Development (D)

Advancing sustainable development through human rights

2030 AGENDA

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Data analysis on **4** SDG indicators (under OHCHR's custodianship, included in various SDGs reports, downloaded more than 36,000 times and featured in over 350 online articles in 43 countries and territories)

8 Countries piloted the SDG 16 Survey Initiative (which collects data on 13 SDG 16 indicators on thematic areas of governance, access to justice, discrimination, corruption, violence and trafficking in persons)

Over **3,000** people trained from 145 countries (from statistical offices, government ministries, NGOs, academia, and UN entities; on 20 SDG 16 indicators to address data availability and quality challenges)

High-level Political Forum

15 Voluntary National Review (VNR) processes supported (with guidance integrating human rights data and analysis - 41 VNRs submitted in 2021)

Right to development and SDGs

Over **100** persons completed the UN Human Rights e-course on right to development and the 2030 Agenda (from 100 countries)

HUMAN RIGHTS INTEGRATION

UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks

61 CCAs/Cooperation Frameworks processes supported (integration of human rights analysis and recommendations)

In the field, human rights mainstreaming support to

104 RCOs/UN Country Teams
382 Other UN partners
336 Government counterparts

Submissions for Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR) from

16 UN Country Teams (joint submissions)
57 UN entities

ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Climate change, environment, toxics and human rights

118 UPR recommendations issued (104 of which were supported by the State under review)

30 special procedures communications (sent and made publicly available)

Preventing business-related human rights abuses

Over **3,000** participants in the 10th Forum on Business and Human Rights (over 180 speakers in 27 sessions, addressing climate change, HRDs, NHRIs, access to remedy, and the role of investors)

A landmark forum for environmental human rights defenders

Banner of the Asia-Pacific Environmental Human Rights Defenders Forum. © OHCHR

Advocating for a clean and healthy environment shouldn't be risky. But in Asia, risks abound. According to Global Witness, of the 227 environmental human rights defenders (EHRDs) who were reportedly killed in 2020, 18 per cent were from the Asia-Pacific region. Against this backdrop, the UN Human Rights Regional Office for South-East Asia collaborated with the UN Human Rights Regional Office for the Pacific, UNEP, the Asia Pacific Network for Environment Defenders and CSOs to co-organize the first regional forum dedicated to their protection. The three-day event, "Building safe spaces for dialogue and support among environmental human rights defenders," was held from 17 to 19 November and convened nearly 400 participants from 57 countries, online, to share their experiences and discuss key issues faced by women and vulnerable groups, including indigenous peoples and children. Discussions also considered how business interests are linked with human rights. Participants watched video messages from
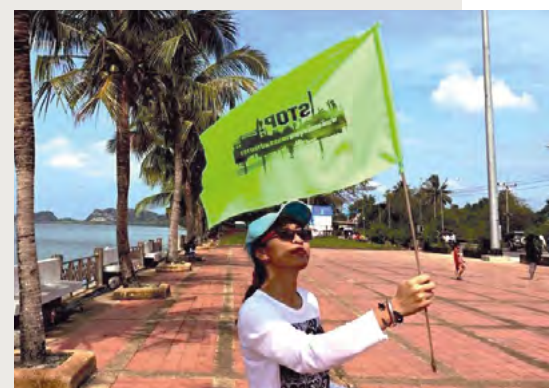
the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Special Rapporteurs on the situation of human rights defenders and on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

"This event was a significant milestone because it was the first dedicated space for EHRDs to come together and safely discuss, exchange and formulate recommendations for positive change in the region," said Romchat Wachirarattanakornkul, the UN Human Rights Focal Point in Bangkok for Human Rights, Climate Change and the Environment. "We hope these recommendations will become a foundation for raising awareness among policymakers, the private sector and other stakeholders to encourage policies and practices that recognize the vital role of EHRDs."

The Forum also provided a platform for peer-to-peer support. Slaitip Subhanka, co-founder of the Green South Foundation, which defends environmental rights in

southern Thailand, said the Forum had shown her that other women in the region are facing similar harassment when advocating for the environment. "As women, we are dealing with challenges posed by the State and private actors and because of our gender," Slaitip said. She added that much more needs to be done by all sectors of society to ensure a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

In order to disseminate the knowledge that was generated during the Forum to a wider audience, UN Human Rights and UNEP will issue a report in 2022 that will include a summary of the discussions, the final recommendations, regional statistics and inputs from civil society partner organizations. The recommendations will guide UN programming and advocacy at national and regional levels to continue supporting EHRDs. A follow-up forum on EHRDs will be held in 2022 to build on this momentum.

