artistic interpretation of one or more articles of the UDHR. Competition applicants can use digital tools, for instance, mobile phones, to capture a photograph or film a video, or more traditional art forms, such as drawings, paintings or poetry.

To mark the first International Day on Countering Hate Speech (18 June), OHCHR partnered with the UN Information Centre in Beirut to launch and disseminate a series of multimedia messages to raise awareness about hate

speech in the region. This included a joint statement on the centrality of freedom of expression in countering hate speech, a series of short videos with messages from international and regional actors addressing the multifaceted nature of this phenomenon and social media post-cards. OHCHR also called upon social media platforms to maximize access to pluralistic information, promote transparency in content moderation and activate accessible redress channels for users targeted by online incitement or censorship.

In collaboration with the Saudi Human Rights Commission (SHRC), OHCHR organized a workshop, from 15 to 17 March, for CSOs and relevant national institutions of Saudi Arabia on monitoring human rights trends, particularly human trafficking. The event brought together 38 participants who benefited from knowledge-sharing and discussions on methods and means of identifying violations based on relevant laws and international standards and collecting information and facts to inform evidence-based advocacy. OHCHR and SHRC also conducted a virtual training from 6 to 8 June to strengthen civil society’s engagement with the international human rights mechanisms. The event, which convened 79 participants, aimed to widen the civic space in the country by building the capacity of organizations to obtain ECOSOC status and fully engage with the Human Rights Council (HRC).

Finally, in an effort to raise awareness about the freedom of the media, OHCHR organized a two-day regional consultation, in November, to review national laws. The objective of the consultation was to present recommendations to decision-makers on measures to protect journalists and improve access

to information, with particular attention paid to the specific risks faced by women journalists. The findings will be used to promote joint advocacy on the review of discriminatory legislation and measures limiting the freedom of the media.



Non-discrimination

ND1 – National laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination, particularly discrimination against religious, ethnic and national minorities, persons with disabilities, migrants and women. Authorities actively work to Leave No One Behind (LNOB), address the root causes of inequality and link the implementation of the SDG agenda with human rights.

5

10

16



OHCHR strengthened national capacities to improve legislation, policies and practices to effectively combat discrimination and promote gender equality, inclusion and tolerance.

OHCHR increased its efforts to promote equality in nationality rights between women and men across the Arab region through joint advocacy and capacity-building for legislators. In partnership with the Arab Women Parliamentarians Network for Equality (Ra’edat), OHCHR organized a regional workshop at the Dead Sea, Jordan, from 31 October to 2 November on the role of national parliaments in implementing State Party obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The workshop was the result of a two-year advocacy campaign on inequality in nationality laws and included the participation of 33 members of the

Network. It sought to foster an open dialogue between legislators on legislative reforms in response to recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies. OHCHR and core partners in the region launched a short documentary on the key milestones of the equal rights for nationality campaign to raise awareness among the general public about discriminatory laws on nationality.

To mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December), OHCHR convened its youth regional network to discuss inclusive approaches in their work and enhance their awareness about the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), its Optional Protocol and relevant special procedures mandates. Further, OHCHR engaged with topical experts to develop a national action plan on the rights of persons with disabilities in Lebanon.

On the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Beirut Declaration and the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Rights of Minorities, OHCHR collaborated with the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect to host a regional roundtable on the role of religious leaders in countering hate speech. The event, held in Beirut, on 1 September, brought together representatives of different religious institutions and faith-based organizations from across the Middle East and North Africa region, including participants from ethnic and religious minorities. Participants engaged in dynamic discussions on various topics related to hate speech, including: the international normative framework; the root causes of hate speech; the role of religious leaders and actors in addressing hate speech; and practical initiatives in the region using interfaith dialogue to combat hate speech. The roundtable

discussion was part of OHCHR's broader regional engagement on the issue of hate speech, freedom of religion or belief and the rights of minorities. This and other awareness-raising activities on addressing hate speech contributed to increased cooperation between national, regional and international institutions, civil society, the media and religious leaders to prevent atrocity crimes and violence targeting religious minorities and marginalized communities.

Development

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

OHCHR helped to improve the level of compliance with international human rights standards of the policies, programmes and practices of the UNCT and national institutions, including through technical assistance and capacity-building.

OHCHR continued to support the UNCT in mainstreaming an HRBA into inter-agency efforts in the region. In Lebanon, OHCHR promoted the integration of human rights into the development of the Common Country Analysis (CCA) and the UNSDCF, including during the national consultation process that led to its finalization. Under the leadership of the RC in **Bahrain**, OHCHR strengthened the capacities of the UNCT to effectively engage with the UPR process by sharing guidelines and good practices on inter-agency coordination and report submission, data collection and analysis against the human rights indicators and the SDGs. In **Saudi Arabia**, OHCHR supported the Government in the preparation of its VNR to the High-level Political Forum.

In order to strengthen the nexus between human rights and development, OHCHR partnered with ESCWA to organize a regional seminar on the contribution of development to the enjoyment of human rights in Beirut, from 8 to 9 November. The seminar brought together Member States, UN entities, international and regional organizations, NHRIs, CSOs and other stakeholders to identify challenges and share good practices. The seminar also provided participants with the opportunity to discuss how development policies can be leveraged to promote more inclusive economies, alleviate poverty, boost prospects for young people and guarantee equal access to food, water and sanitation infrastructures and how good governance can facilitate the enjoyment of human rights for all.

Mechanisms

M2 – The role of CSOs and NHRIs as essential stakeholders in engaging with the international human rights mechanisms is promoted and protection from reprisals is ensured.

17

OHCHR supported substantive submissions by NHRIs, CSOs, UN entities and individuals to the UPR and other international human rights mechanisms, while also promoting wider engagement among youth.

OHCHR continued to build the capacities of the NHRI, civil society and UNCTs on effective engagement with the international human rights mechanisms. As part of these efforts, OHCHR organized a training for UNCT members to raise their awareness about the UPR in the context of inter-agency efforts. In addition, with support from the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF),

OHCHR established a strategic partnership with nine universities in Lebanon to engage young people in developing tools to promote transitional justice and prevent new cycles of violence. In February, students participating in the “Dealing with the past: Memory for the future” project presented their theses, which examined various aspects of the Lebanese Civil War and forced disappearances.

Peace and Security

PS6 – The UN’s support to national and regional security forces, law enforcement agencies and non-State actors integrates human rights and complies with the HRDDP.

16

OHCHR contributed to increasing the understanding and application of a human rights-based approach to national and inter-agency efforts on peace and security.

OHCHR provided human rights analysis to UNCTs across the region, based on its monitoring and recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. OHCHR also led the UNCT Human Rights Working Group in Lebanon, ensuring information-sharing and coordination of human rights efforts across the UN. In addition, OHCHR provided technical assistance to UNSCOL in the review of the HRDDP risk assessment and supported UNDP in the development of interventions tailored for security sector agencies.

