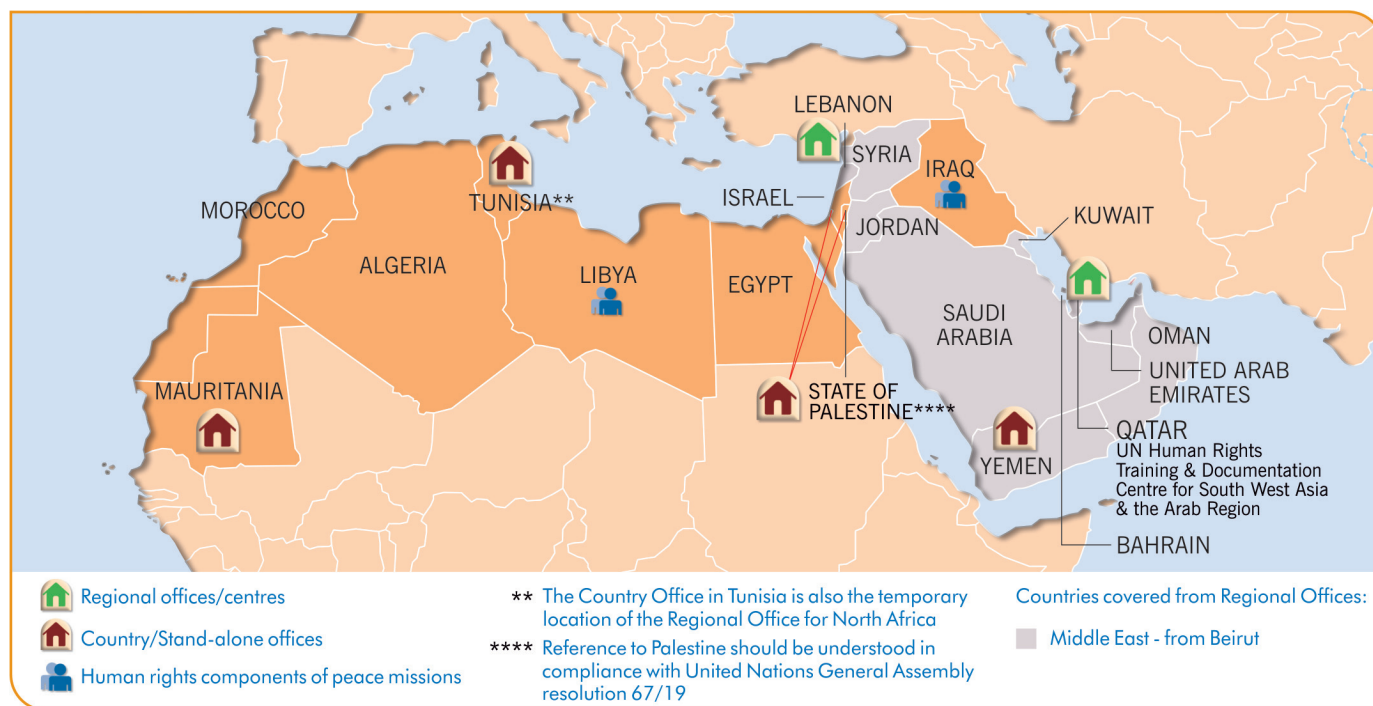


OHCHR in the field: Middle East and North Africa



Type of presence	Location
Country offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mauritania State of Palestine**** Tunisia Yemen
Regional offices and centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Middle East (Beirut, Lebanon) North Africa** UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha, Qatar)
Human rights components in UN Peace Missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iraq Libya

** The Regional Office for North Africa operates on a temporary basis from Tunis

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

In 2012, people in countries of the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA), including Bahrain, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen, continued to voice demands for social equalities, human rights and basic freedoms, as well as inclusive participation in constitutional, institutional and legal reforms. At the same time, differences in future political systems and institutional landscapes have emerged, often between secularists and proponents of a religious framework of governance.

OHCHR has responded in a consistent and timely manner to ongoing developments, with a view to achieving clear results on the ground and assisting people in the region in their quest for human rights and fundamental liberties. To that end, the Office has continued to deploy teams to the region, including Bahrain, Egypt and Yemen, to assess the human rights situation, engage constructively with various stakeholders and duty-bearers and recommend key actions to address human rights issues. These missions generated detailed information on the various aspects of human rights in those countries and enabled the consideration of diverse means of engagement with a variety of stakeholders and duty-bearers.

