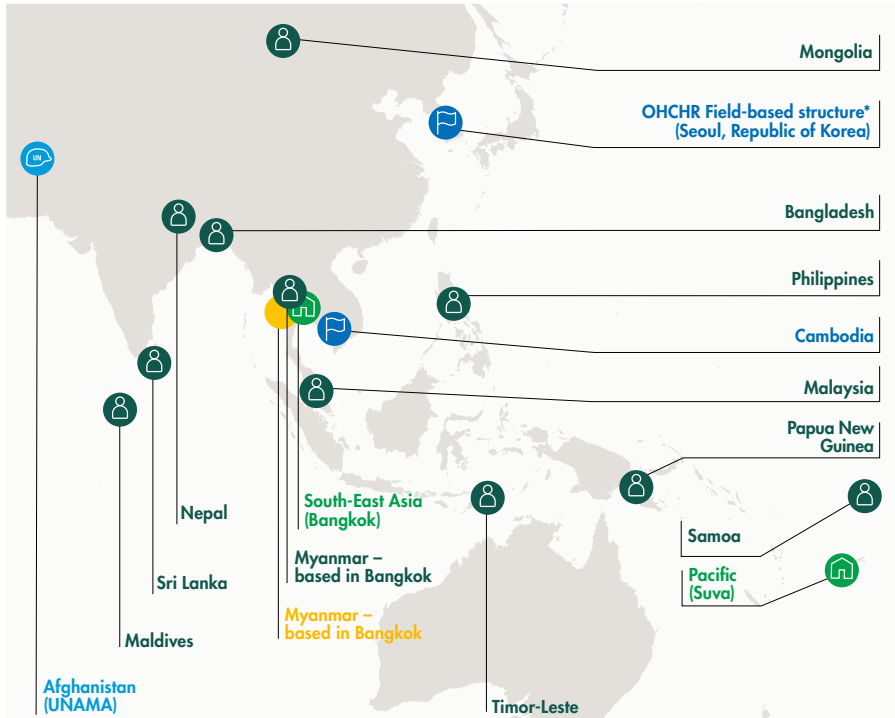


# UN Human Rights in Asia-Pacific



## TYPE OF PRESENCE

-  Country/Stand-alone Offices/ Human Rights Missions

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-  Regional Offices/Centres

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-  Human rights components of UN Peace/Political Missions

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-  Human Rights Advisers\*\*

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-  Other types of field presences

## LOCATION

- Cambodia and Republic of Korea (Seoul)\*

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- South-East Asia (Bangkok, Thailand) and the Pacific (Suva, Fiji)

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- Afghanistan (UNAMA)

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- Bangladesh, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa\*\*\*, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste

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- Myanmar (based in Bangkok, Thailand)

\* Mandated by Human Rights Council resolution 25/25.

\*\* Human Rights Advisers deployed under the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group.

\*\*\* Approved in late 2021 for deployment in 2022.

## LEGEND:

### Spotlights:

-  Disabilities
-  Youth
-  Women

### Shifts:

-  Global constituency
-  Prevention
-  Civic space
-  Climate change
-  Corruption
-  Inequalities
-  New technologies
-  People on the move

## SDGs:



OHCHR's coverage of the Asia-Pacific region extends from Afghanistan to the west, Mongolia to the north, Kiribati to the east and New Zealand to the south. The region includes some of the most populous countries in the world, including China and India, and all of the world's major religions. The Office supports 16 field presences, including two regional offices (South-East Asia in Bangkok, Thailand and the Regional Office for the Pacific in Suva, Fiji); one country office in Cambodia; eight international human rights advisers (Bangladesh, Malaysia, the Maldives, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste); two national human rights officers (Mongolia and Nepal); one human rights component in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan; and two "remote" presences (for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), based in Seoul, and for Myanmar, based in Bangkok, Thailand). The Office is further facilitating the deployment of a human rights adviser to Samoa in 2022.<sup>13</sup>

The Office supports four special procedures country mandate holders, namely Afghanistan (new), Cambodia, the DPRK and Myanmar. It also oversees the implementation of six Human Rights Council resolutions on Afghanistan, Cambodia, the DPRK, Myanmar, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. This includes the operationalization of the new accountability mandates on the DPRK and Sri Lanka outlined in Human Rights Council resolutions 46/17 and 46/1, respectively.

OHCHR provides substantive policy support and advice to resident coordinators in the context of UN reform, including by deploying senior human rights advisers and/or national human rights officers.

This is further supported by missions and the remote engagement of desk officers without a presence or coverage from regional offices.

The pandemic continues to have a profound impact on developments in Asia-Pacific. The social and economic impacts have been devastating for most sectors and economies, particularly those with weak social protection floors, and have disrupted migration pathways. COVID-19 restrictions have also provided a pretext for increased controls of civic and political space.

Profound human rights and humanitarian crises have developed in Myanmar (following the military coup in February 2020) and Afghanistan (following the Taliban takeover in August 2021) and will remain a priority focus for the Office. The situations in sensitive regions, such as Kashmir, the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, and the Tibet Autonomous Region also required sustained attention and engagement.

Developments in the region are increasingly being shaped by geopolitical tensions and competition. New trade, investment, security and infrastructure agreements are realigning economic integration, which is impacting on economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs). Regional forums, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), have an important prevention role.

In addition to this country-focused approach, the Office continued to strengthen a broader regional approach, with a focus on cross-country thematic issues, including COVID-19 response and recovery; accountability and transitional justice; civic space; business/international

financial institutions (IFIs) and human rights; and climate change and migration.

In 2022, OHCHR will place significant emphasis on prevention, particularly in the context of conflict, ESCRs and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This approach is expected to contribute to: 1) OHCHR's capacity to better respond to armed conflicts and/or existing/emerging crisis with an ESCR focus (the DPRK, Myanmar and Sri Lanka) and the roll-out of early warning systems in priority countries from the Regional Office for South-East Asia, with support from headquarters in Geneva; 2) an increased integration of human rights into sustainable development, including through engagement with business and development actors, such as IFIs (India, Myanmar, North-East Asia and the Pacific); 3) increased synergies between the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and SDGs, including by strengthening OHCHR's participation in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCDF) and other UNCT processes (Bangladesh, the DPRK, Malaysia, the Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Pacific, the Philippines and Sri Lanka), as well as incorporating a human rights-based approach (HRBA) into joint UN planning in response to COVID-19.

OHCHR will continue to support dialogue with IFIs in the context of human rights risks and safeguards in priority countries and convene a quarterly business roundtable on due diligence in high-risk environments.

<sup>13</sup> Approved in late 2021 for deployment in 2022.

## AFGHANISTAN: UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN (UNAMA)

Population size <sup>1</sup>	Surface area <sup>1</sup>	Human Development Index <sup>2</sup>	NHRI (if applicable) <sup>3</sup>
39.84 million	653,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.511 (rank: 169/189 in 2019)	Under review
<b>Type of engagement</b>		Special Political Mission	
<b>Year established</b>		2002	
<b>Field office(s)</b>		Kabul	
<b>UN partnership framework</b>		One UN for Afghanistan 2018-2021	
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2021</b>		82	

**XB requirements 2021**

**US\$357,000**

**Key OMP pillars in 2021**



<sup>1,2,3</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.176

### PILLAR RESULTS:

#### Accountability

**A1 – Cases of torture and ill-treatment at detention facilities are investigated more promptly, impartially, independently and thoroughly. Accountability and protection mechanisms are strengthened.**

**16** 

OHCHR contributed to the improved treatment of conflict-related detainees and the enhanced functioning of accountability mechanisms in detention facilities, in compliance with international human rights standards.

UN Human Rights and UNAMA's Human Rights continued advocating against and investigating cases of torture and ill-treatment of detainees. In February, OHCHR and UNAMA issued a public report on torture and ill-treatment of detainees in government custody.

The report presents findings from interviews with over 650 persons, carried out during 2020 and 2021, who were detained for security- or terrorism-related offences. The report indicates a decline in allegations of torture compared to 2017-2018, however, the procedural rights of those detained, such as information about their rights, access to lawyers, communications with families and timely medical examinations, remain neglected. The report further highlights the practice of incommunicado and solitary confinement, as well as blindfolding during questioning. The findings were widely covered by the media in Afghanistan. In response, the then Ministry of Interior issued a public statement that acknowledged its obligation to address the unprofessional behaviour by police officials and reiterated its commitment to undertake reforms to ensure

a more professional police force that acts in accordance with national and international norms when dealing with suspects and prisoners. Furthermore, the then acting Director General of the National Directorate of Security gave assurances of a commitment to reducing allegations of torture and ensuring access to lawyers for detainees.

As an effort to reduce incidents of torture and ill-treatment, OHCHR and UNAMA delivered training on non-coercive interviewing skills to officers of the Afghanistan National Police in selected provinces. While not all workshops took place due to the deteriorating security situation, an eight-day training course for trainers on the PEACE interviewing model was delivered to seven staff from four selected field teams and headquarters.

Due to COVID-19, OHCHR and UNAMA continued remotely monitoring all major detention facilities through regular monthly or weekly calls, enabling them to connect with more than 1,000 contacts across the 34 provinces of Afghanistan. The calls focused on the COVID-19 situation and its impacts on places of detention, including overcrowding, vaccination and other relevant issues. The findings were documented and shared confidentially with key partners that provided aid and support at detention sites. As the number of COVID-19 cases decreased in places of detention, OHCHR and UNAMA resumed in-person interviews with persons deprived of their liberty, reaching more than 230 persons in 2021.

OHCHR and UNAMA also continued documenting allegations of enforced disappearances, which they shared with the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. Sixteen such cases were documented, mostly from the southern region.

OHCHR and UNAMA briefed the Working Group on trends in enforced disappearances and the context of Kandahar Province, where the majority of allegations were reported.

**A2 – Inclusive and accountable peace and reconciliation processes are established in conformity with international human rights standards and internationally recognized principles of transitional justice. The processes include mechanisms for vetting ex-combatants and identifying potential violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.**



OHCHR contributed to the functioning of transitional justice mechanisms, in line with international human rights standards.

UNAMA and OHCHR continued supporting the Government and related State institutions, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) and civil society in promoting human rights-compliant peace and reconciliation processes, such as the rights of victims, victim-centred justice and their inclusion in peace processes. UNAMA and OHCHR continued to advise the AIHRC on these issues, as well as reparations, documentation and truth seeking, accountability and prevention. Following these efforts, the Chair of the Commission addressed the United Nations Security Council and reiterated the importance of an inclusive peace process, meaningful victim-centred justice measures, civilian casualty trends and their impact on civic space.