STATE OF PALESTINE

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
5.25 million	6,000 km ²	0.715 (rank: 106/191 in 2021)	A Status (2015)
Type of engagement		Country Office	
Year established		1996	
Field office(s)		East Jerusalem, Gaza, Hebron and Ramallah	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2022	
Staff as of 31 December 2022		42	

XB income	US\$1,963,157		
XB requirements 2022	US\$4,392,000		
XB expenditure	US\$2,278,143		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴	
71%	18%	11%	
\$1,614,503	\$402,371	\$261,269	
RB expenditure	US\$3,103,102		
Personnel	Non-personnel		
86%	14%		
\$2,677,876	\$425,226		

Key OMP pillars in 2022



^{1,2,3,4} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

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

16 

OHCHR contributed to increasing the compliance with international human rights standards of the Government’s

oversight, accountability and/or protection mechanisms.

OHCHR monitored detention centres, with a focus on the legality of detention, ill-treatment and torture and violations against women and girls. A total of 29 visits were carried out, with 12 in Gaza and 17 in the West Bank. OHCHR regularly interacted with partners working on detention-related matters in Gaza, the West Bank and those working on Israeli detention.

OHCHR had no access to Israeli detention facilities and access to official Israeli data regarding Palestinians in Israeli detention was restricted. Monitoring violations of the rights of Palestinians in Israeli detention was conducted through interviews with released detainees, lawyers, family members of prisoners and prisoners' organizations.

OHCHR documented cases of arbitrary detention, allegations of ill-treatment and torture and concerns regarding fair trial guarantees. These concerns were raised with relevant authorities in Gaza and the West Bank and informed the development of recommendations. The review of the State of Palestine by the Committee against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), in July, and its subsequent concluding observations, provided a useful framework for tailored technical assistance. Despite the openness to dialogue of Palestinian authorities, the human rights situation further deteriorated in the occupied West Bank. This was exacerbated by serious abuses of the Palestinian Security Forces and presidential decrees that undermined the separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary. OHCHR employed a multipronged approach to advocacy, including in meetings with the Prime Minister, through messaging from the High Commissioner for Human Rights and discussions on detention-related concerns with Member States and donors that support the security and justice sectors.

The Office took steps to strengthen the capacity of justice and security sector actors to apply international human rights standards to arrests, detentions and investigations of alleged human rights violations. In March, the Office cooperated with the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) to organize a workshop on human rights in the context of law enforcement, which was attended by 18 members of the Palestinian Special Police Forces. The workshop covered issues related to law enforcement and human rights, such as the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly and the principles regulating the use of force and the protection of journalists and HRDs, with an emphasis on women.

In May, OHCHR held a joint meeting on the referral of human rights complaints, which was attended by 12 participants (four women, eight men) from the public prosecution, the military prosecution, military intelligence and civil police. Participants discussed the need to strengthen the referral system by enhancing cooperation between the civil (public prosecution) and military prosecution and agreed on the establishment of a protocol on the referral of cases, supported by OHCHR and UNDP.

From 24 to 26 October, the Office cooperated with ICHR and the Palestinian Police to conduct a three-day training on the prohibition of torture in international human rights treaties and domestic laws. A total of 25 police personnel attended from the criminal investigations and anti-narcotics departments.

On 1 November, OHCHR worked closely with the Ministry of Interior and the Palestinian Security Forces Justice Commission to deliver a workshop for the internal complaints units of the Palestinian Security Forces. The workshop highlighted international human rights standards that are relevant to systems of internal control and accountability of law enforcement. It also focused on the handling of complaints of torture and ill-treatment by law enforcement, with reference to standards outlined in the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

From 16 to 17 November, OHCHR and ICHR conducted a two-day workshop for 22 members (six women, 16 men) from the Palestinian Security Forces Justice Commission on the application of the international human rights treaties in military tribunals.

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

16

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

The Office closely monitored and documented death sentences and decisions issued by courts in Gaza,¹⁵ including three emblematic cases.

¹⁵ The Palestinian Authority in the West Bank continued to apply a moratorium on the issuance of death sentences.

This contributed to an in-depth understanding of limitations to fair trial guarantees in proceedings that resulted in the issuance of death sentences. The Office advocated with relevant authorities to meet their obligations under international law by establishing an immediate moratorium and working towards the full abolition of the death penalty. Despite these efforts, the de facto authorities in Gaza carried out executions, for the first time since May 2017, of five men, in September. The total number of death sentences issued and confirmed on appeal in Gaza is significant. In 2022, 22 death sentences were issued by first instance courts, 16 were confirmed on appeal and at least six death sentences were upheld by the cassation courts. In addition, courts of appeal departed from the recommended life sentences that were imposed in five cases and instead issued death sentences. Military courts issued eight death sentences, including five against non-security personnel. Further, the civil court in Gaza issued the first death sentence in a case of drug trafficking. In the past, a death sentence was only issued in such cases by the military courts.

On the occasion of the World Day Against the Death Penalty (10 October), the Office organized awareness-raising events involving approximately 150 students from Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem. An animated video depicting experiences of victims of torture in the oPt and highlighting legal and psychosocial services for survivors of torture and their families was produced in Arabic. The video reached nearly 270,000 people. On 10 October, in partnership with ICHR and the legal clinic at Al-Istiqlal University, the Office conducted a workshop for students of law and political science on human rights perspectives with regard to the abolition of the death

penalty. On 11 October, the Office cooperated with ICHR, the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights and Palestine University in Gaza to organize a debate on the death penalty for law and journalism students. On 11 October, OHCHR collaborated with Al-Quds University in East Jerusalem, ICHR, the Ministry of Justice, the SHAMS Centre and Al-Haq to deliver a workshop for students on Palestinian obligations under international law and the current status of national legislation, policies and practices relating to the death penalty in the oPt.



Participation

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

16



OHCHR raised the awareness of stakeholders, including authorities, human rights organizations and defenders and the international community, on the Government's obligations and rights related to civic space and participation.

OHCHR monitored and reported on civic space-related violations (11 new cases were documented) that took place in a hostile environment for HRDs and NGOs. OHCHR supported bilateral and group meetings with CSOs to exchange information and discuss protection measures for HRDs, in particular women human rights defenders (WHRDs). The Office provided several trainings to representatives of civil society, the NHRI and government institutions on the international human rights mechanisms, standards and monitoring on HRDs. From February to October,

OHCHR partnered with the Ministry of Women's Affairs to deliver four two-day workshops on WHRDs, digital safety and security and advocacy for women's rights for CSOs from Gaza, Hebron/Bethlehem, Nablus and Salbit. In March, the Office held trainings for six young lawyers, including three women, working with the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights. In Gaza, the Office organized a workshop on "The role of lawyers in defending human rights" for 34 young lawyers, including 30 women, working with the Palestinian Centre for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession (MUSAWA). The workshops focused on the rights to freedom of expression, opinion and assembly, the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment, as well as arbitrary detention.