Based on Human Rights Council mandates, OHCHR supported the commissions of inquiry on Libya and Syria and assisted in the establishment of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Furthermore, OHCHR provided guidance and advice to the commissions regarding

investigation methodology and tools for recording, analysing and archiving information.

The Office also continued to engage in long-standing crises in the region, such as those affecting Israel and the State of Palestine and Iraq, including through information gathering, advocacy and reporting in support of the High Commissioner's mandate. OHCHR continued to serve as the Secretariat for the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967. OHCHR also continued supporting the General Assembly's Special Committee on Israeli Practices, including planning and leading the implementation of consultations with the 34 Member States that support the Special Committee's mandate, which included meetings in Jordan, Egypt and the State of Palestine (the Gaza Strip). This was only the second time since its establishment in 1968 that the Special Committee was able to enter the State of Palestine. OHCHR continued to support the human rights component in Iraq within the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI).

The High Commissioner continued her advocacy, demanding compliance with international human rights norms, with a view to ensuring democratic and inclusive institutions and strong human rights protection systems in the region. OHCHR's MENA Section supported the High Commissioner's visit to Algeria (17-20 September) and the Deputy High Commissioner's visits to Tunisia (12-15 April and 19-21 July); Lebanon (21-23 May); Morocco (3-5 October); and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (4-7 November). An official visit by the Deputy High Commissioner to the State of Palestine scheduled for November 2012 could not take place.

In 2012, OHCHR maintained nine field presences in the Middle East and North Africa region: two regional offices (for the Middle East (Beirut) and for North Africa, operating on a temporary basis from Tunis); a UN Centre for Documentation and Training for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha); four country offices (Mauritania, State of Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen); and two components of peace missions (Iraq and Libya). The Regional Office for North Africa and the Yemen Country Office were both established in 2012. A peace mission with a human rights component in Syria was operational from May to August 2012.

Country Offices

Mauritania

Year established	2010
Staff as of 31 December 2012	5
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 1,375,078

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ OHCHR advocated with the Government for a constitutional amendment which protects the independence of the judiciary and recognizes slavery and torture as a crime against humanity. In the same vein, a road map to combat slavery was jointly developed by OHCHR, the Government, civil society and UN agencies and was transmitted to the Office of the President for approval. The Office supported this process by inviting the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery to take part in the discussions and provide advice for the finalization of the draft.
- ▶ Mauritania's independent Electoral Commission was established in accordance with fundamental principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. During the political debate, the Office advocated for its establishment and functioning in compliance with human rights standards.
- ▶ Following consistent advocacy by the Office with the Government, the programme for the National Plan of Action and Good Practices against Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Intolerance was launched on 26 November 2012. A National Management Committee to monitor the implementation of the Plan in 2013 was established.
- ▶ A draft law on civil society, compliant with international human rights standards, was submitted to the Council of Ministers for consideration. During the drafting process, the Office provided technical advice to the drafting committee. In addition, the Office facilitated monthly consultations of civil society organizations and ensured that most of the contributions from these stakeholders were incorporated in the draft law. It is expected that the law will be adopted by Parliament in 2013.

Ratification (EA 2)

- ▶ In 2012, the Government ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Furthermore, the Government withdrew its general reservation to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and replaced it with a specific reservation on articles 15 and 16. The Office advocated with the Government to ratify these treaties and withdraw the general reservation to CEDAW.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- ▶ In 2012, three national NGOs submitted alternative reports to the CESCR with the support of the Office. Five other NGOs have drafted reports and are in the process of submitting them to the Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture. The Office provided technical advice and substantive guidance to a number of these NGOs.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ The United Nations Development Assistance Framework and its plan of action have been developed with the inclusion of human rights issues. In addition, the programmes of other UN agencies increasingly reflect a human rights-based approach following the Office's advocacy with and training on human rights mainstreaming to the United Nations Country Team.
- ▶ The Office responded with other UN agencies to the humanitarian emergency following the crisis in Mali. OHCHR implemented a project for Malian refugees focused on the protection of their human rights, in particular civil and political rights, with special attention given to the protection of women, children and victims of slavery. In working with UNHCR to address the protection needs of refugees following the crisis, the Office endeavoured to include a human rights dimension in the UN's emergency response strategy.