To foster and coordinate the engagement of the diplomatic community with national actors, including the AIHRC and civil society, UNAMA and OHCHR cooperated with the Embassy of Netherlands in Afghanistan and hosted three meetings on victim-centred justice with the informal Group of Friends, leading to coordinated advocacy on victim-centred justice initiatives.

**A3 – The Government adopts measures to improve the implementation of the 2009 Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW). It effectively investigates cases of violence against women, prosecutes perpetrators and introduces measures to support victims.**



Through advocacy and technical support, OHCHR contributed to improving the compliance of various State institutions and programmes with international human rights standards, in particular for the promotion and protection of women's rights.

UNAMA and OHCHR documented 200 cases of allegations of violence against women and girls, including beating, rape, harassment and annoyance, murder, forced marriage, child marriage, injury, forced self-immolation/suicide and forced prostitution. UNAMA and OHCHR also reported on eight cases that were addressed under the Taliban's parallel justice system, including murder, inhuman and cruel treatment, rape and CRSV.

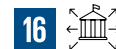
In April, the Supreme Court announced at a meeting of the High Council that during the Afghan year 1399 (21 March 2020 – 20 March 2021), the primary and appellate courts adjudicated over 1,400 cases of violence against women and girls. Of the nearly 2,000 people who were accused of committing these crimes, 464 were acquitted. A total of 1,536 people were convicted, with punishments ranging from monetary fines to the death penalty.

UNAMA and OHCHR conducted advocacy and outreach activities on the elimination of violence against women, such as advocacy meetings and public reports, and awareness-raising activities through workshops and radio programmes.



## Participation

**P1 – The AIHRC operates in conformity with the Paris Principles, particularly in the areas of independence, improving female representation and access to adequate resources.**



OHCHR advocated for the promotion and protection of the rights of human rights defenders (HRDs), in cooperation with UN mechanisms, the AIHRC and relevant stakeholders.

Following the publication of a special report, in February, on the killing of HRDs, journalists and media workers, UNAMA and OHCHR initiated discussions with several embassies and international partners on a support and resettlement programme for at-risk HRDs and media workers seeking to leave the country.

Support for the relocation of 97 individuals was provided, together with the NGO coalition Afghanistan Human Rights Defenders Committee, and over 300 support letters were issued to HRDs and journalists. In following up on the publication of the special report, UNAMA and OHCHR conducted in-depth interviews with relatives of HRDs and media workers that were killed from 2018-2021. The research was not completed due to the deteriorating security situation.

UNAMA and OHCHR documented incidents affecting civil society activists, journalists and media workers that were attributed to the former government and anti-government elements, as well as current de facto authorities. These included killings, injuries, temporary arrests, the deprivation of liberty, beatings and threats or intimidation.

UN Human Rights and UNAMA held regular coordination meetings with the AIHRC in Kabul and in various provinces. The Commission published 10 thematic reports on various human rights issues, including the protection of civilians, the rights of children, IDPs persons with disabilities and detainees.

Furthermore, UNAMA and OHCHR organized 26 capacity-building and outreach events nationwide to share human rights standards and collect information, with the participation of more than 850 attendees, including HRDs, journalists, government officials, staff of the AIHRC and local community leaders. Additionally, over 500 meetings were held with HRDs and journalists, community elders, government officials and other stakeholders. UNAMA and OHCHR also held meetings on human rights issues with the current de facto authorities.

## BANGLADESH

Population size <sup>1</sup>	Surface area <sup>1</sup>	Human Development Index <sup>2</sup>	NHRI (if applicable) <sup>3</sup>
166.30 million	148,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.632 (rank: 133/189 in 2019)	"B" Status (2015)
<b>Type of engagement</b>		Human Rights Adviser	
<b>Year established</b>		2018 (following earlier deployment 2014-2016)	
<b>Field office(s)</b>		Dhaka	
<b>UN partnership framework</b>		United Nations Partnership Framework 2017-2020 (extended to 2021 due to COVID-19)	
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2021</b>		1	

**XB requirements 2021**

**US\$551,000**

**Key OMP pillars in 2021**



<sup>1,2,3</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.176

## PILLAR RESULTS:

### **Development**

**D7 – States integrate human rights, including the right to development and the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts. The UN supports them in these efforts and integrates human rights into its own development work.**

**3 5**

The Human Rights Adviser contributed to the application of an HRBA to development planning and implementation, in compliance with international human rights norms, standards and principles.

Under the HRA's coordination, several projects were undertaken that adopted an

HRBA, including a joint programme on empowering tea garden workers, another on disability inclusion and projects on ethical business and business and human rights. Moreover, the development of the UNSDCF 2022-2026, which was signed in November, provided opportunities to ensure the application of an HRBA to planning and implementation.

The UNCT consistently raised human rights issues with government partners and through public statements, including on communal violence against the Hindu minority and on the continued arrest and denial of bail of activists and journalists under the Digital Security Act.



## Participation

**P2 – UN agencies, the UNDG Human Rights Network and the focal point on reprisals cooperate more fully with national human rights institutions (NHRI), making it possible to more promptly and effectively protect individuals and CSOs.**

The HRA contributed to the increased capacity of civil society coalitions, networks, alliances and movements to engage with the UN system and international human rights mechanisms to protect civic space.

Deteriorating freedom of expression is a challenge. While online and offline platforms provide an avenue of engagement to protect civic space, draconian laws and frequent arrests of civil society actors have created an environment of fear and self-censorship. Through training and outreach, the HRA strengthened the knowledge of civil society actors about the international human rights mechanisms. As a result, civil society increasingly used the recommendations issued by the special procedures, the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR in their advocacy. They also made greater use of UN tools, such as training manuals on human rights monitoring and reporting, to monitor and report on human rights violations.



## Mechanisms

**M1 – National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRFs) are established or strengthened. They report to the human rights treaty bodies and implement recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.**

**16 17**

The HRA provided training and technical assistance to support the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, including those of the UPR Working Group.

Since January 2020 and throughout 2021, three workshops were organized on the implementation of UPR recommendations. Participants included key government officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and civil society. Discussions on the drafting of a comprehensive plan for the implementation of UPR recommendations continued in 2021, but such plan remains to be finalized and approved.

Civil society increasingly engaged with special procedures and several communications were submitted during 2021, including on issues of freedom of expression and opinion, arbitrary arrest and right to peaceful assembly. A total of 18 special procedures requests are pending government approval. Preparations for the next UPR cycle have begun.



## Peace and Security

**PS5 – The UN system systematically integrates an HRBA into humanitarian programming in response to the needs of Rohingya refugees.**

**3 5 8 10 13 16 17**

The HRA contributed to the increased integration of human rights into the humanitarian response for Rohingya refugees from Myanmar.

To ensure the protection of Rohingya refugees, a joint response plan, including actions for improving their living conditions, was negotiated with the Government. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Government and UNHCR to provide services on the island of Bashan Char, where relocated persons face hardships and, in some cases, prison-like conditions. Freedom of movement between the island and the mainland remains contentious and a solution has yet to be found. The HRA provided inputs to the protection section of the MoU and will continue to engage with civil society and humanitarian partners to monitor the situation.

## CAMBODIA

<b>Population size<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Surface area<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Human Development Index<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>NHRI (if applicable)<sup>3</sup></b>
16.95 million	181,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.594 (rank: 144/189 in 2019)	-
<b>Type of engagement</b>	Country Office		
<b>Year established</b>	1993		
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Phnom Penh		
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2019-2023		
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2021</b>	18		

<b>XB income</b>	<b>US\$2,688,361</b>		
<b>XB requirements 2021</b>	<b>US\$3,596,00</b>		
<b>XB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$1,975,835</b>		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC <sup>4</sup>	
<b>70%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>10%</b>	
\$1,380,879	\$387,655	\$207,301	
<b>RB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$1,947,763</b>		
Personnel	Non-personnel		
<b>89%</b>	<b>11%</b>		
\$1,731,856	\$215,907		

## Key OMP pillars in 2021



<sup>1,2,3,4</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.176 and p.179

## PILLAR RESULTS:

 **Accountability**

**A1 – Laws and policies regarding justice and prisons increasingly comply with international human rights standards.**



Through technical support, OHCHR contributed to improving the level of compliance in legislation/policy with international human rights norms and standards.

OHCHR continued to co-lead the Technical Working Group (TWG) on legal and judicial reform, which included the revision of the Joint Monitoring Indicators for 2021-2023. The integrated indicator framework to monitor the rule of law was developed and utilized and OHCHR used the collected information to provide briefings to development partners on the human rights situation in Cambodia, including on the rule of law and the administration of justice in relation to high-profile trials, prisons and alternatives to detention.

OHCHR met with the Minister of Justice to discuss strategic priorities, such as legal aid and COVID-19 legislation in connection with prison overcrowding. The Minister expressed a willingness to address legal aid as part of the draft policy on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), which is a priority issue on his agenda. OHCHR took part in consultations on the ADR policy and legal framework and provided comments that were founded on an HRBA.

Work was initiated with the International Bridge of Justice to help address the backlog of prisoner appeals that are pending before the Courts of Appeal. Two meetings were organized to establish a network of lawyers that can provide legal aid. OHCHR analysed the COVID-19 law, the draft law on Social Protection and the draft law on Child Protection in order to assess their compliance with international human rights norms and standards. The analysis was shared with the UNCT and the Government as part of joint advocacy efforts on human rights. OHCHR also analysed the compliance with CRPD of the draft law on disabilities, which served as the basis for communications sent by special procedures mandate holders.

With regard to the rights of LGBTI persons, OHCHR convened a meeting with the LGBTI coalition, UN agencies and embassies to discuss progress made on implementing recommendations issued in relation to the rights of LGBTI persons during the third cycle of the UPR. Participants agreed to engage with the Government on the development of same sex marriage legislation and the initial discussions took place in November and December.

### A3 – Justice systems investigate and prosecute gender-related crimes more effectively.



Through technical support and advocacy, OHCHR contributed to human rights violations being raised and positively addressed by relevant actors.

OHCHR provided technical and financial support on two studies related to gender-based violence (GBV), namely, *The report on gender-based violence against indigenous women in three provinces of Cambodia*, prepared by the Cambodia Indigenous Women Association (CIWA) and the NGO Klahaan and *Gender-based violence trials in Cambodia: Monitoring of gender-based violence cases in the courts of first instance*, prepared by the Cambodian Centre for Human Rights (CCHR). The reports were presented to the UN Gender Theme Group, the Human Rights Theme Group and the programme staff of the UNCT during a virtual learning event. The event was organized by OHCHR, in November, and provided an opportunity for sharing recommendations from the reports to the UN system. In addition, OHCHR provided inputs to the UNCT concept note *Marching towards zero gender-based violence and advancing gender equality in Cambodia*, which will serve as the substantive basis for UNCT engagement with the Ministry of Women's Affairs.