OHCHR integrated its tracking of civic space incidents into its new information management system, strengthening analysis and reporting on negative trends faced by HRDs, including online space restrictions. The Office also provided inputs to several reports on HRDs and civic space, including the joint UN submissions to CAT, the Human Rights Committee and the UPR.

OHCHR actively engaged with Palestinian authorities and provided substantive support for interactions between the Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) with Israeli authorities. Diplomatic briefings, including with donors, kept them informed and advocated for their support. Social media campaigns that incorporated civic space concerns, such as the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, contributed to increased awareness.

Non-discrimination

ND3 – Practices in Israel (as the occupying power) and Palestinian laws, policies and practices related to SGBV and other discriminatory practices against women increasingly comply with international human rights standards, representing a first step towards the promotion of women’s equality.



OHCHR contributed to promoting the autonomy and choices of women and girls and protection from violence, including in the digital space, in legal and social frameworks.

OHCHR systematically integrated gender into its monitoring and reporting activities. Monitoring focused on the gendered impacts of occupation, violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, GBV, violations against WHRDs and violations against women in Israeli and Palestinian detention. 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.

On 17 February, OHCHR collaborated with ICHR and the AMAN-Coalition for Integrity and Accountability to conduct a workshop on women’s rights and accountability in Gaza. A total of 18 civil society representatives attended, including 13 women. On 8 March, the Office partnered with the European Union (EU) to mark International Women’s Day and raised awareness about Palestinian

women working in the agricultural sector. A video was produced, telling the story of two women farmers, which was widely distributed on social media platforms and resulted in the engagement of more than 350,000 people.

ND7 – OHCHR contributed to improving the narrative on selected human rights issues.



OHCHR contributed to improving the narrative on selected human rights issues.

OHCHR provided technical assistance to government institutions and strengthened civil society engagement with the international human rights mechanisms, such as the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). It also undertook public awareness and advocacy campaigns on disability and ensured disability was mainstreamed into broader processes, such as the new CCA and UNSDCF. In November, the Office held workshops in Gaza and Ramallah for 24 civil society representatives (five women), including organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), on parallel reporting to CRPD in anticipation of the pre-session working group scheduled for March 2023. Nine parallel submissions were provided by OPDs from Gaza and the West Bank and, with support from OHCHR, several organizations briefed the Committee on the substance of the reports and the situation of persons with disabilities in the oPt.

On the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December), the Office partnered with UNCT agencies, including the RCO, UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA, and published a joint statement reaffirming the UN’s commitment to persons with disabilities.

With regard to LGBTI rights, the Office carried out situational and case monitoring, including documenting the killing of a Palestinian gay man in Hebron, while also exploring the protection measures through the Protection Cluster for LGBTI individuals at risk. The Office provided information on the situation of LGBTI persons in the oPt and requested the support of Member States to advocate with West Bank authorities against censoring cultural events perceived to be associated with the LGBTI community. Progress was made in strengthening the mapping and analysis of the situation across the oPt, including an analysis of applicable domestic legislation. In Gaza, however, work on LGBTI rights continued to put staff and interlocutors at risk and no progress was made on mapping the situation.

Mechanisms

M2 – CSOs, 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.

17

OHCHR contributed to the increasing use of the international human rights mechanisms by Palestinian CSOs, the Independent Commission for Human Rights and non-traditional human rights organizations to hold both Israel and the State of Palestine accountable for their human rights obligations and to assist Palestinians in claiming their rights.

OHCHR continued to support and partner with ICHR and CSOs based in Gaza and the West Bank, including to strengthen their knowledge and skills on parallel reporting under the international

human rights treaties and engagement with the international human rights mechanisms. On 29 March, in joint sessions held in Gaza and Ramallah, OHCHR organized a briefing on alternative submissions to the Human Rights Committee for civil society and ICHR. The briefing convened 24 persons, 10 of whom were women, and informed them about the process of submitting their reports on the implementation of ICCPR. On 30 March, in Gaza, OHCHR and the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT) conducted a workshop on alternative reporting to CAT, which was attended by 22 representatives (10 women) from civil society and ICHR. Ten alternative reports were submitted to CAT. On 26 April, in Ramallah, OHCHR and the OMCT conducted a briefing session for ICHR and CSOs from the West Bank and East Jerusalem on alternative reporting to CAT, which was attended by 12 participants, five of whom were women. From 28 to 29 June, OHCHR provided a training on the UN individual complaints mechanisms, with a focus on the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD). On 15 June, the Office cooperated with UN Women and held a workshop for 40 representatives from civil society on CEDAW and the simplified reporting procedure. On 29 August, the CEDAW Secretariat held a workshop for CSOs from Gaza and the West Bank on alternative reporting to CEDAW. A total of 56 participants attended, including 52 women, and 11 parallel reports were submitted, including one from a coalition of members, as encouraged by the Committee.



Peace and Security

PS3 – Human Rights are integrated into humanitarian strategies, planning and response, including HC/Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) advocacy and the Humanitarian Programming Cycle.



OHCHR supported the integration of a human rights-based approach and international standards into the humanitarian response in the oPt.

In its capacity as the Protection Cluster Lead Agency and through its strategic role in the HCT, the Office participated in and shaped humanitarian decision-making, policy and planning and closely advised the HC on key human rights issues and protection risks in the oPt. The Office reinforced key messaging for public awareness and advocacy on critical issues of concern by effectively ensuring that protection was incorporated into inter-agency strategies and outputs.

To strengthen adherence to protection principles by humanitarian actors, the Office launched a series of detailed Do No Harm checklists for donors, diplomats and humanitarian staff involved in advocacy field visits. The Office also developed and launched an oPt-wide protection service directory and dashboard to support case referrals for protection services, trained protection partners on disability and age inclusion in the humanitarian response and supported the humanitarian sector more broadly on the mainstreaming of protection across humanitarian interventions. Vulnerable groups, such as women with cancer, women and girls with disabilities and children impacted by violence, were prioritized.

PS5 – Human rights information and analyses are integrated in early warning and analysis systems, and influence policy-making, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to crises.



Through technical assistance and guidance, the Office ensured the integration of human rights concepts and standards into key UN programmes.

The Office ensured that programmes to monitor and document violations of international law were included in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). OHCHR led the Protection Sector's annual needs analysis and response planning through extensive consultations with implementing partners, contributing to the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and HRP 2023. These inputs ensured that protection, including international human rights and humanitarian law, remained central to the humanitarian context analysis.

The Office also developed a protection analysis framework and produced comprehensive Protection Analysis Updates for Gaza and the West Bank, in line with the new methodological framework developed by the Global Protection Cluster. Moreover, the Office contributed to the completion of the second oPt-wide Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) and used the findings and data from the MSNA to guide the prioritization of protection needs.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
22.13 million	185,000 km ²	0.577 (rank: 150/191 in 2021)	-
Type of engagement	Country Office		
Year established	2018		
Field office(s)	Based in Beirut, Lebanon with presence in Gaziantep, Turkey and Amman, Jordan		
UN partnership framework	-		
Staff as of 31 December 2022	16		
XB income	US\$3,367,514		
XB requirements 2022	US\$3,984,000		
XB expenditure	US\$3,371,228		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴	
83%	9%	8%	
\$2,767,477	\$318,145	\$285,606	

Key OMP pillars in 2022



^{1 2 3 4} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

A5 – Regular integration of human rights-based issues into the ongoing work of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria (OSES).