Mauritania: Expenditure in 2012		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	640,030
Consultants	-	16,922
Official travel	-	33,686
Contractual services	-	12,250
General operating expenses	-	101,604
Supplies & materials	-	128,571
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	283,820
Subtotal	-	1,216,883
Programme support costs		158,195
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,375,078

State of Palestine¹

	Gaza: 1996; Ramallah: 2000; Hebron: 2010
Year established	
Staff as of 31 December 2012	23
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 3,343,422

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ In 2012, the Office initiated a dialogue with relevant security agencies under the Ministry of Interior for strengthening their capacity in human rights. As an initial step, OHCHR provided technical assistance on reviewing Codes of Conduct, which are expected to be adopted in 2013, to ensure compliance with human rights standards.
- ▶ OHCHR commissioned a study examining Palestinian legislation, making recommendations on revision with a view towards its compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. A summary of this study was presented at the December 2012 National Conference that launched the process for developing a National Action Plan for Human Rights.

¹ Reference to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 67/19.



OHCHR staff conduct interviews in Gaza after the escalation of hostilities between the State of Israel, the de facto authorities in Gaza and Palestinian armed groups, November 2012.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- ▶ The Office continued to provide support to NGOs on submitting communications on alleged rights violations to special procedures through training workshops and technical advice.

Responsiveness of the international community (EA 10)

- ▶ The Office prepared the periodic report on the situation of human rights in Palestine for the Human Rights Council, as well as two reports by the Secretary-General for the General Assembly (Israeli Settlement Activity in Occupied Palestine; and Israeli Practices that Violate the Rights of the Palestinian People).
- ▶ In July 2012, the Office organized a joint press briefing on the human rights implications of settler violence in the West Bank with UNICEF, BTselem, Al Hay and the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI). The conference was attended by more than 80 international and national journalists and was widely reported on.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ OHCHR continued to promote joint advocacy within the Protection Cluster Working Group by coordinating the issuing of regularly updated factsheets on violations within the Access Restricted Areas in Gaza. Furthermore, during the escalation of hostilities in Gaza in November 2012, OHCHR acted as focal point for the gathering of data on killings and injuries of civilians, striving to ensure common data within the Humanitarian Country Team. This data was used as official UN information by all agencies.

Subsequent to the offensive, the Office also participated in the joint Inter-Cluster Humanitarian Needs Assessment and ensured that human rights concerns were given adequate attention.

During March and April 2012, the Office noted a marked increase in incidents of concern involving the arbitrary arrest, interrogation, and detention of Palestinian media professionals by various security agencies of the Palestinian Authority (PA). Several media professionals had been detained, some in solitary confinement, for having reported on corruption allegations involving Palestinian officials; others for having posted cartoons critical of the PA. At least one had been detained for “defamation of the President” during a peaceful sit in in support of other detained journalists. In addition to these developments, it was widely reported that the PA planned to censor several internet websites seen as critical of the PA.

In April 2012, the Office wrote a letter to the President of the PA, raising these concerns and stressing the need to abide by the PA's international human rights obligations. Subsequent to this letter, and to advocacy by many other stakeholders, the President of the PA issued instructions reversing the order to censor the said websites. According to reports, the order stated that the “Attorney General and the judiciary are prohibited from shutting down or blocking websites, and are instructed to lift any existing bans. ... Freedom of expression and opinion is a natural right enshrined in the [Palestinian Basic Law].” The media professionals noted above had already been released.