Slaitip Subhanka, co-founder of Green South Foundation, protests the construction of a deep seaport in Thailand's Satun province. © Slaitip Subhanka

Highlights of pillar results
Development (D)

UN Human Rights supports efforts to advance economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development. It helps to address human rights gaps in development and economic policies and regulations. It takes steps to strengthen the accountability of duty-bearers and the participation of rights-holders, including those furthest behind. UN Human Rights promotes the achievement of rights-based Sustainable Development Goals and the overall integration of human rights into the work of the UN Development System.

PILLAR RESULTS / SHIFTS / SDGs

D1 – BUSINESS and human rights

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

RESULTS / SPOTLIGHTS
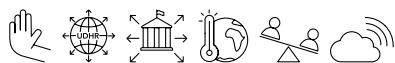
Spotlights: Disabilities Women Youth

Building on the *report of the UN Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises* regarding the role of national human rights institutions in facilitating access to remedy for business-related human rights abuses, and in the context of the Responsible Business Conduct in Latin America and the Caribbean project, UN Human Rights and the NHRI of **Argentina** co-organized seven training sessions to strengthen the capacity of 23 local and provincial human rights institutions. Consequently, **a protocol of actions to deal with business-related human rights abuses**, including facilitating access to remedy, was developed and agreed upon by the participating local and provincial human rights institutions.

In June, after more than two years of preparatory work, the Cabinet in **Peru** approved the **first national action plan on business and human rights**. UN Human Rights began supporting the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights following the 2017 visit of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises. The national action plan proposed 99 strategic measures, including the revision of grievance mechanisms, the establishment of a national mechanism to monitor due diligence and measures to eradicate racial discrimination and protect indigenous peoples and human rights defenders.

Shifts: Global constituency Prevention Civic space

D2 – GUIDING PRINCIPLES on Business and Human Rights

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

The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, developed **guidance for multi-stakeholder initiatives to address trafficking in supply chains**. The guidance, which is divided into three chapters, includes one that is dedicated to the establishment of grievance mechanisms and was founded on the work and recommendations emanating from the UN Human Rights-led Accountability and Remedy Project.

UN Human Rights and the UN Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises organized the **Second UN Pacific Forum on Business and Human Rights**, which was held in a hybrid format, in November. It was attended by over 300 participants, including at regional hubs in Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu. The Forum highlighted key business and human rights issues and opportunities for the effective implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) in the region. It addressed the disproportionate impacts of climate change and how COVID-19 exacerbated pre-existing challenges in addressing the adverse human rights impacts of business activities relating to the extractive industries, fishing and infrastructure projects.

Within the framework of its collaboration with the World Economic Forum Partnership for Global LGBTI Equality (PGLE), UN Human Rights disseminated the **Standards of Conduct for Business on Tackling Discrimination against LGBTI People**. It also co-developed a self-assessment tool with PGLE and the UN Global Compact, which was launched in September, to enable companies to analyse their performance in the implementation of the Standards of Conduct.

In **Kenya**, the **National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights was approved** by the Cabinet, in February, five years after it was launched. While its official adoption is pending before the Parliament, much progress has been made. The National Action Plan (NAP) was tabled as Sessional Paper No. 3 of 2021. The Attorney General/Department of Justice appointed the implementing committee, which is composed of representatives from government ministries, departments, agencies and constitutional commissions, including the NHRI, civil society actors and private sector actors, to oversee its implementation from a sector-specific perspective. UN Human Rights collaborated with the Government and the NHRI and carried out sensitization forums on the NAP for government and businesses in preparation for its adoption and implementation.

D3 – LAND and HOUSING laws/policies

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

To support the Government of **Cambodia**'s efforts to **mitigate the adverse effects resulting from rapid urbanization and economic growth**, UN Human Rights cooperated with UN-Habitat and the Resident Coordinator's Office to implement a year-long project called "Sihanoukville for all: Promoting a smart, sustainable and inclusive city project." The project aimed to assist authorities and UN agencies with the identification of smart city policies and programmes that capitalize on investments, while improving the livelihood of different populations, including vulnerable groups in Preah Sihanouk Province. An inclusive consultation process was undertaken with all relevant stakeholders. Challenges to human security, their root causes and future opportunities were identified and used to inform local and national authorities.