16 

OHCHR contributed to the integration of international human rights standards and principles and the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms into the work of United Nations political, humanitarian and development actors.

OHCHR published two legal notes, namely, on the right to know and persons with disabilities. It also provided regular advice and analysis on the rule of law and justice issues to political, humanitarian and development actors working on Syria. This included the review of draft statements and publications from human rights and rule of law perspectives. Moreover, the Office ensured that the security and human rights situation in the country remained high on the UN agenda, primarily through the distribution of regular flash reports to key partners.

OHCHR continued to promote the rule of law and equal access to justice in its engagement with partners. In particular, it supported the work of 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. The Office shared its reports and analysis with the OSES to support the application of an HRBA to their programming. As a result, the OSES became more outspoken about rights-related issues, such as detentions and missing persons, including in their briefings to the Security Council and public statements.

Participation

P4 – Syrian civil society contributes more effectively to the promotion and protection of human rights.

8 **16** 

OHCHR contributed to increased protection against human rights violations through the establishment of protection systems/procedures.

OHCHR helped to strengthen CSOs working inside and outside the country. Particular emphasis was placed on supporting the second round of the Office's small grants project aimed at providing financial and technical support for Syrian CSOs, including through capacity-building. This enabled OHCHR to enhance partnerships with NGOs working on different issues. The Office also engaged in multiple bilateral consultations and offered workshops and trainings to its partners on a variety of issues to support their work and build their capacity.

The third cycle of the UPR review process took place in 2022. OHCHR built the capacity of civil society and other international actors to fully participate in the review process. In addition to the UPR, OHCHR provided trainings and support on the international human rights mechanisms.

Furthermore, the Office contributed to the Secretary-General's work on missing persons. This culminated in his report (A/76/890), which calls for the creation of a new institution dedicated to determining the fate of missing persons in Syria and providing adequate support to victims, survivors and their families. To this end, the Office consulted with CSOs and Member States. The Office will continue to assist Member States in the development of the framework for this new institution and is seeking their support for its establishment in a resolution.



Peace and Security

PS5 – Human rights are effectively integrated into the humanitarian response in Syria, including in planning, strategic approaches and operational terms.



OHCHR helped to ensure that humanitarian operations integrate international human rights norms, standards and principles and the recommendations of international human rights mechanisms into their work.

During the reporting period, the Office provided support to humanitarian actors involved in the Syria response in integrating human rights into their programming. This included providing trainings on an HRBA to members of the UNCT, sharing its reporting and analysis to inform their

work, reviewing public advocacy materials to support the inclusion of issues related to human rights and strengthening legal analysis and connecting them with international independent experts working on relevant thematic areas. The Office also worked extensively on the development of a Risk Register and other resources to support an HRDDP framework for the UNCT's procurement.

OHCHR also continued to share its data and analysis with UN actors and Member States to inform their work. The Office contributed to the Secretary-General's bimonthly report by focusing attention on human rights developments and adding an early warning element. In addition, the Office regularly disseminated flash reports to its core partners, which were regularly used to shape their responses and advocacy on Syria. An increased emphasis on legal analysis in the Office's products was welcomed.

Moreover, the Office's work on human rights in humanitarian action was recognized and valued. This led to enhanced engagement and the establishment of new relationships with key humanitarian partners, including through workshops and providing inputs to their materials. The importance of OHCHR's work was illustrated by the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) donation to the Office, which acknowledged the central role of human rights in humanitarian action.

TUNISIA

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
12.36 million	164,000 km ²	0.731 (rank: 97/191 in 2021)	B Status (2009)
Type of engagement		Country Office	
Year established		2011	
Field office(s)		Tunis	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2021-2025	
Staff as of 31 December 2022		23	
XB income		US\$2,412,219	
XB requirements 2022		US\$3,072,000	
XB expenditure		US\$1,739,591	
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴	
56%	33%	11%	
\$971,510	\$573,468	\$194,613	

Key OMP pillars in 2022



^{1,2,3,4} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

PILLAR RESULTS:

Non-discrimination

ND1 – National laws, policies and practices combat racial discrimination more effectively, including discrimination against ethnic and national minorities, people of African descent, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, migrants, women and LGBTI persons.

5 10 16 

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

OHCHR continued to advocate for the promotion and protection of women's rights in Tunisia, including their right to participate in public life. The new electoral decree law omitted the previous provisions that guaranteed the proportional representation of women candidates in political lists running for parliamentary elections, which had an immediate negative impact. Out of 1,055 candidates for the December parliamentary elections, only 122 were women, constituting approximately 11.5 per cent of all candidates. Prior to this law, women held 44 per cent of the seats in the 2018 municipal elections and 26 per cent of the

seats in the 2019 parliamentary elections. In response, OHCHR and UN Women sent a joint letter to the Presidency of the Government expressing their concerns about the lack of women's participation in public life.

In November, a seminar was organized by UN Women and the Tunisian Association of Democratic Women on effective CSO engagement with and reporting to the human rights treaty bodies ahead of CEDAW's review of Tunisia's seventh periodic report, scheduled for February 2023. During the seminar, the Office stressed the importance of CSO engagement with CEDAW and other international human rights mechanisms to promote women's human rights. OHCHR provided concrete advice on technical aspects of engaging with the Committee. CSOs submitted their alternative report and recommendations to the Committee.

The Office continued to work closely with HRDs and persons with disabilities and their organizations to raise awareness about the promotion of their rights. It also advocated with governmental bodies to include persons with disabilities in decision-making processes and ensure that national legislation and policies on disability rights comply with CRPD. In May, OHCHR and the Danish Institute for Human Rights co-organized a training workshop on the rights of persons with disabilities for members of the National Committee for the Harmonization of Legal Texts Relating to Human Rights with the Constitution and Ratified International Conventions. The Office focused on the general principles related to the rights of persons with disabilities regarding participation, non-discrimination and accessibility, while mapping steps taken by the Government to respect those principles.

The workshop aimed at analysing human rights gaps in Tunisia's legislative framework and identifying legal provisions that need to be amended in order to be aligned with international standards. The Office will continue providing the necessary technical assistance to the authorities, with a view to finalizing these legal revisions.

ND6 – National capacity is enhanced to protect human rights at borders and protect the rights of migrant workers and their families.



OHCHR provided support for the protection of the human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations.

OHCHR partnered with other UN agencies and CSOs to advise the Government on migration and human rights issues, with a view to bringing national legislation and policies on migrants in line with international human rights standards.