State of Palestine: Expenditure in 2012

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	2,241,166
Consultants	-	35,830
Official travel	-	97,292
Contractual services	-	153,000
General operating expenses	-	272,312
Supplies & materials	-	62,645
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	96,535
Subtotal	-	2,958,780
Programme support costs		384,642
GRAND TOTAL	-	3,343,422

Tunisia

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2012	14
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 2,127,514

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ In 2012, OHCHR and the Ministry of Interior conducted training sessions on international human rights standards and norms applicable to the work of law enforcement agents. Furthermore, new recruits of the police and National Guard benefitted from a series of 11 basic training courses on international human rights standards and police and society. Through these activities, more than 2,850 agents increased their awareness and knowledge of the application of human rights treaties and standards relating to law enforcement, human rights and crowd control. In addition, OHCHR delivered two 15-day training of trainers courses to 40 police and National Guard trainers from different law enforcement academies and training centres in the country. This led to the establishment of institutionalized training in human rights in the area of law enforcement and the usage of OHCHR's training methodology and materials in Tunisia.
- ▶ Since its creation in January 2012, the Ministry of Human Rights and Transitional Justice has collaborated with OHCHR to seek support and advice for the establishment of a transitional justice mechanism in conformity with international standards and norms. Consultations were conducted at national and regional levels and organized by the Ministry of Human Rights and Transitional Justice, OHCHR, UNDP and civil society organizations working with victims of human rights violations and their families. On the basis of these consultations, a technical committee, composed of representatives from the Ministry of Human Rights and Transitional Justice and six civil society coalitions working on transitional justice, drafted a "Fundamental Draft Law on the Foundations of Transitional Justice and its Area of Competence" which promotes truth, accountability, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence for the victims. The draft was presented to the Government and, once approved, will lead to the creation of a national "Truth and Dignity Commission," an accountability mechanism in accordance with international human rights standards.
- ▶ The Higher Committee for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the Tunisian national human rights institution, appointed its new



Tunisian women shout slogans to protest against violence against women, October 2012.

members in October 2012. In cooperation with other stakeholders, the Office contributed to this result through intense advocacy and lobbying activities. In order to promote its independence and efficiency, the Office has established contact with a number of the Committee's newly appointed members to increase their awareness about the importance of a national institution that is compliant with the Paris Principles.

- ▶ In May 2012, after several months of work undertaken by OHCHR, UNDP, ICRC and a team of experts from different security branches of the Ministry of Interior, a project for the development of standard operating procedures related to the use of force and firearms in public places was presented to the competent authorities. The Office contributed its expertise on human rights standards, norms and best practices relative to the use of force and ethical and lawful policing.

Justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ A draft law establishing the National Preventive Mechanism, largely compliant with international standards, was submitted to the National Constituent Assembly in 2012 and is due to be promulgated in 2013. OHCHR advocated with the Tunisian Government, in coordination with *Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture*, the Association for the Prevention of Torture and other national civil society organizations on the importance of ensuring that the mechanism is created in line with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, its Optional Protocol and the Paris Principles. OHCHR undertook this advocacy through discussions, consultations and meetings with both duty-bearers and rights-holders.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ The Office and prominent civil society organizations co-organized a National Consultation on the Constitution, Rule of Law and Human Rights on 18-20 July in Mahdia, Tunisia during which approximately 100 representatives of civil society discussed the importance of having a constitution based on the rule of law and in compliance with international human rights standards. As a result of the consultation, a joint proposal for the improvement of the draft Constitution, known as “the Mahdia Declaration,” was developed by civil society actors and provided a common platform for civil society organizations to advocate before the National Constituent Assembly.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ The Government of Tunisia submitted its official report to the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in May 2012. The Office facilitated a series of training sessions on the UPR for the Government, civil society organizations and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT). As a result, more than 200 stakeholders increased their capacity on preparing inputs for the UPR mechanism and follow-up to UPR recommendations.
- ▶ Tunisia issued a standing invitation to special procedures mandate-holders during the high-level segment of the Human Rights Council in February 2011. With the support of OHCHR, Tunisia received the official visit of four special rapporteurs in 2012, namely the Special Rapporteurs on the right to education (May 2012), on the human rights of migrants (June 2012), on human rights defenders (September-October 2012) and on truth, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence (November 2012).
- ▶ In August 2012, OHCHR supported Tunisia’s efforts to meet its reporting obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights through discussions with the Government and the organization of a training session on treaty body reporting. An inter-ministerial drafting committee was established and discussions commenced on the strategy to prepare the national report.