OHCHR will continue to provide technical and financial support to CCHR on a project to promote the implementation of recommendations that were outlined in the abovementioned report on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) against indigenous women, which will be launched in 2022. It also plans to carry out a pilot training on ensuring accountability

for GBV for judges and prosecutors in the provinces, based on the recommendations from the abovementioned studies on GBV.

### Participation

**P5 – International, regional and national protection mechanisms respond to the protection needs of CSOs and individuals, particularly in the context of political participation.**



OHCHR contributed to strengthening oversight, accountability and protection mechanisms, in particular with regard to the work of human rights defenders (HRDs), in conformity with international human rights standards.

OHCHR monitored the civic and democratic space of at least 25 peaceful protests and gatherings. It also provided protection support and referrals in relation to 26 cases involving HRDs and CSOs and seven cases involving journalists. Further, the Office monitored and provided protection support and referrals in relation to 20 cases involving members and activists of the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), including the killing of an activist in Phnom Penh and the deportation of five Cambodian political refugees affiliated with the CNRP from Thailand. OHCHR, UNHCR and a number of NGOs assisted 24 CNRP activists living in Thailand with asylum claims to resettle in a third country following the Government of Cambodia's request for their arrests and deportation. These cases were brought to the attention of the UNCT and serious cases of human rights violations against HRDs, political activists and CSOs were brought to the attention of the international human rights mechanisms and diplomats.

As a result of collaborative efforts undertaken by the UN special procedures, UNHCR, OHCHR and UNEP, seven statements were issued and press briefings were held to highlight grave concerns about shrinking civic and democratic space and harassment against HRDs, journalists and political refugees. In addition, the Office raised concerns about cases of serious restrictions on civic and democratic space with the Ministry of Interior, the Governor of Battambang Province and the Phnom Penh Police. Progress was seen following the engagement with the Ministry of Interior, as several activists and one minor were released from prison in November.

With the support of the UNCT and the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO), OHCHR launched a project to support HRDs and media actors. Three separate regional protection needs assessment workshops were held with 40 members of HRDs, civil society and the media to understand the state of civic space in the country. Following the workshops, the design of a phone app was initiated that will provide HRDs and the media with a tool to safely support their work. Design workshops have been held with 18 HRDs and the media, and the process is underway to incorporate the features they noted would be useful. It is anticipated that the app will be rolled out in 2022. The project represents a significant milestone in the RCO's response to shrinking civic space. Information that has been collected in the context of the project will be presented on a UN system-wide Crisis Risk Dashboard, which was launched in June.

In April, the Office launched a weekly update on COVID-19 developments in the country. The objective was to provide information to UN partners in-country, outline how new restrictions impacted



on human rights and ensure that human rights are central to any UN responses to COVID-19.

Throughout the year, regular briefings were organized between the Office and CSOs to discuss protection concerns and civic and democratic space. Moreover, the Office facilitated four virtual meetings between the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia, CSOs and at-risk HRDs.

**P7 – Youth networks increasingly recognize the value and importance of human rights and accountability and their contributions to development and peace.**

1 2 3 4 5 10 16

OHCHR enhanced the engagement of young persons in support of human rights messages by raising awareness about human rights issues among relevant stakeholders, including youth, HRDs and CSOs.

The Office met with seven HRDs and youth members, including three women, who are working on labour rights in the garment and construction sectors, business and human rights and land rights of indigenous peoples, in order to discuss primary issues of concern. During the discussions, the Office highlighted the importance of the protection of HRDs, including in relation to youth activities and the work it is undertaking, and the promotion of civic and democratic space in line with the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights and the Guidance Note on the protection and promotion of civic space.



## Development

**D1 – Businesses and other economic actors are held accountable for rights abuses and provide remedies to victims.**

2 3 5 8 16 17

OHCHR contributed to an increased compliance of business actors with international human rights norms and standards.

In September, all collective land of the Bunong indigenous communities, in Cambodia, was returned to the villagers and documented in an agreement. UN Human Rights has supported the Bunong indigenous communities in Monduliri province to claim collective land titles and negotiate for a fair settlement of their customary lands in a conflict with a rubber company. The Office provided technical assistance and advisory services to local authorities, the company involved in the dispute and the Bunong communities to help them better understand and acknowledge the rights of the indigenous communities.

**D3 – Laws, policies and strategies on land, housing and property increasingly comply with international human rights standards. Their implementation by government entities, including the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Rural Development and subnational authorities, similarly comply with international standards.**

1 11

OHCHR advocated for better compliance with international human rights standards of legislation, policies and practices regarding the land rights of indigenous peoples.

Since 2020, OHCHR has been preparing the first draft of a report on resettlement in consultation with relevant government ministries, including the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation. The report was launched in March 2022.

In April, the Office published a report entitled *Collective land titling in Cambodia: A case for reform?* The report presents recommendations on simplifying the administrative process for indigenous communities to apply for a collective land title (CLT). An extensive social media campaign was carried out to accompany the release and the Office shared the report with government partners, the UNCT and development partners to advocate for a simplified CLT process.

To support the Government’s efforts to mitigate adverse effects resulting from rapid urbanization and economic growth, OHCHR cooperated with UN-Habitat and the RCO 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. Through the project, 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. A workshop was held as the closing event to facilitate the sharing of experiences with selected ASEAN Smart City Network members (from Battambang, Siem Reap and Phnom Penh). During the event, a document on the Sihanoukville Sustainable, Inclusive and Smart City Concept was submitted to the Provincial Administration, the Sihanoukville Smart City Working Group and other local stakeholders.

In November, OHCHR accepted the request by the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction to provide technical assistance on draft legislation on housing, which the Government of Cambodia plans to adopt within the next two years.

## Mechanisms

**M2 – CSOs and the UNCT increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms when they report to the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures and the UPR.**



OHCHR contributed to substantive submissions to: 1) the human rights treaty bodies; 2) the special procedures; and 3) the Human Rights Council and the UPR by: a) total; b) NHRIs; c) CSOs; d) individuals; and e) UN entities.

OHCHR supported the efforts of the CCHR to coordinate a number of NGOs in the submission of a joint UPR mid-term report. CCHR, Article 19 and the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development submitted their reports to the Special Rapporteurs on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association; the right to freedom of opinion and expression; and the situation of human rights defenders. Following OHCHR’s presentation on the UPR mid-term review for 17 participants from 12 CSOs, the participants prepared a joint submission on the assessment of the implementation of UPR recommendations. CCHR and Article 19 are working on a joint submission on the implementation of ICCPR that will be sent to the Human Rights Committee in early 2022.

OHCHR and UN Women engaged with women’s rights NGOs on a follow-up

report to CEDAW. A discussion was held during a meeting of the UN Theme Group on Gender to prepare a UNCT submission. OHCHR facilitated a submission by UNDP and UNICEF to the CESCR Secretariat on the Committee’s new General Comment on land and human rights. It also provided inputs to CED regarding the list of issues that will be developed in relation to Cambodia in early 2022.

OHCHR engaged with CSOs, especially women’s organizations, to develop their capacity and empower them to engage with the international human rights mechanisms, such as the UPR, the Human Rights Council and the Human Rights Committee in the context of its review of Cambodia’s third periodic report. In October, the Office conducted two trainings on human rights for 25 CSO staff members, including 13 women from the Women’s Media Centre in Cambodia. More specifically, the training focused on the international human rights mechanisms, women’s rights, gender mainstreaming and gender-sensitive reporting, information security and secure data protection.

## DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

<b>Population size<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Surface area<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Human Development Index<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>NHRI (if applicable)<sup>3</sup></b>
25.89 million	121,000 km <sup>2</sup>	-	-
<b>Type of engagement</b>		Field-based structure	
<b>Year established</b>		2015	
<b>Field office(s)</b>		Seoul, Republic of Korea (ROK)	
<b>UN partnership framework</b>		United Nations Strategic Framework 2017- 2021	
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2021</b>		9	
<b>XB income</b>		<b>US\$74,477</b>	
<b>XB requirements 2021</b>		<b>US\$522,000</b>	
<b>XB expenditure</b>		<b>US\$27,089</b>	
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC <sup>4</sup>	
<b>20%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>12%</b>	
\$5,456	\$18,517	\$3,116	
<b>RB expenditure</b>		<b>US\$910,012</b>	
Personnel	Non-personnel		
<b>94%</b>	<b>6%</b>		
\$857,407	\$52,605		

### Key OMP pillars in 2021



<sup>1,2,3,4</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.176 and p.179

## PILLAR RESULTS:

### Accountability

**A2 – National institutions in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea curb violations of human rights in response to international pressure.**

**10** **16**

OHCHR undertook analyses and raised awareness about human rights concerns in the DPRK, including among the DPRK leadership, through public reporting and strategic media engagement.

UN Human Rights documented facts and patterns of grave human rights violations in the DPRK, including through interviews with 64 escapees who had recently arrived in the ROK, engagement with CSOs and other relevant stakeholders and through open-source monitoring and documentation. The continued closures of the DPRK's borders as part of its COVID-19 prevention measures significantly reduced the number of escapees who arrived in the ROK.

Monitoring visits outside of the ROK were not possible due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Despite the challenging circumstances, the Office conducted several missions to interview escapees and victims outside of the ROK resettlement centres.

Public reporting enabled OHCHR to advocate with the Government of the DPRK on issues of concern, provided a platform for the voices of North Korean escapees and increased the awareness of the international community regarding the human rights situation in the DPRK, thereby contributing to a more informed public discourse. The Office published a discussion paper entitled *Implications of the Right to Development for the DPRK and other UN Member States*, which was used in several discussion forums to sensitize governmental and non-governmental actors about the DPRK's human rights obligations in this area. It also raised awareness over the human rights obligations of other Member States engaging with the DPRK, including on the provision of humanitarian and development assistance, sanctions, trade and investment relations and disarmament. OHCHR continued to conduct research for the preparation of thematic reports on abductions/enforced disappearances and on business and human rights. For the abductions report, a series of interviews were carried out with families of victims and escapees living in the ROK, while for the business and human rights report consultations were undertaken with the ROK Government and other key actors. Both reports are expected to be finalized in 2022.

The reports of the Secretary-General and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea were used as advocacy tools to provide visibility on the human rights situation in the DPRK.

The Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly focused on human rights violations in places of detention, including torture, forced labour in detention, separated families/disappearances/abductions, civil and political rights, and human rights concerns during the pandemic, including access to food, livelihoods, health care and humanitarian assistance. The Special Rapporteur's report to the General Assembly highlighted the issues of political prison camps, torture and detention, freedom of religion and the rights of the child. His report to the Human Rights Council called attention to the issue of accountability for crimes against humanity and the situation of human rights in the context of the pandemic.

#### A2 – The international community continues to hold accountable perpetrators of crimes against humanity.

10 16

Following the upgrading of the central information and evidence repository in 2020, UN Human Rights continued to populate the repository with documentation related to the DPRK. The repository now holds more than 4,500 distinct files, including interviews, reports, petition letters, satellite imagery, maps, court documents, videos and audio files. Open-source materials from the media, governments and academia were also uploaded. All relevant staff were trained on the use of the repository through regular online sessions. In December, the Office provided a briefing on the use of the repository to CSOs that are monitoring and documenting human rights violations in the DPRK. In turn, a number of CSOs submitted additional materials that were uploaded onto the repository.

The Office strengthened its cooperation with CSOs, legal experts, government representatives, victims and their families through information-sharing, capacity-building and exploring accountability strategies. In February and December, two meetings were organized with key CSOs working on accountability in order to discuss ways to cooperate and share information. In addition, a hybrid format training was organized for CSOs, lawyers and victims' groups on basic investigative standards and evidence preservation for judicial accountability processes, which was attended by 40 participants from Japan and the ROK. OHCHR regularly engaged with CSOs and provided guidance and technical advice on the protection of victims, information security and investigative techniques. Furthermore, the Office organized a workshop for 40 CSOs, victims' groups and international lawyers to discuss extraterritorial judicial efforts in foreign and domestic jurisdictions and to explore possible avenues for accountability for human rights violations in the DPRK.

The Office continued to regularly engage with the Centre for North Korean Human Rights Records (Records Centre) of the ROK Ministry of Unification and the Ministry of Justice to exchange information and strengthen cooperation. Two joint workshops were organized with the Records Centre to discuss and exchange information regarding human rights investigations and documentation in the DPRK. OHCHR also conducted three training sessions on accountability, international criminal law and investigations for investigators from the Records Centre. Additionally, a training for the Ministry of Justice on the analysis of human rights information and legal accountability was carried out. These engagements strengthened cooperation with OHCHR and the capacities of the ministries to undertake a

systematic documentation of human rights violations that may be required in future truth, justice and accountability processes.



### Participation

P4 – Human rights principles, norms and language are embraced by CSOs that work with the Government of the DPRK and/or with DPRK escapees.

8 16



OHCHR contributed to the increased integration of human rights principles, norms and language into media narratives on human rights issues in the DPRK and reached out to youth.

OHCHR engaged with North Koreans living in the ROK to raise awareness, increase its interview base for monitoring and documentation, enable DPRK escapees to participate in relevant UN meetings and build their human rights capacity. The Office organized regular meetings with two core groups of North Korean civil society actors in the ROK, providing a platform for consistent interaction and engagement and to provide support on human rights issues, including through monitoring and documentation, victims' protection and engagement with the UN. Eight field missions were undertaken to provinces outside of Seoul to expand outreach to the DPRK diaspora for awareness raising, documentation and capacity development purposes.

The Office collaborated with Member States, CSOs, academic institutions and other actors working on the DPRK, including by attending seminars and events in the ROK. The Office delivered presentations on 21 different occasions, covering issues such as accountability, an HRBA, SDGs and human rights, digital

rights and freedom of expression, human rights-humanitarian-development nexus, monitoring and documentation. Through these forums, the Office advocated for human rights improvements in the DPRK and positioned itself as a key stakeholder and partner, including in the area of economic, social and cultural rights. Furthermore, the Office developed new partnerships with humanitarian organizations to improve the integration of human rights into humanitarian action; religious organizations in relation to freedom of religion; and women and civic groups in relation to the peace process.

In the context of reaching out to youth, including university students, on human rights and OHCHR's activities, the Office collaborated with the law schools at Seoul National University and Sungkyunkwan University on a research project regarding the feasibility of exercising universal jurisdiction on the Korean Peninsula. OHCHR provided briefings on the work of the Office, reviewed the research and connected students with national and international legal experts.

OHCHR continued to expand its media outreach activities through the production and dissemination of materials in Korean and English on its website and social media channels. The Office provided interviews and comments to the media on a range of issues, including human rights in the DPRK during the pandemic, the food crisis, civil society space in the ROK, accountability, prisoners of war and the humanitarian situation. On the occasion of Human Rights Day, the Office and the European Union (EU) co-organized a panel discussion on addressing inequality and discrimination in the DPRK.



## Peace and Security

**PS3 – International approaches to the DPRK integrate human rights as a cross-cutting issue and recognize the centrality of human rights in the promotion of peace and security in the DPRK.**



OHCHR consistently raised awareness in relation to critical human rights issues with international partners, thereby contributing to the increased integration of human rights into the peace process.

UN Human Rights regularly engaged with Member States and the international community to advocate for the integration of human rights in their diplomacy activities and as a conflict prevention tool, particularly in the context of denuclearization and the inter-Korean talks on the Korean Peninsula. While these initiatives have been stalled since 2019, both the United States of America and the ROK continue to pursue their policy of engagement with the DPRK. OHCHR's report *Laying the human rights foundations for peace: Supporting an inclusive and human rights-centered peace process in the DPRK* promotes the establishment of benchmarks for integrating human rights into engagements with the DPRK. The Office also participated in several peace forums and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK engaged with Member States to highlight the importance of initiating human rights and accountability discussions, in spite of the stalled peace process.

In addition, the Office engaged with Member States and UN entities to ensure that the human rights situation in the DPRK remained visible in international forums. OHCHR regularly briefed the international community on its activities,

the work of the Special Rapporteur, the human rights situation in the DPRK and the severity of human rights and humanitarian concerns resulting from COVID-19 restrictions. The Office held quarterly meetings with the UN DPPA, RC and UNCT, enabling a coordinated approach to key human rights developments, consistent messaging on advocacy and the exploration of opportunities to engage with the DPRK.

**PS5 – Humanitarian programmes adopt a HRBA and comply with the requirements of the Human Rights up Front Action Plan.**



OHCHR contributed to increasing the integration of human rights into humanitarian responses and advocacy

Integrating human rights into the humanitarian response remained a priority for OHCHR. The Office provided regular contributions and analyses on the humanitarian situation in the DPRK, including in relation to a possible food crisis in the context of the pandemic, to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and the UNCT. The Office monitored human rights violations in the DPRK, including civil and political rights violations in the context of COVID-19. It incorporated its analyses into the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly, the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK and in its own advocacy and outreach efforts. OHCHR held regular engagements with the UNCT and the RC to provide updates on its activities and exchange information on human rights issues and the humanitarian situation during the pandemic. The Office contributed to the drafting of the Common Country Analysis (CCA),

providing a human rights analysis of State institutions and the situation on the ground, highlighting vulnerable groups, and providing analysis on the principle of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB). The Office supported CSOs' engagement in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process and provided a keynote speech at an event in July presenting their human rights analysis of progress towards the SDGs in the DPRK, prior to the DPRK's VNR.

The Office worked closely with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK to advocate for increased attention to be paid to vulnerable populations, including detainees and prisoners, older persons and children, particularly given the significant economic hardships and possibility of a food crisis. In addition, OHCHR advocated for access of humanitarian agencies to places of detention and prison facilities, called for the return of humanitarian agencies into the DPRK and emphasized the importance of reversing the DPRK's trajectory towards increasing isolation. In September, UN Human Rights organized a panel discussion on the human rights-humanitarian-development nexus at the Korean Global Forum for Peace, during which it presented its discussion paper entitled *Implications of the right to development for the DPRK and other United Nations Member States*. As a result, the Office was invited to deliver presentations about the human rights-humanitarian-development nexus at different forums, including those organized by humanitarian agencies. This enabled the Office to advocate for the improved integration of human rights into humanitarian action in the DPRK and to highlight the interlinkages between civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights.



## Mechanisms

**M1 – The Government engages with the country mandate holder, who is able to conduct a visit, and two thematic rapporteurs, who are able to visit the country.**

**16 17**

OHCHR supported the work of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK and liaised with other special procedures mandate holders.

The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK continued to take a two-track approach to his mandate. This consisted of highlighting the human rights violations in the country and the need to explore the full range of accountability options, while also engaging in constructive discussions with the Government and the international community to find solutions to human rights issues. In October, the Special Rapporteur met with diplomatic missions in the United States of America and with government representatives and CSOs working on the DPRK to discuss human rights concerns, options for accountability and advocacy for continued constructive engagement with the DPRK on human rights.

Due to the Government of the DPRK's rejection of the Special Rapporteur's mandate, the Special Rapporteur was unable to undertake country visits to the DPRK. He was also unable to undertake missions to the ROK and other neighbouring countries due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. OHCHR provided research support and assisted the Special Rapporteur in drafting reports to the General Assembly and the HRC.

It also provided support for the preparation of draft communications, urgent appeals and press releases and supported the Special Rapporteur's advocacy and media outreach activities. The reports to the General Assembly and the HRC were well received and widely covered by the international media but were categorically rejected by the DPRK. The Special Rapporteur sent communications to the ROK and China on child labour, freedom of expression, non-refoulement and CSOs civic space. Furthermore, OHCHR and the Special Rapporteur regularly engaged with the Government of the ROK on the need to integrate human rights into the inter-Korean talks. They also emphasized the importance of the ROK's role in protecting DPRK escapees who are detained in China and third countries who are at risk of being forcibly returned (refouled) to the DPRK.

The Office liaised with a number of thematic special procedures on issues of concern in the DPRK in order to support victims and their families to engage with the international human rights mechanisms. In 2021, the OHCHR provided inputs to the Human Rights Committee on the list of issues prior to the submission of the DPRK's third periodic report. The DPRK did not submit any of its overdue reports to CEDAW, the Human Rights Committee or CESCR. The Office will continue to advocate with the DPRK regarding the importance of special procedures visits amid ongoing border closures. In February, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances transmitted two cases to the DPRK. The Working Group continued to express concern over the lack of cooperation from the DPRK and urged it to provide information on the efforts made and the results of the investigations carried out to clarify the fate or whereabouts of disappeared persons.