In January, as part of the UNOPS border control and management project, OHCHR participated in the first meeting of the Project Advisory Committee (PAC). Through the project, maintenance services were provided to vessels and unarmed equipment of the Tunisian National Maritime Guard. UNOPS invited OHCHR, IOM and UNDSS to participate in the PAC in order to provide human rights-based advice on the implementation of the project. OHCHR emphasized the importance of placing the human rights of migrants at the centre of the project, which primarily focused on the security aspects of border

management at sea. The Office provided technical advice to strengthen the project's risk assessment and ensure that the human rights of migrants were protected.

In July, OHCHR and EuroMed Rights co-organized a training session that focused on strengthening cooperation between CSOs and the international human rights mechanisms. Nearly 40 representatives of CSOs working in the field of migration and asylum attended the training.

In light of the recent increase in interceptions by the Tunisian National Maritime Guard of migrants attempting to leave Tunisia irregularly via the dangerous Mediterranean migration route, OHCHR facilitated a two-day monitoring mission to the governorate of Sfax, focusing on protection issues related to law enforcement in the context of border control. During the mission, OHCHR met with stakeholders and CSOs to better assess the situation of migrants in Sfax and their cooperation with the authorities in applying international standards in relation to the protection of the human rights of migrants.

In November, OHCHR and UNSMIL organized a regional workshop on human rights at international borders in Northern Africa. A total of 30 representatives of CSOs and activists from Libya, Morocco and Tunisia were in attendance. OHCHR emphasized that international borders are not exclusionary zones when it comes to complying with international human rights obligations. It also commended CSOs for their role in mainstreaming human rights, stressing the importance of their participation in the formulation and implementation of migration policies at the regional and national level.

In light of the looming migration crisis in the country, OHCHR will continue to strengthen its work in this area over the next year.

Mechanisms

M1 – The National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF), NHRI, UNCT and CSOs effectively engage with the international human rights mechanisms.

16 17

OHCHR contributed to national institutionalized structures, facilitating an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the international human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.

In anticipation of Tunisia's fourth UPR cycle review, scheduled for November, OHCHR provided support to CSOs, the UNCT, the NMRF and independent authorities mandated to protect human rights. OHCHR supported the UNCT and more than 40 CSOs in drafting their reports. It also assisted CSOs in their advocacy with stakeholders and during the pre-sessions of the HRC in relation to the recommendations outlined in their alternative reports to strengthen the country's international commitments and human rights situation. Capacity-building and technical assistance was provided to the NMRF for the drafting of its report and prior to the HRC session and the NMRF's consultation with CSOs. A coaching session was held on 27 October, which was attended by 35 participants. The objective was to provide technical assistance and advice on the modalities of the interactive dialogue with the UPR Working Group, the preparation of the dialogue, accessing information

through available tools and the outcome of the review. During the UPR review, Tunisia accepted the recommendations on the establishment of an NHRI, in line with the Paris Principles, and the establishment of a Constitutional Court. OHCHR will support the Government in the establishment of these institutions.

OHCHR also supported the visit of SPT. The delegation met with the Head of the Government, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of the Interior, representatives of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), the UNCT and CSOs. Following its visit to places of deprivation of liberty, SPT published a press release on 6 April that expressed its deep concern regarding the persistence of police violence and prison overcrowding in Tunisia.

In addition, OHCHR supported the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking and sanitation, in July. During the visit, the Special Rapporteur met with authorities and a network of civil society, community-based organizations (CBOs) and rights holders. The Special Rapporteur's preliminary findings and recommendations will inform a final report that will be presented to the HRC at its fifty-fourth session, in September 2023.



Participation

P1 – Laws, policies and practices protecting the right to participate and civic space, including online, are strengthened and civil society faces an increasingly safe and enabling environment.

16

OHCHR contributed to improving the level of compliance of legislation/policy with international human rights norms

and standards of selected policy areas.

OHCHR faced challenges in implementing its activities with the judiciary due to the continuous interference of the Executive Branch, resulting in the dissolution of the High Judicial Council. The situation was aggravated by the Ministry of Justice's delayed nomination of judges. OHCHR conducted an analysis of several pieces of legislation, including: 1) the leaked draft law amending legislation on associations, which raised concerns about the rights to assembly and association and civic space and led to a joint communication from four special procedures to the Government; 2) the new Constitution and its compliance with international human rights standards; 3) the decree-law revising legislation on elections, which raised concerns about the right to participation in public affairs and women's rights to participation and representation; and 4) the new decree-law on cybercrimes, which poses risks to freedom of expression and the right to privacy. OHCHR undertook advocacy with authorities in relation to the two latter decree-laws and offered technical assistance to help align the legal framework with international human rights standards. The Office also shared its analysis with relevant special procedures mandate holders to inform their communications (three of which were sent to the authorities). In addition, OHCHR monitored cases of online and offline restrictions of freedom of expression against protesters, bloggers, journalists and HRDs for criticizing the regime, including during the constitutional referendum and in the context of the December parliamentary elections. These restrictions effectively silenced dissent and shrunk the civic space. Furthermore, OHCHR monitored and reported on a significant increase

in criminal prosecutions of journalists and bloggers that were brought before military courts to stifle dissenting voices and harass journalists, including women journalists. The number of these cases dramatically increased after the "25 July events" and are another example of the repression exercised by the Executive Branch and judiciary to limit freedom of expression in the country.

P5 – Independent public institutions to promote and protect the civic space and public freedoms, as well as CSOs, including media actors, increasingly conduct monitoring and public reporting on human rights issues and assist victims of human rights violations.

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

OHCHR monitored cases of women journalists and bloggers being harassed and prosecuted, including before military courts, for exercising their right to work and freedom of expression. OHCHR participated in two regional consultations on the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, which brought together authorities and stakeholders working on this topic, including UN agencies, civil society and academic experts. During these events, OHCHR outlined its efforts to support the establishment and capacity-building of the Monitoring Unit on Attacks against Journalists of the Tunisian National Syndicate of Journalists (SNJT). OHCHR expressed its concerns regarding impunity for crimes against journalists in Tunisia, a situation that has been exacerbated by violations committed by the police and the justice sector. OHCHR also noted its

concerns regarding the freedom of the media and the security of journalists in Tunisia, especially in light of an increased targeting and prosecution of journalists by military courts. The Office called on Tunisian authorities to put an end to such practices and adopt a legal framework that meets international standards and fully guarantees the rights to due process, freedom of expression and the media and the security of journalists.

In December, OHCHR partnered with the Independent Authority for Audiovisual Communication (HAICA) to organize a workshop with community-based radio stations to enhance human rights at the local level and support their efforts in drafting a guide on monitoring human rights violations, including in relation to the freedom of the media.

P7 – Public recognition is increased about the contribution of human rights education to development and effective responses to violence, including terrorism and violent extremism.



OHCHR enhanced the capacities of underrepresented groups to participate in decision-making and public life and the capacities of educational staff to design, develop and deliver trainings.