Tunisia: Expenditure in 2012

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	1,001,196
Consultants	-	120,793
Official travel	-	143,479
Contractual services	-	163,000
General operating expenses	-	111,800
Supplies & materials	-	107,488
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	235,000
Subtotal	-	1,882,756
Programme support costs		244,758
GRAND TOTAL	-	2,127,514

Yemen

Year established	2012
Staff as of 31 December 2012	1
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 685,731

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ In April 2012, the Government adopted a decision to establish a national human rights institution and established a ministerial committee to prepare the required legal framework. OHCHR engaged in this process by providing technical assistance and inputs related to the draft law and facilitating consultations with stakeholders. In addition, OHCHR and UNDP prepared a project to promote human rights issues during the transition period in Yemen which includes a component on supporting the establishment of an independent national human rights institution. The project was agreed with the Government in July 2012.

Justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ In February 2012, the Ministry of Legal Affairs drafted a Transitional Justice and National Reconciliation Law and presented it to stakeholders during consultations, in which OHCHR also participated. OHCHR worked with the Ministry and other interlocutors to advocate for the elaboration of a transitional justice law that complies with international human rights standards, and provided advice and suggestions



Yemeni citizens interviewed by OHCHR during a monitoring mission.

to improve the text. In June 2012, an enhanced draft law was presented to the Government, but no decision has yet been taken.

- ▶ OHCHR worked with the Ministries of Human Rights and of Legal Affairs to advocate for the establishment of a National Commission of Inquiry to investigate the human rights violations that took place during the events of 2011, as per the Human Rights Council resolutions on Yemen. A presidential Decree issued in September 2012 provided for the establishment of the Commission, but the President has not yet named the members.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ OHCHR has worked to mainstream human rights standards into the work of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) since the opening of the Office. OHCHR has been requested by the Resident Coordinator to co-lead, together with UNHCR, a working group on the rule of law to coordinate the plans and activities of UN agencies in the area of justice and accountability, including security sector reform. OHCHR also became an active member of the Protection Cluster and worked to mainstream human rights into Yemen's

Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP). In relation to the latter, OHCHR included a project in the 2013 CAP to strengthen the monitoring of human rights violations in Yemen, particularly in the northern and southern regions and improve advocacy for the protection of the rights of vulnerable groups.

Yemen: Expenditure in 2012		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	154,747
Consultants	-	12,120
Official travel	-	51,322
Contractual services	-	-
General operating expenses	-	56,650
Supplies & materials	-	229,527
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	102,476
Subtotal	-	606,842
Programme support costs		78,889
GRAND TOTAL	-	685,731

Regional Offices and Centres

Regional Office for the Middle East (Beirut, Lebanon)

Year established	2002
Staff as of 31 December 2012	8
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 1,673,962

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- Support to the establishment of national human rights institutions in countries of the region continued throughout the year. In Lebanon, the Regional Office contributed to the drafting of a bill, along with Members of Parliament and civil society representatives, for the creation of a national human rights institution with National Preventive Mechanism responsibilities that is in line with the Paris Principles. The Bill was finalized in December and adopted by the Human Rights and the Justice and Administration Committees of Parliament and will be submitted to the plenary in 2013.
- In November 2012, the Human Rights Committee of the Lebanese Parliament adopted a National Human Rights Action Plan, compliant with international human rights standards and developed with the active participation of UN entities and NGOs. The Plan will be shared with the Lebanese Cabinet once it has been endorsed by the Parliament. OHCHR was involved at all stages of the development of the Plan and promoted the incorporation of international standards.
- In January, the Code of Conduct for the Lebanese Internal Security Forces was formally launched and endorsed by the Prime Minister. The Regional Office contributed in the development of the Code and provided comments on the successive drafts. Copies of the Code of Conduct were printed by the Regional Office and distributed to all the 27,000 members of the Internal Security Forces. The Office also engaged with the Internal Security Forces on administrative instructions and regulatory documents related to their processes in cases of human rights violations committed by members of the force. Discussions were initiated with the Internal Security Forces Training Institute to

revise the training curriculum and align them with international standards.