**MALAYSIA**

Population size <sup>1</sup>	Surface area <sup>1</sup>	Human Development Index <sup>2</sup>	NHRI (if applicable) <sup>3</sup>
32.78 million	331,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.810 (rank: 62/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2021)
<b>Type of engagement</b>		Human Rights Adviser	
<b>Year established</b>		2021	
<b>Field office(s)</b>		Kuala Lumpur	
<b>UN partnership framework</b>		United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025	
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2021</b>		1	
<b>XB requirements 2021</b>		<b>US\$292,000</b>	

Key OMP pillars in 2021

<sup>1,2,3</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.176**PILLAR RESULTS:**
**Mechanisms**

**M1 – A comprehensive plan has been developed for the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms and the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) is able to monitor their implementation. The Human Rights Adviser and the UN Country Team are able to engage with the Government on follow-up to the recommendations in a more systematic manner.**

**16 17**

The HRA supported the establishment of a NMRF on the implementation of outstanding recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies, special procedures, the Human Rights Council and the UPR.

The HRA collaborated with the UNCT to support the development of a matrix (monitoring mechanism) for the implementation of the UPR recommendations related to Malaysia. This led to a more consultative and inclusive cooperation between the Government and various stakeholders. In addition, an HRBA was applied to development through a mapping of linkages between the UPR recommendations and the SDGs, other human rights mechanisms and the National Human Rights Action Plan. These steps are in accordance with the pledges and commitments put forward by the Government in seeking election to the Human Rights Council.

Government departments enhanced their capacity to engage with the international human rights mechanisms through

trainings and workshops organized by the HRA, the Resident Coordinator's Office and OHCHR, including on the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD) and the UPR matrix.

The Government reiterated its commitment to ratify the core international human rights treaties, including ICERD, however, no concrete steps were taken to fulfil this commitment.

**Accountability**

**A1 – National legislation has been amended or repealed and complies with international human rights standards. Human rights issues and violations are more systematically raised in public forums and are taken up by various international human rights mechanisms, including the special procedures.**

**16**

The HRA supported the improvement of compliance of legislation/policy with international human rights norms and standards.

The HRA and the UNCT actively engaged with the special procedures on human rights issues, which resulted in a joint communique to the Government, including in relation to the persecution of human rights defenders, in March. The HRA also supported the RCO's advocacy on equal access to vaccination for refugees and migrants. No significant progress was made on the alignment of national legislation with international human rights standards, as promised by the Government in its third UPR cycle in 2018.

The HRA also supported the UNCT's engagement with SUHAKAM in advancing human rights in the country,

including by addressing human rights issues related to law enforcement and the state of emergency. The UN and the Human Rights Commission agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to institutionalize collaboration for human rights advocacy.

No progress was made in amending legislation to abolish the death penalty.



## Participation

**P6 – Victims of human rights violations and marginalized groups are empowered and included in discussions on issues that affect them at the national, regional and international levels.**

16 17

The HRA supported the meaningful participation of rights-holders, especially women and discriminated groups, in selected public processes.

The HRA supported the UNCT to commemorate World Press Freedom Day, Human Rights Day and International Women's Day, which amassed large online audiences that interacted on pertinent human rights issues. These events also brought together representatives from the Government, the UN, the NHRI and civil society to advocate for human rights.

## MALDIVES

Population size <sup>1</sup>	Surface area <sup>1</sup>	Human Development Index <sup>2</sup>	NHRI (if applicable) <sup>3</sup>
0.54 million	-	0.740 (rank: 95/189 in 2019)	"B" Status (2010)
<b>Type of engagement</b>		Human Rights Adviser	
<b>Year established</b>		2020	
<b>Field office(s)</b>		Malé	
<b>UN partnership framework</b>		UN Socio-economic Response and Recovery Framework (June 2020 - 31 December 2021) (in light of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic)	
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2021</b>		1	

**XB requirements 2021**

**US\$412,000**

**Key OMP pillars in 2021**



<sup>1,2,3</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.176

## PILLAR RESULTS:



### Accountability

**A1 – The Maldives maintains the moratorium on the death penalty through improved legislation that protects juvenile offenders.**

16

The HRA contributed to improving the level of compliance of legislation and policies with international human rights standards, in particular with regard to the situation of prisoners.

Following the HRA's engagement, in 2020, with the Attorney General's Office (AGO), the Supreme Court, the Ministry

of Home Affairs, the Maldives Police Service and the Maldives Correctional Service, an important milestone on accountability was reached with the adoption of the Transitional Justice Act and the formation of the Office of the Ombudsperson for Transitional Justice (OTJ). The HRA is providing technical assistance to the OTJ and the AGO. This support will continue in 2022.



## Non-discrimination

ND8 – Protection considerations for vulnerable populations, with a particular emphasis on older persons, women, persons with disabilities and youth, are integrated into disaster mitigation and resilience-building programming on climate change.

10 16 17

The HRA contributed to increasing the mainstreaming of human rights into the policies and programmes of UN entities.

To strengthen the capacities of the UNCT on human rights, the HRA organized a training on an HRBA for key UNCT members. The HRA also contributed to the development and finalization of the CCA and the UNSDCF 2022-2026, which includes a strong focus on discrimination.

## MYANMAR

<b>Population size<sup>1</sup></b>	54.81 million	<b>Surface area<sup>1</sup></b>	677km <sup>2</sup>	<b>Human Development Index<sup>2</sup></b>	0.583 (rank: 147/189 in 2019)	<b>NHRI (if applicable)<sup>3</sup></b>	"B" Status (2015)
<b>Type of engagement</b>	Human rights staff (Other type of field presence)						
<b>Year established</b>	2014						
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Bangkok, Thailand						
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2022						
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2021</b>	6						
<b>XB income</b>	<b>US\$1,221,664</b>						
<b>XB requirements 2021</b>	<b>US\$3,041,000</b>						
<b>XB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$1,704,271</b>						
	<b>Personnel</b>			<b>Non-personnel</b>		<b>PSC<sup>4</sup></b>	
	<b>87%</b>			<b>2%</b>		<b>11%</b>	
	\$1,481,317			\$34,262		\$188,692	

### Key OMP pillars in 2021



<sup>1 2 3 4</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.176 and p.179

## PILLAR RESULTS:

### Accountability

A5 – UN policies and practices comply with international human rights standards and United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) guidance (2017). They focus on accountable institutions, access to justice and the participation of civil society in planning and monitoring.

16 

OHCHR contributed to incorporating human rights-based approaches into the work of the UNCT through reporting and by co-chairing the UNCT Human Rights Theme Group (HRTG).

As it did in 2020, the UNCT demonstrated its responsiveness to human rights concerns by undertaking targeted actions, both internally and in public. During the present crises, UN Human Rights has continued to engage and provide support to the UNCT. As a result, it has remained coordinated, coherent and consistent in its human rights messaging, its stance towards the military authorities and its condemnation of violence used against peaceful protesters and mass detentions.

Furthermore, as a result of the suspension of all programmes that were being delivered through the mechanisms of

the Government, the UN reoriented programmes to support locally-based solutions and mechanisms instead of State apparatuses that were controlled by the military. In implementing these engagement principles, the UN assessed human rights risks for their programmes and, where possible, repurposed their efforts in support of human rights protection. Furthermore, the UNCT undertook significant efforts to steer future programming towards meeting the needs of the most vulnerable through humanitarian and socio-economic responses.

At critical moments of the crisis, UN officials in-country, regionally and in headquarters delivered public statements condemning the actions of the military that resulted in serious human rights violations and produced catastrophic results for communities across the country. A principled and coherent stance has solidified the strong position of the UN in Myanmar in support of the rights of the people.



## Peace and Security

**PS3 – Relevant intergovernmental forums, processes and mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council, highlight human rights concerns when they address situations of conflict and insecurity in the subregion.**

16



OHCHR continued raising human rights issues in several relevant UN forums, including at the national and international level.

During the year, OHCHR's overall engagement with Member States and international human rights mechanisms

grew in strength and regularity. This began with the consideration of Myanmar during the third cycle of the UPR, which was followed by the coup and the resulting protection crisis that affected so many in the country.

Member States showed an increased interest in human rights-related documentation, analysis and reporting, as evidenced by requests for regular updates and public reporting, communications and other briefings and contacts. After the coup began, OHCHR delivered 40 regular updates on the human rights situation in the country, two public reports, three updates to the Human Rights Council and one update to the Special Session of the Human Rights Council on the post-coup situation. OHCHR also prepared five early warning reports with recommendations for action to advise the RC/Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) and the RC/HC ad interim (a.i.) on urgent human rights trends and developing patterns during the course of the crisis.

As the crisis spread across the country, with significant increase in violence and an intensification of armed conflicts and armed clashes in areas where conflict was once rare, the grave concerns of the international community grew in response to the deteriorating human rights situation. This concern was reflected in the adoption of two separate HRC resolutions, which established several new reporting mandates. OHCHR was tasked with delivering written updates and comprehensive reports on the human rights situation in the country following the coup. These resolutions tasked the Office with preparing assessments of the steps taken to implement recommendations made by the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar in its 2018 and 2019 reports, both to the

Human Rights Council and the General Assembly during sessions in 2022 and 2023. Updates assessing the impact of the coup on the human rights of the Rohingya and other minority communities in Myanmar were also requested for 2022.



## Participation

**P1 – Select oppressive laws, policies and practices that limit the right to participate and negatively impact on civic space are tackled and reformed or abolished, with an emphasis on those that disproportionately affect women.**

16



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

Due to the coup, tangible progress on core human rights concerns was difficult to impossible. Within this context, OHCHR continued to form alliances and partnerships with civil society and the UNCT, supporting legal research, analyses and assessments of unilateral changes to legislation, as well as the ways in which existing legal frameworks were used to support the commission of serious human rights violations. This included the application of provisions of the Telecommunications Law and amendments that were made to the Penal Code, especially the sections on sedition and defamation, treason and unlawful association. Legislation relating to electronic transactions, village and ward administrations, and many other issues, was amended to unravel protections for free expression online, access to information, privacy rights, freedom of movement and against unlawful search and seizure.

There were some indications that the coordinated efforts of civil society, the UN and diplomatic presences and private enterprises, such as Internet Service Providers, contributed to altering the actions of the military in its planned approaches to unilateral changes to law. In February, plans to enact a new cybersecurity law were scrapped after intense criticism from the aforementioned sectors. Unfortunately, these advocacy efforts appear to have convinced military authorities to undertake more overt amendments to existing laws, shunning public processes and good governance standards and instead opting for the unilateral amendment of laws.