As part of its joint project on preventing violent extremism and human rights education, OHCHR organized a focus group meeting, in June, with CSOs working on this issue. The workshop provided information on human rights education-related data in this field, discussed preliminary findings and identified data gaps. In July, the Office received the final version of the mapping of the training network's existing and forthcoming training,

development and capacity-building initiatives on preventing violent extremism, which was prepared by a consultant. OHCHR also organized a regional workshop, in Kairouan, for CSOs from the country's central region, to discuss the resilience factors, risks and needs of education stakeholders. In December, the Office organized two regional workshops, in Sousse and Tabarka, to discuss the needs of education stakeholders with local CSOs.

Accountability

A2 – The NPM is operational and fulfils its mandate, in compliance with international human rights law.



OHCHR contributed to strengthened national mechanisms that provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including in relation to ESCRs.

OHCHR held two consultation sessions, in Sousse and Tunis, for CSOs working on ESCRs, including the right to health, the rights of women and the rights of persons with disabilities. OHCHR received inputs from more than 50 CSOs, which identified current challenges, priority areas and ways that OHCHR can support them in promoting the implementation of ESCRs. These inputs will inform OHCHR's planning for 2023 and ensure it develops impact-oriented and needs-based interventions to better support CSOs in their work. The consultations included several sessions that focused on: 1) the UPR process and the instrumental role of CSOs in the implementation of recommendations on ESCRs; 2) the importance of a human rights-based approach in efforts related

to ESCRs; and 3) the Social Expenditure Monitoring tool, launched by ESCWA and the Ministry of Finance, which can be used by CSOs to monitor government expenditures on ESCRs and increase accountability. The events also included sessions that enabled CSOs to discuss the challenges they face and the support they need from OHCHR in their work to promote and protect ESCRs in Tunisia.

A2 – The judicial sector functions in compliance with international human rights standards and provides increased redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations.



OHCHR contributed to increasing the extent to which international human rights law and jurisprudence was used in court proceedings and decisions.

OHCHR conducted eight joint monitoring missions with the National Authority for the Prevention of Torture (INPT) to places of deprivation of liberty, including prisons, police stations and migrant reception centres, to monitor the detention conditions and assess their compliance with international human rights standards. This included three visits to the Bizerte hospital, two visits to an unrecognized place of detention in Beja and one visit to the Mornaguia Prison. In September, OHCHR conducted two monitoring missions, one of which was undertaken with the INPT. The missions were conducted to investigate the deaths of two individuals as a result of the reported unnecessary use of force by law enforcement during their arrests. OHCHR will consider the recommendations of the mission reports in follow-up discussions with the Ministries of Justice, Interior and Health. OHCHR

also met with representatives of different ministries and CSOs and shared a manual on international human rights standards for the treatment of prisoners, which was developed in collaboration with partners.

Development

D2 – The Government of Tunisia begins implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

1 2 3 5 8 9 13 16 17



OHCHR contributed to the extent to which oversight, accountability or protection mechanisms that conform to international human rights standards are in place and/or functioning.

On 25 October, OHCHR collaborated with the UN Global Compact to facilitate a session on business and human rights, with a focus on the UNGPs and UNGP 10+. Twenty-five participants attended from 16 enterprises in Tunisia, representing a variety of sectors, including banking, cement, oil and gas and the automotive industry. The session featured a workshop on “Operationalizing business and human rights within our firms,” during which participants discussed how to integrate business and human rights, identified challenges and recommended solutions for enhanced implementation. Participants appreciated the sessions and requested additional sessions for their colleagues. The Office highlighted the need to engage with other stakeholders, such as CSOs, to develop more meaningful projects within their communities (particularly in the case of the cement, oil and gas companies). During two consultation sessions with CSOs, OHCHR emphasized that business and human

rights and the UNGPs are essential to addressing the rights of women in vulnerable situations and stressed that CSOs can play an important role in advancing this work. Moreover, OHCHR worked with *Avocats Sans Frontière* (ASF) to prepare an upcoming baseline study on business and human rights in the textile industry, featuring women as the spotlight population.

Peace and Security

PS4 – The Truth and Dignity Commission, the Specialized Criminal Chambers, the Government, the Parliament and civil society have the capacity to deliver on their respective mandates and roles in relation to the transitional justice process.

16 

OHCHR contributed to the establishment and/or functioning of transitional justice mechanisms in conformity with international human rights norms and standards.

In June, OHCHR delivered a workshop on the role of young people in support of the transitional justice process in Tunisia and the promotion of truth and accountability and justice for all, in particular for victims. A total of 29 participants attended, including 15 women. From 30 June to 1 July, OHCHR delivered a second workshop on the role of civil society in the process of transitional justice for 33 persons, including 32 women. The two workshops focused on violations that have taken place since the revolution, underlined that the goal of the process is the non-recurrence of grave violations and indicated that the current situation facing the country is due to insufficient institutional reforms on several levels, notably in the security and judicial systems.

In partnership with IBSAR Association for the Culture and Leisure of blind and visually impaired people, OHCHR produced a Braille version of the 529-page executive summary of the Truth and Dignity Commission final report, in Arabic and French. With IBSAR’s support, OHCHR also produced an electronic format of the executive summary that is accessible from smartphones. Audio files in EPUB3 format have been integrated into the platform.

The Office continued to facilitate the monitoring of trials before the Specialized Criminal Chambers and supported the participation of CSOs and journalists in hearings before them in several regions, on 10 occasions.

In March, the Office collaborated with the Ministry of Justice to organize a training session for recently appointed judges to the Specialized Criminal Chambers. During the training, the national legal framework for transitional justice in Tunisia was presented and the important role of the Specialized Criminal Chambers in guaranteeing the non-recurrence of violations was discussed. In addition, the experts and magistrates discussed impediments to the progress of trials in the Specialized Chambers and possible remedies.

Finally, the Office completed a handbook for the judges of the Specialized Criminal Chambers. In December, OHCHR held a webinar to present the handbook, which will be disseminated in 2023.

YEMEN

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
33.70 million	528,000 km ²	0.455 (rank: 183/191 in 2021)	-
Type of engagement	Country Office		
Year established	2012		
Field office(s)	Sana'a, Aden (2019)		
UN partnership framework	United Nations Strategic Framework 2022-2024		
Staff as of 31 December 2022	24		
XB income	US\$4,300,707		
XB requirements 2022	US\$7,263,000		
XB expenditure	US\$4,812,633		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC⁴	
57%	32%	11%	
\$2,724,001	\$1,536,407	\$552,225	

Key OMP pillars in 2022

^{1 2 3 4} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

PILLAR RESULTS:
 **Accountability**

A1 – National institutions, including the Ministry of Interior's Corrections and Rehabilitation Authority and the Yemeni National Commission of Inquiry, curb human rights violations.

16

OHCHR contributed to an increasing number of laws, policies and practices that address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.