- In May 2012, government representatives, human rights defenders, journalists and members of trade unions from 10 countries attended a regional conference that was co-organized by the Office in Beirut and ILO on freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly. Draft national action plans to protect freedom of expression and association were developed by participants from each country with the expectation that national delegations will start working together to implement these plans in their respective countries.
- The Regional Office contributed to the development of a Code of Conduct for private recruiting agencies working with migrant domestic workers in Lebanon by partnering with their professional association. The drafting of the Code of Conduct is a major component of the Office's efforts to enhance the level of compliance of domestic policies and procedures with international human rights and labour standards.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

- Following capacity-building sessions co-organized by the Regional Office, a coalition of NGOs in Lebanon enhanced its capacity to monitor the implementation of Universal Periodic Review recommendations issued in relation to Lebanon. As a result, the coalition is actively monitoring progress made by the Government in implementing the recommendations.



Migrant domestic workers demand the protection of their rights in Lebanon, April 2012.

Regional Office for the Middle East (Beirut, Lebanon): Expenditure in 2012

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	941,738
Consultants	-	10,100
Official travel	-	220,255
Contractual services	-	18,750
General operating expenses	-	169,784
Supplies & materials	-	31,055
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	89,700
Subtotal	-	1,481,382
Programme support costs		192,580
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,673,962

their participation in policy- and decision-making bodies and increase their awareness and knowledge on the use of international and national human rights mechanisms. The Regional Office contributed to this result through the organization of several seminars and meetings, including a regional expert meeting on the use of special procedures in Cairo in February 2012 and a regional conference for women human rights defenders in Tunis in November 2012.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- Following the Regional Governance Week for the Middle East and North Africa region organized by OHCHR in Cairo, Egypt in November 2012, and as a result of the advice and technical assistance provided by the Regional Office, participants from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia increased their knowledge regarding the preparation of national action plans on human rights that include Universal Periodic Review recommendations.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- In 2012, the Regional Office developed fruitful partnerships with other UN agencies in the region, in particular UNDP and the United Nations Information Centre. For instance, the Office is currently implementing a project with UNDP's Regional Office in Cairo to provide assistance to the Egyptian Council for Human Rights in the implementation of its mandate.

Regional Office for North Africa (operating on a temporary basis from Tunis)

Year established	2012
Staff as of 31 December 2012	4
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 1,156,557

Results

Justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- While the awareness of key stakeholders in countries of the region has been raised and a discussion on transitional justice issues has been initiated, little progress has been achieved in the implementation of such mechanisms, primarily due to the prevailing political instability. The Regional Office contributed to this increased awareness by holding a number of conferences and seminars on transitional justice and security sector reform, including a regional consultation on *Transitional Justice in the Middle East and North Africa: Recent Developments and Past Experiences* in Cairo, Egypt, organized in partnership with UNDP and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence.

Participation (EA 5)

- Women in the region, including women human rights defenders and members of NGOs, have been empowered through a series of conferences and training sessions to increase

Regional Office for North Africa (operating on a temporary basis from Tunis, Tunisia): Expenditure in 2012

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	401,932
Consultants	-	44,330
Official travel	-	54,061
Contractual services	-	19,700
General operating expenses	-	53,412
Supplies & materials	-	139,849
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	310,218
Subtotal	-	1,023,502
Programme support costs		133,055
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,156,557

A roundtable organized by OHCHR in December 2012 on *The Role of the UN in supporting the work of women human rights defenders in the MENA region* provided Libyan participants with the opportunity to share their experiences and fears over gender-based violence, which have occurred during the conflict. In particular, the marginalization and exclusion from society after taking an active role in the promotion and protection of women's rights in Libya were discussed. This was a unique opportunity for women, after nearly 40 years of repression, to share their experience with other women defenders from Arab countries and receive information on how to use international mechanisms to reinforce their protection. The women acknowledged that they are not alone, and reported that their participation boosted their self-confidence and increased their determination to continue their fight for a better life as human rights defenders.

United Nations Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha, Qatar)

Year established	2009
Staff as of 31 December 2012	4
Expenditure in 2012	US\$ 1,176,132

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ A total of 26 mid-ranking police officers, including four women, from the Qatari Ministry of Interior enhanced their knowledge on how to mainstream human rights into their day-to-day operations. This was achieved through a five-day training workshop on human rights and law enforcement, during which sessions on mainstreaming human rights standards into law enforcement and minimum legal and ethical standards of conduct for police were presented. The training also focused on specific classifications such as refugees, non-citizens, juveniles and women. The training programme paved the way for an advanced regional training programme that is planned to take place in 2013.
- ▶ Over 40 stakeholders from various Tunisian Ministries as well as representatives from the International Organization of Migration and the Tunisian National Observatory for Human Trafficking increased their knowledge on OHCHR's Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human

Trafficking, as well as their capacity to develop a national plan of action for combating trafficking. This was done through a three-day programme on Human Trafficking in Tunis (November 2012). The workshop also contributed to emphasizing the urgency in adopting the current proposed legislation on combating human trafficking.