Nevertheless, UN Human Rights and its partners continued to identify and analyse changes to the legal framework and publicize how those changes impacted on human rights, including the commission of large-scale violations. As a result of these public and private efforts within the UN system, advocacy was undertaken by UN agencies and actors and by special procedures mandate holders, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar and thematic rapporteurs.

**P2 – The international community effectively protects civil society organizations and individuals and promotes an increasingly safe and enabling environment for them.**



OHCHR contributed to strengthening engagement and advocacy by the international community with the Government in relation to specific human rights issues.

During the year, OHCHR worked closely with the UNCT and provided guidance on protection for HRDs,

including journalists and other individuals with acute protection needs in the face of military repression. More specifically, OHCHR stressed the need for direct assistance to be provided wherever possible and, where it was not, to refer individuals to implementing partners or to OHCHR to make connections with other protection options. Development of this guidance required considerable outreach to identify the means for improved coordination, identification of service providers and mapping of priority protection needs in the unfolding crisis.

The process for developing guidance coincided with the UNCT's review of its programming in line with the approval of UN engagement principles. As a result, these principles were foremost in mind when UN agencies, funds and programmes established and adjusted programmatic responses to the post-coup reality. This led to a particular emphasis on the provision of support for legal aid, CSOs, HRDs and others who undertook protection responses or gathered data that could inform future protection.

OHCHR took a lead on promoting and facilitating more consistent and broader coordination and consultation with civil society on protection concerns, including those related to reprisals. While these initiatives occurred throughout the year, they remain largely ad hoc. To ensure their sustainability, the initiatives need to be better defined, more widely attended and held on a regular basis.



## Mechanisms

**M1 – Recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms are fully utilized as advocacy tools and highlight the Government's obligations to implement specific standards.**



OHCHR contributed to the increased use and implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.



The UNCT HRTG, which OHCHR co-chairs, was designated to serve as a coordinating body with the UNCT on the Universal Periodic Review and its recommendations, representing a positive step forward.

Due to the coup, OHCHR's work was limited to coordinating the reporting by the UNCT and providing briefings and updates for Member States prior to the UPR review, including on lists of questions and related content.

**NEPAL**

<b>Population size<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Surface area<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Human Development Index<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>NHRI (if applicable)<sup>3</sup></b>
29.67 million	147 km <sup>2</sup>	0.602 (rank: 142/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2021)
<b>Type of engagement</b>	Human Rights Adviser		
<b>Year established</b>	2019		
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Kathmandu		
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2022		
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2021</b>	1		

**XB requirements 2021** **US\$111,000**

**Key OMP pillars in 2021**  

<sup>1,2,3</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.176

**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Accountability**

**A1 – Legislation that outlines constitutionally-protected rights is based on international human rights law and is implemented, as guaranteed by the Constitution.**

**16**

The HRA contributed to improving legislation/policy in compliance with international human rights norms and standards.

The HRA carried out an analysis of various ordinances issued by the Government, including a controversial Constitutional Council amendment, and their impact on the enjoyment of human rights. The HRA shared its analysis with the UNCT for use in joint advocacy. As of the end of 2021, the Government had adopted legislation

to criminalize acid attacks and regulate the buying and selling of acids.

**A2 – The transitional justice mechanism is strengthened to investigate conflict-related cases through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), the Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons (CIEDP), the National Human Rights Commission or any other institution appropriately developed for the purpose.**

**10 16**

The HRA contributed to ensuring that transitional justice mechanisms are in place and functioning in conformity with international human rights norms and standards.

During the year, the HRA continued its advocacy for victim-centred transitional justice processes. More specifically, it engaged with and supported conflict victims' groups to pursue advocacy for their rights to justice and reparation and for memorialization and institutional reform. A joint concept note was developed and presented to partners.

The HRA continued advocating for the endorsement of the Second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, which was drafted in collaboration with women victims of conflict. The HRA briefed influential political actors on the importance and key elements of the Action Plan. Following the briefing, the Ministry of Home Affairs led an internal exercise to update the Action Plan during the fourth quarter of 2021. The HRA will advocate for the endorsement of the National Action Plan in 2022.

 **Development**

**D8 – Effective monitoring indicators for progress on the implementation of recommendations issued by the Universal Periodic Review and voluntary pledges of the Human Rights Council are developed within the wider context of the Human Rights up Front Initiative and the Sustainable Development Goals.**

**1 2 3 4 5 6 8 10 11**  
**16 17**

The HRA contributed to ensuring that mechanisms for integrated reporting and/or implementation of outstanding recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures, the Human Rights Council and the UPR are in place and functioning.

The HRA is engaging with the Government to support the integration of UPR recommendations into the National Human Rights Action Plan. Discussions are also underway to develop a sustainable platform and methodology that will enable the Government to more effectively implement recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms by incorporating them into government policies, plans and programmes.

## THE PACIFIC

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Regional Office
<b>Countries of engagement</b>	Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands (Republic of), Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu
<b>Year established</b>	2005
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Suva
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Pacific Strategy 2018-2022
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2021</b>	10

<b>XB income</b>	<b>US\$906,639</b>
<b>XB requirements 2021</b>	<b>US\$2,181,000</b>
<b>XB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$914,273</b>
Personnel	Non-personnel* PSC <sup>4</sup>
<b>89%</b>	<b>0%</b> <b>11%</b>
\$817,663	\$-3,570 \$100,180
<b>RB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$213,183</b>
Personnel	
<b>100%</b>	
\$213,183	

### Key OMP pillars in 2021



<sup>4</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.179

\* Includes prior period expenditure adjustments.

## PILLAR RESULTS:

### Accountability

**A1 – Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.**

**16**

OHCHR contributed to improved compliance with international human rights

standards of laws and policies in relation to the rights of the child, land rights and independence of the judiciary.

In a joint initiative with the Pacific Community's Human Rights and Social Development Division, UN Human Rights issued the third edition of a quadrennial report entitled *Human Rights in the Pacific: A Situational Analysis 2020*,

which provides an overview of the human rights situation in 16 countries of region.

UN Human Rights collaborated with the RC in Samoa to convene a virtual dialogue with the Attorney General and international experts in order to review the compliance of three laws (the Judicature Act 2020, the Constitution Amendment Act 2020 and the Land and Titles Registration Act 2020) with Samoa's obligations under international human rights law and to share good practices and recommendations. This also contributed to the preparations for Samoa's UPR in November and the UNCT submission.

In Fiji, OHCHR and UNDP conducted a series of online seminars on human rights issues for members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence. The seminars focused on the UN human rights mechanisms, the rights of indigenous peoples and ways in which parliamentary bodies can engage with and more effectively follow-up on the recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms.

#### **A1 – The police academies and penitentiary services in Fiji and Vanuatu include human rights training in the curriculum of pre-service and in-service training.**

**16**

OHCHR contributed to the institutionalization of human rights training for members of the police force by providing technical advice and delivering training.

OHCHR continued to build the capacities of the Fiji Police Force on the protection of human rights. As part of a series of trainings that began in 2020, the Office led a training for 165 new

recruits, in cooperation with key partners, including UNDP, UNICEF, the Pacific Disability Forum, the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre and the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission. This training enhanced the participant's understanding of human rights concepts and basic protection mechanisms, with an emphasis on the rights of women, persons with disabilities, child victims and juveniles and members of the LGBTI community. The training also addressed the prohibition of torture, the use of force by the police and accountability. Further, OHCHR and ILO reviewed the standard operating procedures for the Fiji Police Force and assisted in preparing training materials to ensure their compliance with human rights standards on the right to freedom of association.

In Vanuatu, OHCHR conducted a virtual training on human rights compliance for 30 correction officers, in partnership with the Pacific Community (SPC). As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen the capacities of government representatives to effectively implement the provisions of CAT, an online regional workshop was organized for 20 participants, including government representatives from eight Pacific States, on anti-torture regulatory frameworks, fair justice systems and legislative drafting for States Parties to CAT. The workshop also covered equality and non-discrimination, accountability, professionalism and gender mainstreaming.



## **Participation**

**P1 – National protection systems receive capacity-building training. Civil society actors receive technical assistance, including training, to increase their capacity to monitor and influence national protection systems. Oversight and accountability mechanisms improve access to justice and widen civic space.**

**16**

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

For the first time in the region, UN Human Rights launched a course for HRDs, in collaboration with the University of the South Pacific, that was delivered to 54 students from **Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu**, including 35 women. The course aims to inspire a new generation of leaders on human rights, explore how to defend human rights and contribute to academic and social discussions. It provides students with an understanding of national and international human rights frameworks, good practices and opportunities for building networks.

OHCHR actively engaged with women human rights defenders (WHRDs) in the region, in particular with those from rural and remote areas. A report on the situation of HRDs was finalized and launched, highlighting the situation of WHRDs in Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The launch was preceded by a validation workshop of findings and recommendations, based on scoping missions conducted in seven counties. The report presents recommendations for action by national institutions, regional bodies and international organizations, as well as

HRDs. In 2022, OHCHR will work on a protection strategy for WHRDs and continue its capacity-building work.

UN Human Rights partnered with the International Commission for Jurists to conduct a training for the Fiji Women Lawyers Association on WHRDs, aiming at eliminating gender discriminatory attitudes and behaviours towards women and enhancing their access to justice. The training was attended by 35 lawyers in Fiji and discussions focused on their role in applying the principles and provisions of CEDAW. Discussions were also held on the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign, the high rate of violence in the Pacific and how lawyers can contribute to eliminating violence against women.

Through OHCHR's support, environmental HRDs in the region increasingly engage with international human rights mechanisms and have access to national and regional advocacy platforms. Together with the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, OHCHR organized a workshop on environmental HRDs in the Pacific region, strengthening environmental and human rights protection and sharing experiences and good practices. Participants identified protection gaps and discussed the role of children and youth environmental HRDs, as well as initiatives and mechanisms of support for environmental HRDs in the region.

OHCHR cooperated with UNEP and the Asia Pacific Network of Environmental Defenders to convene the Asia-Pacific Environmental Human Rights Defenders Forum on the theme "Building safe spaces for dialogue and support among environmental human rights defenders." The event provided a space for dialogue, analysis and learning exchanges, including

about the situation in the region, and available support.

### **P6 – Civil society organizations advocate for anti-discrimination laws in at least two Pacific Island countries.**

OHCHR contributed to ensuring that the voices of people affected by decisions are heard by strengthening alliances and partnerships for participation and cross-movement solidarity.