In **Zimbabwe**, following a series of evictions and demolitions in various parts of the country that resulted in the displacement and increased vulnerability of hundreds of people during the rainy season and in the midst of the pandemic, UN Human Rights led and supported the development of position papers that were submitted to the UNCT and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). The papers outline **the human rights and protection impacts of evictions and demolitions in urban informal settlements** and propose short- and long-term interventions by the UN, in collaboration with the Government. In the immediate term, through the RC's intervention and advocacy efforts, the Government ceased evictions. With support from UN Human Rights and UN-Habitat, the UN continued to engage in discussions with the Ministry of Housing regarding a comprehensive assessment of the housing sector and the development of regulatory and policy frameworks on forced evictions and demolitions, with a view to providing a basis for medium- and long-term solutions to this problem. The Government is committed to addressing the mushrooming informal settlements and streamlining land and housing allocations, as evidenced by the National Development Strategy, which includes the delivery of housing as one of 11 priorities.

The Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context prepared a report entitled ***Twenty years of promoting and protecting the right to adequate housing: Taking stock and moving forward (A/HRC/47/43)***. The report provides an assessment of the mandate's achievements and contributions at the local, national and international level since its establishment. It also highlights the development of guidelines on forced evictions, security of tenure and the implementation of the right to adequate housing, outlines recommendations to enhance its working methods and identifies seven priorities for its future.

D4 – HEALTH POLICIES and human rights

Public health approaches, including sexual and reproductive health policies, comply with international human rights standards and provide non-discriminatory access, especially to children, adolescents, women and migrants.
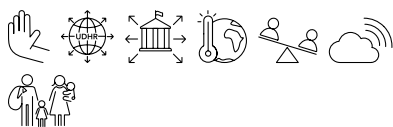
UN Human Rights continued to expand the global constituency for sexual and reproductive health and rights by **engaging with health workers on their fundamental role in the realization of human rights**. For example, **in Uganda**, UN Human Rights partnered with the Ministry of Health and UNAIDS to design and pilot a training for 20 health care workers to build their awareness and capacities to apply an HRBA to the provision of sexual and reproductive health and HIV-related services, while also identifying and eliminating stigma and discrimination affecting women living with HIV.

UN Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the right to food promoted the i**ntegration of human rights norms and principles into the work of the Committee for World Food Security,** including its Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition. UN Human Rights actively engaged in the Food System Summit, bringing human rights concerns to the forefront of discussions around sustainable food systems and healthy diets. In collaboration with WHO, UN Human Rights stressed the potential role of the private sector in encouraging the public to make the shift towards sustainable and healthy diets, thereby contributing to the enjoyment of the right to food and right to health. In Jordan, UN Human Rights and the UNCT launched a policy brief with recommendations on promoting healthy diets in the national context.

Shifts: Global constituency   Prevention   Civic space

D5 – ENVIRONMENT and CLIMATE policies

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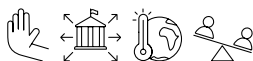
13 CLIMATE ACTION

UN Human Rights continued to work closely with UNEP and other UN partners, as well as States, CSOs, indigenous peoples and other relevant stakeholders, to advocate for the global recognition and **advancement of the human right to a healthy environment**. This contributed to the adoption of HRC resolution 48/13, which recognizes that a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a human right.

UN Human Rights continued to raise awareness about the **linkages between human rights and the environment** and built the capacity of stakeholders to address them. More specifically, UN Human Rights launched its first publication on climate change, _Frequently Asked Questions on Human Rights and Climate Change_ and worked with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) to develop and launch an **e-learning course on human rights and climate change**. It also issued new advocacy materials, which were jointly developed with UNEP and other partners, on **human rights and biodiversity**, **human rights and hazardous substances**, as well as **human rights, the environment and gender equality**.

D6 – HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT assessment

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

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Through the **Surge Initiative**, UN Human Rights implemented eight projects in the field aimed at **building back better** from the COVID-19 pandemic, including by undertaking more focused analysis on groups left behind, building disaggregated datasets and evidence to advise States, UNCTs, CSOs and other national partners and stakeholders on human rights-based socio-economic responses. For example, in Nepal, UN Human Rights identified and costed the minimum essential elements of the right to adequate health for three marginalized communities of women working in the informal sector, with an emphasis on sexual and reproductive health. In September, a High Commissioner's report on the work of the Surge Initiative was submitted to ECOSOC, highlighting efforts undertaken in the context of COVID-19 response and recovery in 24 countries.