- ▶ Following a regional workshop on Human Rights Based Approach to Combating Human Trafficking conducted in Amman in June 2012, police officers and representatives of national committees for combating human trafficking from 18 countries of the Middle East and North Africa region increased their knowledge regarding OHCHR's Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking. In addition to presentations on thematic issues related to trafficking, participants were introduced to the practical tools for applying a human rights-based approach to their activities to combat human trafficking.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ Following a training workshop related to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) conducted in the United Arab Emirates for 22 officials, including 6 women, from all States of the Gulf Cooperation Council, participants had an increased understanding of the new modalities of the Human Rights Council and knowledge about how to improve their engagement in view of the second cycle of the UPR. In particular, the participants developed a checklist on issues to be addressed prior to the UPR which was considered a useful tool to facilitate their engagements with the mechanism.

United Nations Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha, Qatar): Expenditure in 2012

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel & related costs	-	607,127
Consultants	-	113,478
Official travel	-	109,950
Contractual services	-	18,450
General operating expenses	-	90,330
Supplies & materials	-	59,640
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	41,850
Subtotal	-	1,040,825
Programme support costs		135,307
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,176,132

Human Rights Components in UN Peace Missions

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

Year established	2004
Staff as of 31 December 2012	40

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ The Committee of Experts appointed by the Council of Representatives to undertake the nomination process of Commissioners for the Independent High Commission for Human Rights (IHCHR) concluded its work on 9 April 2012 when the Council of Representatives confirmed the appointments of 14 Commissioners. The Office contributed to the increased capacity of Commissioners by facilitating two training seminars in partnership with UNDP. The first workshop, held in Morocco, trained Commissioners on the Paris Principles and, as an outcome, the Commissioners agreed on the operational framework, organizational structure and substantive priorities for the Commission for 2012-2013. The second workshop, held in Egypt, trained Commissioners on aspects of monitoring and reporting on human rights violations. UNAMI and UNDP continued to offer technical advice and assistance to the IHCHR in the implementation of its mandate and in accordance with international standards.
- ▶ Following the Government's December 2011 adoption of the National Action Plan (NAP) on Human Rights, which aimed at implementing the recommendations of the 2010 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Iraq, the Government appointed a cross-sectoral committee composed of representatives from relevant Government ministries, civil society and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) to oversee its implementation. The committee met on a monthly basis throughout 2012 and organized training seminars on the obligations of each relevant ministry for reporting on implementation of the Plan. The Government launched its first annual NAP implementation report in December 2012.
- ▶ UNAMI, together with the Council of Representatives and the Iraqi Alliance of Disability Organizations, held a conference on implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Conference participants made over 50 recommendations, which were presented to the



A car burning at the site of a bomb attack in Kirkuk, northern Iraq, June 2012.

Government and the Council of Representatives, on legal institutional and policy reform to ensure full compliance with the Convention and implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities. The recommendations were being considered by the Government at the end of the year.

Ratification (EA 2)

- ▶ In association with disability organizations, UNAMI advocated with Members of Parliament, ministers and government authorities for Iraq's accession to international human rights conventions, including the CRPD and the Arab Charter on Human Rights. Iraq acceded to the CRPD on January 2012, but approval of the legislation to implement the Convention is still pending. On 23 February 2012, the Council of Representatives approved a bill on Iraq's accession to the Arab Charter of Human Rights.

Justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ UNAMI referred over 200 cases of alleged violations concerning violence against civilians to the Ministry of Human Rights, all of which were followed up by the Government through investigation, reporting and, in some cases, remedial actions.