OHCHR collaborated with UNFPA, ILO and UNICEF to re-activate the UN Youth Inter-Agency Working Group, which was established to address youth development in the Pacific region. A mapping exercise was conducted and areas for partnership and joint programming were identified. UN Human Rights took on a prominent role in supporting activities related to International Youth Day, celebrated in the Federated States of Micronesia and across the region, focusing on the need for youth inclusion and participation in the development space, making contributions to the preparation of policy and strengthening youth structures and the use of digital space for sharing information. Other issues raised included challenges related to climate change and the impacts of COVID-19 on food security. The outcome statement of the event was presented at the World Food Systems Summit, in September.

OHCHR supported youth-led organizations and youth inclusion in actions to address climate change. For instance, OHCHR contributed to a Pacific-wide intergenerational dialogue hosted by Ignite4Change, a youth-led organization, on "Navigating uncertainties in a COVID-19 environment." The Office shared information on human rights standards and the global survey on youth. It also contributed to an event

convened by the Youth for Climate Action Programme (YCAP) on "COVID-19 responses: Upholding young peoples' human rights," which focused on the Secretary-General's policy brief on the impacts of COVID-19 on human rights and the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights. Moreover, discussions at the event touched on the impacts of COVID-19 on human rights, the importance of youth participation and inclusive approaches and technology for communication.



## **Development**

**D2 – Human rights training is institutionalized within the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission, the Fiji Chamber of Commerce and Industry, CSOs, the Maritime Authority and relevant government departments.**



OHCHR contributed to institutionalizing human rights training in selected areas related to business and human rights.

UN Human Rights and the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights (BHR) organized the Second UN Pacific Forum on Business and Human Rights, which was conducted in a hybrid format, in November, and was attended by over 300 participants. The Forum highlighted key BHR issues and opportunities for the effective implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) in the region. The Forum also 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, in particular those relating to the extractive industries, fishing and infrastructure projects.

OHCHR signed an MOU with the Diplomacy Training Programme (DTP), an NGO headquartered at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. The objective of the MoU was to facilitate joint capacity-building and the implementation of activities to advance human rights in the region, including in relation to the business and human rights agenda. Other priorities focused on advancing the freedom to advocate for the promotion and protection of human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples.

Furthermore, in August, OHCHR contributed to the DTP's month-long, online capacity-building programme on "Building back better: Business, human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals and climate change in the Pacific," which included sessions on human rights and the climate crisis, the UNGPs and the SDGs in the climate emergency.

**D5 – Tuvalu and Vanuatu strengthen the legal framework of their labour migration and climate finance policies and adopt a human rights-based approach. The Marshall Islands develops a human rights plan. Under the joint human security project, States in the region develop a draft regional legal framework on climate change and migration that complies with international human rights standards.**



OHCHR contributed to enhancing legislation/policy in line with international human rights norms and standards.

UN Human Rights and its partners in the three-year Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security (PCCMHS) programme, namely, IOM, ILO, ESCAP, the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) and the Pacific

Islands Forum (PIF), continued their work with regional PIF governments on a potential regional framework on climate change migration. Two meetings of the PCCMHS Technical Advisory Group (TAG) were held and experts reviewed progress towards the development of the regional framework, providing advice on emerging issues in the region.

Additionally, OHCHR contributed to a side event at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), in Glasgow, in November, that was co-organized by the PCCMHS Joint Working Group on climate mobility and the Resilience Hub. The presenters, including the Foreign Minister of Tuvalu, emphasized the urgent need for resources to mitigate and adapt to climate change and called for the genuine participation of migrants and other groups most affected by climate change.

In April, the Office organized a hybrid regional workshop on "Pacific indigenous peoples and climate crisis: Leveraging lessons from the frontlines." The event explored how more effective climate action could be taken by indigenous communities and how their experiences, knowledge and guardianship can be applied to help reduce the negative impacts of the climate crisis on human rights. The participants discussed a series of themes, including environmental protection (water, food, housing, culture), raising awareness and defending the rights of indigenous peoples, engaging with the UN system and the international human rights mechanisms, lessons learned from the frontlines, economic transformation, the role of technology in climate mitigation and adaptation and persons in vulnerable and marginalized situations. The workshop, held in Suva, was attended by over 140 participants, including 89 women, and contributors and participants included

representatives from academia, civil society, business, NHRIs and the UN.

In order to raise awareness, OHCHR developed communication tools about human rights and climate change, with a focus on groups in vulnerable situations. The Office contributed to the global OHCHR online publication, "Frequently asked questions on human rights and climate change."

**D7 – Increased capacity of Member States to integrate human rights, including recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms into national sustainable development plans.**

OHCHR contributed to strengthening UN support to Member States in fulfilling their commitments in line with international human rights standards including by enhancing the capacity of RCs/UNCTs in relation to human rights.

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 held regular meetings and hosted a retreat, consisting of UNDRR, UNDP, ESCAP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women, in order to facilitate discussions on the promotion and protection of civic space, human rights and COVID-19 in Fiji and regarding preparations for Human Rights Day.

One key achievement was the pilot implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS), which started in 2020, through a new Working Group on Disability Inclusion that was established by the Outcome Group. Activities in Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu included accessibility audits of UN premises and



a baseline survey distributed to UN staff about disability awareness, disability inclusion awareness, procurement and hiring. At the end of 2021, following a proposal from OHCHR, ILO and the Fiji RCO, the UNCT agreed to continue work on the implementation of the UNDIS in 2022 through the recruitment of a dedicated Disability Inclusion Specialist for one year.

OHCHR and ILO also led the Outcome Group in the formulation of contributions to the CCA for 14 countries and the regional CCA for the next Pacific UNSDCF 2023-2027, by providing information, analysis and recommendations on the respective human rights situations.

Outcome Group Six collaborated with Outcome Group Two on gender equality to conduct training on human rights and gender mainstreaming for staff of the RCO, including Country Coordinator Specialists and UN field-based staff engaged in United Nations Pacific Strategy planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

UN Human Rights engaged as a member of the newly created UN Country Team in Micronesia following the appointment of a new RC, in October, contributing human rights analysis on human rights mechanisms and mainstreaming.

UN Human Rights engaged with the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT), the PHT Protection Cluster and the Fiji Protection and Safety Cluster, which was activated in response to Tropical Cyclones Yasa and Ana and the COVID-19 outbreak in Fiji. The Office provided information and recommendations on human rights, including on protecting the human rights of persons with disabilities during the post-cyclone response and recovery and contributed to the design of online capacity-building activities by the PHT Protection Cluster.

In collaboration with the Asia Pacific Forum of NHRIs (APF), OHCHR developed and conducted a pilot project to strengthen the capacities of NHRIs in the region to protect human rights in the context of humanitarian action. This is particularly important as the region is facing increasing risks of humanitarian crises due to disasters, climate change, disease and situations of violence. NHRIs, as national actors, are uniquely placed to protect human rights through their mandates to, for example, address complaints and violations, provide advice to governments and strengthen participatory approaches and public information. The training was delivered using a mobile phone app and was supplemented by live webinars. The Office of the Ombudsperson of Samoa participated in the pilot.

OHCHR provided technical assistance in relation to the establishment and functioning of NMRFs and the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

OHCHR continued to provide support to governments in the region to establish or strengthen NMRFs. For instance, it co-organized the online Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up, mandated by the Human Rights Council, which took place in November and December. More than 70 participants attended each session, including representatives of States, the UN, NHRIs and CSOs.

UN Human Rights continued to provide support to the NMRF of Kiribati, including through a two-day workshop for members of the Kiribati Human Rights Task Force (the NMRF) on CAT. The training was aimed at increasing the understanding of torture and ill-treatment and the obligations of the Government under CAT and at initiating the process of preparing the initial report to the Committee against Torture.

**M1 – States in the region submit, on time, a higher proportion of the reports that are due to the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR.**

**16 17**

OHCHR engaged with and provided technical assistance to countries in the region to support their timely submission of reports to the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR.

In 2021, seven countries in the region underwent their third UPR cycle, namely, Australia, Federated States of Micronesia,



## Peace and Security

**PS6 – Humanitarian operations adopt an HRBA in their programming.**

**16**

OHCHR supported the integration of international human rights norms, standards, principles and recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms into humanitarian operations.



## Mechanisms

**M1 – Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia and Vanuatu establish NMRFs to coordinate reporting and implement recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures, the Human Rights Council and the UPR.**

**16 17**

Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and the Solomon Islands. In Pacific Island Countries, OHCHR supported governments, NHRIs and CSOs in their engagement in the UPR process, including in the preparation of their national reports. It also delivered workshops for CSOs to submit alternative reports, coordinated joint UNCT reports and organized mock UPR sessions for government delegations. All national reports were submitted and 11 CSOs submitted stakeholder contributions. A report was also submitted by the Samoan Office of the Ombudsperson. In 2022, OHCHR will facilitate additional workshops on UPR follow-up for governments, NHRIs and CSOs.

OHCHR engaged with UNCTs on the UPR and follow-up to the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, including by organizing briefings for UNCTs on the UPR Practical Guidance, providing assistance when reporting to the international human rights mechanisms, holding briefings on UPR outcomes and working with the RCs in Fiji, Micronesia and Samoa on their engagement with the governments.

Fiji ratified two Optional Protocols to the CRC in March. In collaboration with UNICEF, OHCHR had engaged with the Government on these ratifications, including through parliamentary briefings, in 2020. The Office also cooperated with UNICEF to brief CSOs in Fiji on avenues of engagement with CRC. At least four CSOs from Fiji submitted information to the Committee.

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Population size <sup>1</sup>	Surface area <sup>1</sup>	Human Development Index <sup>2</sup>	NHRI (if applicable) <sup>3</sup>
9.12 million	463,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.555 (rank: 155/189 in 2019)	-
<b>Type of engagement</b>		Human Rights Adviser	
<b>Year established</b>		2008	
<b>Field office(s)</b>		Port Moresby	
<b>UN partnership framework</b>		United Nations Partnership Framework 2018-2022	
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2021</b>		3	

**XB requirements 2021**

**US\$762,000**

**Key OMP pillars in 2021**



<sup>1,2,3</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.176

## PILLAR RESULTS:

### Accountability

**A1 – The Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC) and Papua New Guinea Correctional Services receive regular human rights training.**

**16** 

The HRA contributed to the development of human rights training modules and trainers' manuals and strengthening the human rights capacity of police officers through training in selected provinces.

The HRA collaborated with the RPNGC Bomana Training College Centre of Excellence to develop pilot training sessions, based on the comprehensive human rights training manual they had developed. Two trainings were conducted in 2021. The first training took place at the Bomana Training College Centre, in Port Moresby, and was delivered to 20

National Capital District police officers, and the second training was conducted in the Highlands region, a hotspot of violent cases, for 37 police officials from all seven provinces in the Highlands region. Both trainings were led by RPNGC trainers, with OHCHR's support, and were well received. More trainings to build the capacities of local officers on human rights are planned for 2022.