UN Human Rights undertook advocacy with the Asian Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the European Investment Bank with regard to their **safeguard policies** and issued **recommendations to improve gender integration and address gender-based violence**, including through the establishment and implementation of a self-standing gender equality standard. In 2021, the AIIB's Environment and Social Framework made increased references to the consideration of gender equality.

D7 – HUMAN RIGHTS INTEGRATION in implementing the SDGs

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

UN Human Rights substantially contributed to the UN's support to States in the **implementation of the SDGs and other development efforts**. This was achieved through the integration of human rights into the UN's development work and by placing human rights at the centre of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and COVID-19 response and recovery plans. In particular, UN Human Rights ensured that human rights were integrated into CCAs, UNSDCFs and COVID-19 response plans by providing technical support during the drafting process in a number of countries, including Albania, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Egypt, the Gambia, India, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Niger, the Pacific (Fiji, Micronesia, Samoa), Pakistan, Peru, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Zambia. In addition, UN Human Rights supported UN Country Teams and Resident Coordinator's Offices in applying an HRBA and an LNOB approach and using recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms for their programming. To this end, the Office delivered targeted capacity-building activities and participated in and supported UN regional and cross-regional platforms that are dedicated to development operations.

UN Human Rights worked closely with ILO to co-lead Outcome Group Six on Human Rights, one of the strategic priority areas of the **United Nations Pacific Strategy 2018-2022**. The Outcome Group hosted a retreat to facilitate discussions on the promotion and protection of civic space, human rights and COVID-19 and regarding preparations for Human Rights Day. A key achievement was **the pilot implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy** (UNDIS), through a new Working Group on disability inclusion that was established by the Outcome Group. Activities in Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu included capacity-building, accessibility audits of UN premises and a baseline report on UN staff, identifying disability inclusion awareness and practices in procurement and hiring. To ensure the sustainable implementation of the UNDIS, partners agreed to cost share a dedicated Disability Inclusion Specialist, who will be recruited in 2022.
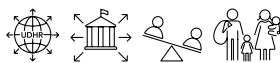
With the support of UN Human Rights, **European Union (EU) institutions continued to make progress in integrating human rights** into external development programming. In June, the EU Parliament and Council formally adopted the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument for 2021-2027. It obliges all countries that are bound by the Instrument to apply a human rights-based approach and assist partner countries in implementing their international human rights obligations. This approach must be guided by the principles of Leaving No One Behind, equality and non-discrimination.

In **Malawi,** under the leadership of the RC, UN Human Rights, UNDP and UNODC collaborated on a joint scoping mission on anti-corruption in early 2021. This resulted in a National Anti-Corruption Dialogue, which was held in November, and hosted by the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Ministry of Justice. The Dialogue brought together all key entities working against corruption and led to the development of an **action plan for the full implementation of the Malawi National Anti-Corruption Strategy**. UN Human Rights highlighted ways in which human rights could be further integrated into anti-corruption work and several of these suggestions were incorporated into the action plan, such as the engagement of NHRIs and CSOs; the development of strategies to ensure that diverse groups have access to accountability mechanisms, including persons with disabilities; and the prioritization of resources to advance development and human rights.

Shifts: Global constituency   Prevention   Civic space

UN Human Rights continued to strategically engage with a wide range of UN actors to ensure that meaningful contributions were made to key UN development policies and guidance. For example, OHCHR contributed to the revised *Management and Accountability Framework of the UN Development and Resident Coordinator System*, ensuring a clear framework for management and accountability within UNCTs, including on performance and mutual accountability for human rights, in line with the RC's job description and the objectives of the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights.

D8 – DISAGGREGATED human rights DATA

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

The *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021* and other reports, such as the Secretary-General's report on *Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals* and its statistical annex, include the latest **disaggregated data on the four SDG indicators under OHCHR's custodianship**, namely, SDG 16.1.2 on conflict deaths; SDG 16.10.1 on killings and attacks against human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists; SDG 16.a.1 on NHRIs; and SDG 10.3.1/16.b.1 on the experience of discrimination and harassment.

With the support of UN Human Rights, NHRIs and National Statistical Offices in **Albania, Jordan, Mongolia, the Philippines and the Republic of Moldova** signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in 2021 to establish formal agreements to **disaggregate data and integrate human rights into official development statistics**. Furthermore, in the Republic of Moldova, 18 representatives of the National Statistics Office, the People's Advocate Office and the Equality Council, participated in a three-day workshop, "Human rights-based approach to data and indicators for SDG and human rights reporting in Moldova," which was organized by UN Human Rights. A concrete action plan was agreed upon that includes development and piloting of the methodology for contextualizing human rights indicators and building the capacity of public servants to apply an HRBA to data. The action plan will be implemented in 2022 with support from OHCHR.