Between April and December, OHCHR held several capacity-building sessions for

personnel from national human rights entities, including the National Commission of Inquiry (NCOI), the Yemeni Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) and the Ministry of Human Rights and Legal Affairs (MoHRLA). The objective of the sessions was to enhance their capacities in relation to accountability and increase their knowledge about international human rights investigations standards and laws.

In March, OHCHR delivered a four-day consultative meeting to 38 field monitors, including eight women, in Aden, to improve their knowledge about international human rights and humanitarian law and monitoring and its application to the Yemeni context.

In October, OHCHR organized a two-day training workshop in Aden for eight assistant investigators, all of whom were men, to improve their knowledge regarding the impacts of human rights violations on persons of different gender identities and ages and how to integrate gender into human rights investigations.

Through a series of six meetings, in April, OHCHR strengthened the capacities of officials from the de facto authorities to monitor and document human rights violations in relation to priority areas that were identified by CEDAW in its 2021 concluding observations. The meetings were attended by 40 participants, including 26 women, from the MoHR in Sana'a and the women's departments of other de facto ministries.

In December, OHCHR facilitated a three-day consultative meeting with staff of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood to strengthen reporting on the rights of the child and enhance the capacities of government officials to investigate violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. The meeting was attended by 22 participants (16 from MoHRLA, six from MoFA; 11 women, 11 men).

 **Participation**

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

8 16 

OHCHR contributed to the increased capacity of civil society actors to provide effective assistance to victims of human rights violations.

In Sana'a, 15 meetings were held with INGOs and CSOs, including journalist unions and local associations, such

as Mwatana for Human Rights, the Maysarah Foundation, the Abductees' Mothers Association, the National Prisoner Foundation and Muhamasheen groups, as well as the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

In June, OHCHR held a meeting with representatives of the Abductees' Mothers Association, in Aden, to discuss cases of enforced disappearance and follow-up actions. OHCHR also held a meeting with the Civil Network for Media, Development and Human Rights to establish a network of human rights monitoring and reporting. In addition, OHCHR held a meeting with the President of the National Prisons Foundation to discuss rule of law issues.

Furthermore, the knowledge of Yemeni CSOs about the work of the international human rights system was enhanced through the dissemination of 36 weekly e-newsletters on news, documentation, reports, resources and opportunities to participate in the work of the international human rights mechanisms. Seventy-two subscribers were added in 2022, bringing the total to 395.

To strengthen the protection of freedom of expression in Yemen, with a focus on journalists, OHCHR organized three meetings with journalist unions on the situation. In December, five journalists were invited to join a focus group to validate a report on freedom of expression. Partnerships were developed with professional groups, such as the Yemeni Writers Union, trade unions, lawyers' associations, universities and minorities, such as marginalized groups and persons with disabilities, to better address their advocacy needs.

From 12 to 14 December, 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 had 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 and MoHR Sana'a to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (4 December), which was attended by 30 participants (six women, 24 men). It provided an innovative 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 – The capacities of CSOs to promote and protect human rights are strengthened.



OHCHR continued to monitor and report on violations of freedom of expression and opinion.

During the reporting period, OHCHR documented 19 human rights violations related to civic space and people's participation, which were included in OHCHR-Yemen's database. Between January and June, OHCHR submitted cases of violations of the right to civic space and participation to the attention of the special procedures and other international human rights mechanisms. OHCHR followed up on comments issued by the special procedures on documented

human rights cases, such as the enforced disappearance of two UN staff members, which were transmitted to authorities in Yemen, including the de facto authority.



Peace and Security

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



OHCHR strengthened the capacities and knowledge of relevant authorities of the Government and the international community through monitoring, documenting and reporting on human rights violations, including those affecting vulnerable groups.

OHCHR collaborated with the Ministry of Human Rights, Sana'a and authorities in Aden to raise awareness about the promotion and protection of human rights through the commemoration of United Nations celebrations, such as International Women's Day (8 March), the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March), the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (26 June), the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December) and Human Rights Day (10 December). On these occasions, curated messages were shared in public forums with the participation of civil society, authorities and the media.

OHCHR produced public and internal reports and carried out advocacy with the international community, national counterparts and in coordination with

civil society. Six press briefing notes and statements were issued and 38 advocacy meetings were held with relevant authorities, members of the UNCT, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen and the United Nations Mission to support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA) to ensure that human rights concerns informed the humanitarian response. Inputs were provided to the reports of: the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the General Assembly (seventy-seventh session); the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict; the Secretary-General on reprisals and intimidation against those seeking to cooperate with the UN, its representatives and mechanisms on human rights; and two thematic reports on the situation of persons with disabilities and freedom of expression.

In June, OHCHR conducted high-level advocacy meetings with the Saudi-led Coalition in Riyadh to advocate for accountability in relation to alleged human rights violations, including indiscriminate airstrikes and attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure migrants along the Saudi/Yemeni border. In December, in Aden, OHCHR improved the knowledge and skills of 30 participants, including six women from the AGO, on the promotion and protection of human rights.

OHCHR documented over 1,000 cases of human rights violations: 894 civilian casualties (316 killed, 578 injured); 32 arbitrary detention cases; three cases of enforced disappearance; 19 violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; four cases of GBV, including CRSV, child marriage, SGBV and domestic violence; and 58 attacks against civilian objects.

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

Type of engagement	Regional Centre
Countries of engagement	Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, the State of Palestine, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen
Year established	2009
Field office(s)	Doha, Qatar
Staff as of 31 December 2022	6

XB income	US\$679,997		
XB requirements 2022	US\$2,341,000		
XB expenditure	US\$250,044		
	Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴
	58%	30%	12%
	\$144,644	\$76,634	\$28,766
RB expenditure	US\$875,100		
	Personnel	Non-personnel	
	64%	36%	
	\$556,619	\$318,481	

Key OMP pillars in 2022



⁴ Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.155

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

A1 – The capacities of States to adopt legislation/policy to protect human rights in compliance with international human rights norms and standards are significantly enhanced.

16

OHCHR contributed to the enhanced capacities and knowledge of State officials on international human rights norms and standards.

Between February and March, OHCHR collaborated with the Saudi Human Rights Commission to deliver a ToT session for prison staff. The session developed the training capacities of

prison staff to share their experiences and knowledge with their colleagues about international human rights standards in relation to prisons. To that end, each participant was requested to facilitate at least two ToT trainings at their respective institution. Twenty-five participants attended the session, including 15 women, from the Ministry of Interior, the Public Prosecution Office and the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development.

In an effort to provide stakeholders with access to relevant publications, OHCHR translated and published several publications, which are also used in trainings by the Centre and other OHCHR field presences in the region. These included: the manual on *Preventing Torture: The role of National Preventive Mechanisms – A practical guide* (2018); reference materials related to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; *The resource book on the use of force and firearms in law enforcement* (co-published with UNODC) (2015); and *Human rights at international borders: A trainers' guide* (co-published with UNOCT) (2015). Additionally, the Office reviewed the *Frequently asked questions on human rights and climate change* (2021) and the *Frequently asked questions on human rights and elections: A handbook on international human rights standards on elections* (2021).