Access to basic services (EA 4)

- ▶ Despite rejecting the February 2010 recommendations from the UPR that the Government should ensure the protection of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons, the Government established an inter-ministerial committee to examine the issues and consider legal, policy and institutional reforms that would protect LGBT persons from violence. UNAMI, together with international actors, advocated for the protection of LGBT persons.

Responsiveness of the international community (EA 10)

- ▶ OHCHR contributed to the increased awareness of local authorities and the international community on issues of concern through public reporting. UNAMI's Human Rights Office published a half yearly report on the human rights situation in Iraq and contributed to numerous other general and thematic reports.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ The Iraq United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) was prepared between 2010 and 2011 in consultation and coordination with UNAMI's Human Rights Office. All its programmes and activities are human-rights based. UNAMI is co-chair of the Human Rights and Protection sub-working group and participates in other working groups to facilitate implementation of the UNDAF.

On 22-23 December 2012, the UNAMI Human Rights Office, in association with the Iraqi Alliance of Disability Organizations and the Human Rights Committee of the Council of Representatives, held a conference to discuss the implementation of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) that Iraq signed in January 2012.

At the conference, persons with disabilities and their representative organizations came together with representatives of the Government, the Council of Representatives, the judiciary, and civil society to promote awareness of the issues confronting people living with disabilities in Iraq, and to make recommendations as to how Iraq can address these issues and implement its obligations under the CRPD. Areas highlighted included political and electoral participation by persons with disabilities, the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities, the legal, institutional and policy reform required to implement the CRPD, and raising awareness and dealing with physical barriers preventing persons with disabilities participating fully and equally in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the country. As a result of the Conference over 50 recommendations were agreed and were formally presented to the Government and the Council of Representatives for consideration and implementation.

United Nations Support Mission in Libya

Year established	2011
Staff as of 31 December 2012	10

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ The Human Rights Section of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) advocated for changes to Law No. 37 entitled "Glorification of the Dictator Law," which had been passed by the National Transitional Council in May 2012. In June 2012, the Supreme Court of Libya revoked the Law, deeming it unconstitutional and in violation of the Constitutional Declaration on protection of freedom of opinion and expression.
- ▶ In a public report issued in September 2012, UNSMIL made recommendations on reforming the Transitional Justice Law adopted by the National Transitional Council in February 2012. In December 2012, a new draft law, which incorporated many of the recommendations made by UNSMIL, was submitted by the Minister of Justice to the General National Congress.
- ▶ UNSMIL encouraged the Libyan authorities to revise two further laws, namely Laws No. 35 and 38, both of which grant amnesties to members of the former regime or for war crimes if certain conditions are fulfilled. These Laws contravene the international legal prohibition of granting amnesties for acts that constitute crimes against humanity, war crimes and grave human rights violations, including torture. A new law criminalizing torture, enforced disappearances and



Workshop on human rights by UNSMIL in Zawiya.

discrimination, drafted by the Ministry of Justice, will effectively limit the scope of Law No. 38.

- ▶ A set of recommendations to reform prison services was adopted by the relevant Libyan Ministries following a seminar on prison reform organized by UNSMIL and the Judicial Police on December 2012. The Human Rights Section's technical assistance and advice to the Judicial Police and a comprehensive training programme for correction officers focused on prison reform and best practices.
- ▶ UNSMIL advocated with the Public Prosecutor's Office for the development of a strategy to focus on those bearing a high degree of responsibility for crimes committed under the former regime or for other serious crimes. The strategy was approved and is currently being implemented.
- ▶ The Human Rights Section of UNSMIL conducted fact-finding visits to all conflict areas in Libya and sought to deter further human rights violations and worked with stakeholders to defuse the conflicts. In particular, it conducted an in-depth fact-finding mission in the aftermath of the October 2012 conflict in Bani Walid and compiled its findings in a report that was shared with Libyan authorities.

Ratification (EA 2)

- ▶ UNSMIL's work with the Human Rights Committee of the General National Congress contributed to the ratification by Libya of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 12 February 2012.

Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ As a result of UNSMIL's capacity-building programmes carried out in at least 15 different locations in Libya, civil society organizations, including victims groups, increased their awareness about their rights to participate in decision-making processes.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ Further to briefings conducted by the Human Rights Section of UNSMIL, relevant Sections within the Support Mission increased their knowledge about the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy and support to the security forces.