In **Kazakhstan**, UN Human Rights' long-term work on **adopting indicators** resulted in the integration of human rights indicators into a government Plan of Priority Action on Human Rights and the 2020-2030 Legal Policy Concept Paper. In collaboration with the Bureau of National Statistics, UN Human Rights completed the work to link OHCHR's illustrative indicators with national SDG indicators. The Plan of Priority Action on Human Rights provides for the gradual introduction of national human rights indicators. UN Human Rights will continue this work in 2022.

Support for resettled communities in Cambodia

"I don't want others to be affected like I was," said a community representative while welcoming the launch of an OHCHR study on the human rights situation of communities living in resettlement sites in Cambodia and a set of draft guidelines on evictions and resettlement, on 7 March.

The results of the study are based on research conducted by UN Human Rights in 2019 and 2020 with government representatives, NGOs and leaders of 37 communities that have been resettled in 17 different sites. It is one of the most in-depth quantitative and qualitative studies that has been undertaken on the impacts of evictions and resettlement in Cambodia.

According to the findings, there are significant gaps in the fulfilment of fundamental human rights, including the right to adequate housing, access to health care and access to education.

"Evicted communities report that the places where they are resettled are not fit for purpose. They are frequently far from educational sites, work opportunities and health care facilities or are not connected to basic amenities, such as water and electricity. This makes it hard for communities to adjust and falls short of the human rights obligations of duty-bearers to guarantee the rights to education, health, water and sanitation and an adequate standard of living," said Pradeep Wagle, UN Human Rights-Cambodia Representative.

UN Human Rights has advocated for adequate housing for many years, yet the study underscores that many challenges remain. As noted by Chak Sopheap, Executive Director of the Cambodia Centre for Human Rights, "There is a clear interdependence between the right to adequate housing and the enjoyment of other human rights, including the right to education, the right to work and the right to the highest attainable standard of health."

Women and indigenous peoples face particular challenges in each of these areas. For instance, despite the right of every child to education, one-fifth of households in Cambodia, half of which are indigenous peoples, keep their children out of school so that they can work. In addition, while every person has the right to food, which is an underlying determinant of health, roughly 25 per cent of households do not have access to sufficient food. Further, most households indicate that the responsibility for acquiring food falls on women, which puts them at a disadvantage as they are usually the first to sacrifice their food intake to their families.

UN Human Rights-Cambodia is hopeful that the Government will pay heed to the results of the study and draft further guidelines and implement stronger protections for potentially resettled communities. This can be achieved through consultations and the provision of care for those in vulnerable situations, particularly those facing intersectional forms of discrimination, such as certain groups of women, children and persons with disabilities.

An elderly woman looking at a resettlement site. © NGO CUFA

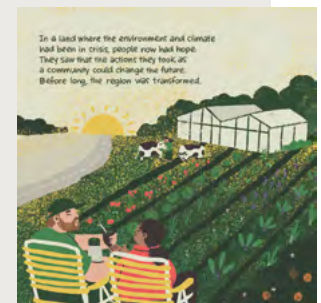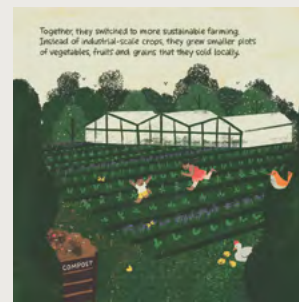# Photo story on climate change and migration

Many harmful narratives surrounding climate change and migration focus on the threat posed by climate change-induced migration. But these narratives can be divisive and trigger fear.

UN Human Rights is working to change the narrative on migration and climate change by promoting hope-based stories of migrants and communities that are working together to address the adverse impacts of climate change.

Magda Castría, a feminist illustrator and graphic designer from Argentina, is devoted to spreading hope to make the world a better place for all species. She produces editorial, animation, motion graphics and digital media projects that are focused on defending human rights and created a series of hope-based illustrations.

OHCHR believes that stories like these and celebrating the power of community can be instrumental in developing collective local solutions to climate change.

To find out more about how to help change the narrative on migration and migrant human rights, visit the **UN Human Rights Toolbox**.

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