In September, OHCHR participated in the “National Forum on the role of law enforcement institutions in the protection of human rights during the World Cup Qatar 2022.” The event was organized by the National Human Rights Commission of the State of Qatar, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Interior and the Supreme

Committee for Delivery and Legacy, with contributions from national and international organizations. The Forum sought to promote respect for human rights during the World Cup, with an emphasis on the role of law enforcement in protecting human rights and ensuring the organization of a civilized and safe international tournament. OHCHR presented a working paper entitled *Human rights in sports events: An international approach*. The Forum was attended by more than 200 participants from all ministries and relevant official bodies, in addition to representatives of international organizations.



Mechanisms

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



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

In May, OHCHR cooperated with the Danish Institute for Human Rights to deliver a workshop for members of the Tunisian NMRF on reporting to the HRC in the context of the fourth UPR cycle. The workshop brought together representatives from line ministries, including the Ministries of Justice, Economy, Finance, Communication and Information Technology, Interior, National Defence and the National Institute of Statistics, and focused on drafting methodologies and techniques.

In June, OHCHR and the Arab Charter Committee for Human Rights co-organized a workshop, in Cairo, for

government officials from 16 Arab countries on “Strengthening complementarities between international and regional human rights mechanisms.” Participants discussed ways to link the UN global review calendar and the Arab human rights regional system to facilitate the enhanced engagement of Member States with the international human rights mechanisms.

From 28 November to 1 December, OHCHR and the Jordan Institute of Diplomacy (JID) co-organized a four-day regional training course, in Amman, Jordan, for junior Arab diplomats on “Engaging with the international human rights mechanisms.” The objective of the training course was to fully integrate human rights into diplomatic work and encourage Arab diplomats to engage with the international human rights mechanisms and the UN system. It also sought to provide an in-depth understanding of human rights concepts, principles and standards, with a focus on international human rights mechanisms and treaties that reference the obligations and responsibilities of Member States to respect, protect and fulfil human rights. The training enabled Arab diplomats working in the field of human rights at their respective foreign ministries to exchange their experiences. A total of 21 trainees participated, representing 18 foreign ministries from the Arab region, namely, Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the State of Palestine, Sudan, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

M2 – CSOs, 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.



OHCHR strengthened the capacities of actors in the Arab region to effectively engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.

In August, OHCHR organized an online workshop for Syrian CSOs on the “Engagement of Syrian civil society with the international human rights mechanisms.” A total of 24 participants, including eight women, from 24 organizations, attended the workshop. Topics included the international human rights mechanisms, the ratification of international human rights treaties and civil society engagement with the human rights treaty bodies. It also provided an overview of CEDAW, intersectionality, gender mainstreaming and civil society engagement with the special procedures.



Non-discrimination

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



OHCHR continued to enhance the knowledge of WHRDs on monitoring and protecting human rights.

In September, OHCHR and the coordinator of the We Network for Women Human Rights Defenders co-organized an online workshop on “Monitoring and protecting women’s human rights” for young WHRDs in the Arab region. The workshop aimed to strengthen the knowledge of participants about international principles for monitoring and documenting women’s human rights. Participants were introduced to the principles of human rights monitoring and documentation; methodologies for monitoring women’s human rights and the international legal framework for the protection of women’s rights; and regional mechanisms for advocacy. A total of 50 participants attended, representing 15 countries from the Arab region, including Algeria, Comoros, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen.



Participation

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



OHCHR contributed to enhancing the legal, policy and accountability environment to protect civil society groups, HRDs and activists.

In June, OHCHR reviewed and delivered the annual training programme for journalists, in collaboration with the Mauritanian Journalists Syndicate and

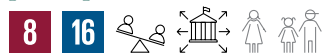
Al Jazeera’s Centre for Public Liberties and Human Rights entitled “Freedom of the press and the public interest: Between rights and responsibility.” A total of 36 journalists attended, half of whom were women, from Libya, Mauritania, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen. The training aimed to increase the capacities of the participants to integrate human rights principles and take human rights concerns into account in their work. Sessions covered human rights principles and standards, international human rights mechanisms related to journalism, the human rights of media professionals and journalists and how to respect and address human rights in journalism.

In October, OHCHR partnered with the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions (ANNHRI) and the Algerian National Council for Human Rights to deliver a ToT in Algeria on “Designing, managing and delivering human rights training” for NHRIs in the Arab region. The training was based on the OHCHR manual entitled *From planning to impact: A manual on human rights training methodology*, and included a training needs assessment, training styles and techniques and participatory methodologies. A total of 28 participants, including 10 women, attended from 15 NHRIs in the Arab region, including Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, the State of Palestine, Sudan and Tunisia.

In November, OHCHR worked closely with ANNHRI and the National Human Rights Commission in Lebanon to organize a training, in Beirut, on “The role of NHRIs in human rights monitoring and reporting,” for NHRIs in the

Arab region. A total of 35 participants from 15 NHRIs, including 20 women, participated from Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, the State of Palestine, Sudan and Tunisia. The training introduced them to OHCHR monitoring and reporting methodologies, with a focus on basic principles of human rights monitoring, collecting information, conducting interviews with victims, protecting victims and witnesses and integrating a gender perspective into human rights monitoring and reporting.

P4 – The capacities of WHRDs in the region to address areas of concern and participate have increased.



OHCHR contributed to enhancing the level of participation of rights holders, especially women and discriminated groups.

From 31 October to 1 November, OHCHR supported the organization of a regional workshop, in Jordan, on “The role of parliaments in implementing and following up on CEDAW recommendations,” in collaboration with the Arab Women Parliamentarians Network for Equality. The workshop focused on the role of parliaments in monitoring the implementation of State Party obligations under the human rights treaties and the recommendations issued by CEDAW and the other human rights treaty bodies. It also highlighted how to effectively engage with the international human rights mechanisms, with the goal of protecting the rights of women and girls through legislation. A total of 25 current and former women Members of Parliaments attended.

On 19 November, OHCHR participated in delivering a training session on human rights monitoring in the framework of the FIFA Volunteer Programme. OHCHR and the Centre for Sport and Human Rights were invited to support FIFA in pioneering its Human Rights Volunteer Programme at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 to support human rights due diligence during events. FIFA volunteers were introduced to the principles of human rights and how to monitor, document, gather information and write reports. More than 100 youth volunteers from 21 countries, including 35 women, participated.

P5 – More systematic monitoring of the environment for civic space, including threats to it, takes place.



OHCHR contributed to increasing the knowledge and skills of CSOs to apply an HRBA to their programmes and activities.

Between May and June, OHCHR organized a four-day training on the application of an HRBA to programming and advocacy to promote new work methods among Syrian CSOs that incorporate a people-centric approach. A total of 17 participants attended, including 11 women, representing six local Syrian CSOs. The workshop focused on increasing the knowledge and skills of CSOs to apply an HRBA and provided a safe space to share ideas and experiences. Additional trainings are planned to further develop their capacities.