The HRA also collaborated with Correctional Services to develop training materials, which were handed over during the year, as part of a training of trainers' activity that started in 2019. Additional training sessions are planned for 2022.



## Participation

### P6 – Disenfranchised female and male youth and persons with disabilities participate meaningfully in the Bougainville referendum.

The HRA contributed to the meaningful participation of vulnerable groups by raising awareness and strengthening the capacities of duty-bearers on issues related to human rights and inclusiveness.

The HRA supported a human rights training, led by UNDP, for 25 government officials from various departments in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. More specifically, the HRA facilitated sessions on human rights and State responsibilities in the context of the current human rights situation and highlighted the importance of the right of access to information and the right to participation of women, youth and persons with disabilities. In light of the 2019 referendum, the training also aimed to strengthen the awareness of participants on the importance of inclusive and consultative processes. In 2022, capacity-building of CSOs and human rights monitoring will be a priority for Bougainville.



## Development

### D7 – The UN Country Team actively works with the Government and civil society to address the latest Universal Periodic Review recommendations issued in relation to Papua New Guinea through their integration into the implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

The HRA contributed to the increased integration into UN policies and programmes of international human rights standards and recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

Through the UNCT's involvement in the preparation of the stakeholders' report for the third UPR cycle, which took place in November, the HRA raised awareness among UNCT member entities on the UPR and the integration of its recommendations into the implementation of the UNDAF. As a result, the 2021 CCA contains references to human rights and international mechanisms. The UPR process enabled UNCT member organizations to gather and consolidate information on key areas as follow-up to the second UPR cycle recommendations. The HRA met with UNCT member agencies to emphasize critical areas of focus of the UPR and discuss opportunities for improved engagement. Following the finalization of the third UPR cycle recommendations, which were adopted in March 2022, the HRA will collaborate with the UNCT to ensure consensus on a proposed course of action for the Government and areas where the UN can further support the implementation of the recommendations.

Finally, the HRA participated in key coordination mechanisms and processes under the UNCT, including the Monitoring and Evaluation Group and Communications Group, with the aim of mainstreaming human rights into the work of the UNCT.



## Mechanisms

### M1 – The Government strengthens its coordination and reporting to the human rights treaty bodies and engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

16 17

The HRA contributed to strengthening the capacity of the Government and civil society to effectively engage in the UPR process and with the international human rights mechanisms, including through enhanced coordination to monitor progress of the

implementation and submission of periodic State Party reports and alternative reports to the human rights treaty bodies.

The HRA collaborated with UNICEF to support the Government's team, which was led by the Department of Justice and Attorney General and the Department for Community Development and Religion, on the drafting process for the first State Party report to CRC since 2004. The draft was finalized and is pending consultation with relevant national government departments and provincial-level officials.

Throughout the UPR process, the HRA provided assistance to the Government, the UNCT and civil society regarding their engagement. Together with UNAIDS and UN Women, UN Human Rights led the UN report consolidation and drafting process and ensured it was submitted in March.

To build the capacities of CSOs to engage in the UPR process, the HRA and DPT organized a one-month online training with the participation of approximately 90 CSOs. This resulted in a higher level of CSO engagement than in the past. Four CSOs submitted reports, in March, in anticipation of PNG's participation in the third UPR cycle.

The HRA continued supporting the Government's consultation process for drafting the State report to the UPR. In 2021, consultations took place at two locations and included the participation of provincial and local officials, civil society and religious groups. This process contributed to the submission of the State report, in November, which was supplemented by the Government's presentation and its responses during the interactive dialogue.

## PHILIPPINES

<b>Population size<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Surface area<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Human Development Index<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>NHRI (if applicable)<sup>3</sup></b>
111.05 million	300,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.718 (rank: 107/189 in 2020)	"A" Status (2017)
<b>Type of engagement</b>	Human Rights Adviser		
<b>Year established</b>	2014		
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Manila		
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	Philippines-United Nations Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development (2019-2023)		
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2021</b>	2		

**XB requirements 2021** **US\$972,000**

**Key OMP pillars in 2021**



<sup>1,2,3</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.176

## PILLAR RESULTS:

### Mechanisms

**M1 – An institutional mechanism is established to integrate reporting into the human rights mechanisms and facilitate the implementation of their recommendations.**

**16 17**

The HRA contributed to enhanced engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

On 22 July, the UN and the Government signed the UN Joint Programme on Human Rights to implement HRC resolution 45/33. The Programme was developed in close collaboration with the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and civil society. On 7 October, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights delivered her oral update

to the HRC on progress made towards implementation of the resolution.

The HRA supported the strengthening of the NMRF by facilitating five training sessions for more than 30 Government officials each time, including from the Presidential Human Rights Committee (PHRC). The NMRF took steps towards institutionalizing the reporting process, including by ensuring that focal points were designated in government departments. A plan to roll out the OHCHR database was postponed until 2022 in order to wait for the updated and more user-friendly interface. In the meantime, the NMRF continued to develop its implementation plan with support from the HRA.

The UN Joint Programme on Human Rights provided an opportunity for

engagement with civil society actors. The HRA provided technical assistance to CSOs, including grassroots organizations, on engagement with the international human rights mechanisms. Further trainings are planned for 2022, including to strengthen capacity and coordination of civil society actors to support their engagement with the reviews of Philippines by the Human Rights Committee and the UPR.

To support efforts to increase accountability for human rights violations, the HRA supported two consultancies to assess and develop strategies for pathways for accountability and to develop recommendations for the HRA's work to help strengthen the Department of Justice-led Administrative Order No. 35 (AO35) mechanism. The findings will contribute to initiatives to be undertaken as part of the UN Joint Programme. The HRA will continue to implement activities aimed at strengthening domestic efforts towards accountability, including through engaging with the Department of Justice, the National Police and other relevant actors to implement the UN Joint Programme.

**M2 – CSOs increasingly engage with the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures and the UPR.**

**17** 

The HRA provided support for the substantive submissions to the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures and the UPR by the NHRI and CSOs.

The HRA worked closely with civil society to strengthen its engagement with the international human rights mechanisms. This included technical advice on forwarding cases to the special procedures, information gathering and reporting to

the human rights treaty bodies. In June, the HRA held a series of consultations on protection needs with networks of HRDs (indigenous peoples, trade unions, journalists, lawyers, civil and political rights advocates). During these consultations, the use of domestic and international mechanisms was explored. The HRA raised the awareness of the Government and civil society actors on the importance of adopting legislation on the protection of HRDs. To this end, a roundtable was held to enable the CHR and Mongolian legislators to discuss experiences from other parts of the Asia region.

The HRA engaged with the Commission on Human Rights and civil society regarding the draft bill on the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM). Steps towards its adoption were included in the UN Joint Programme as an indicator of progress. The HRA also engaged with UNOCT to promote human rights-based approaches to counter-terrorism. In June, the HRA participated in a training that was organized by the UNOCT on investigating terrorism on the internet, at which HRA emphasized the need to respect human rights standards, including the right to privacy.

## Development

### **D7 – The UN Country Team (UNCT) integrates human rights norms, standards and principles into the formulation and implementation of programmes and projects.**

The HRA significantly contributed to the integration of human rights norms into activities implemented in relation to the UNDAF and the Socio-economic and Peacebuilding Framework (SEPF) of the Philippines.

The HRA engaged with the Philippines SEPF for COVID-19 recovery (2020-2023) through engagement in the three pillar groups, namely, People, Prosperity and Planet and Peace. The HRA regularly contributed human rights inputs, including to the Prevention Policy Note being developed by the UNCT; the right to education; children and armed conflict; humanitarian situations; and land issues as a cross-cutting focus area. The HRA also provided an overview of connections between the outcomes of the UPR, the SEPF and the SDGs during the UNCT virtual retreat and highlighted linkages with the Secretary-General's Call to Action on Human Rights and Our Common Agenda.

The HRA worked closely with the CHR. More specifically, it supported a national consultation on the Guidelines on an HRBA to drugs, held consultations with the CHR on the protection of HRDs and held initial sessions on human rights-based data collection with the Philippines Statistics Authority. The HRA also contributed to the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign (through the Right to Ride Jeepney campaign) and the Alab ng Puso (Flaming Hearts) concert on Human Rights Day.

## SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam
Year established	2002
Field office(s)	Bangkok, Thailand
Staff as of 31 December 2021	25

<b>XB income</b>	<b>US\$3,112,047</b>		
<b>XB requirements 2022</b>	<b>US\$4,771,000</b>		
<b>XB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$3,824,997</b>		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC <sup>4</sup>	
<b>62%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>11%</b>	
\$2,375,334	\$1,024,974	\$424,689	
<b>RB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$871,491</b>		
Personnel	Non-personnel		
<b>91%</b>	<b>9%</b>		
\$797,294	\$74,197		

### Key OMP pillars in 2021



<sup>4</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.179

## PILLAR RESULTS:

### Participation

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

**16** 

OHCHR contributed to ensuring that human rights violations raised with relevant actors were positively addressed, including in international forums, and that rights-holders, especially women and discriminated groups, were afforded meaningful participation in selected public processes.

In **Thailand**, OHCHR monitored the cases of HRDs requiring protection following a hiatus during the second quarter of the year due to COVID-19 preventive measures. OHCHR continued to provide updates to the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT) and the diplomatic community and in a number of cases, acted as a liaison between HRDs and the UNCT during bilateral meetings with its members. OHCHR also advocated for the rights of activists and HRDs with provincial and local police authorities and the Attorney General's Office. Despite limited human resources, the Office found that its physical presence was of value and that authorities were responsive to its engagement.

In **Lao PDR**, civic space remained highly restricted due to extensive government control over fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression online and offline, freedom of association and peaceful assembly. Several restrictive laws hindered the development of an enabling environment in which individuals could meaningfully exercise and promote human rights without fear of sanctions or reprisals. The Office continued to receive reports of human rights violations, including alleged enforced disappearance of HRDs and pro-democracy activists and violations of freedom of religion or belief. Nevertheless, families and relatives of victims were often too afraid to come forward and give consent for the cases to be communicated to the special procedures. Against this backdrop, OHCHR worked with CSOs to raise their profile and bring issues of concerns to the attention of the UN and other stakeholders, including development partners. This resulted in three joint allegation letters that were sent to the Government and the inclusion of Lao PDR in the Secretary-General's report on intimidation and reprisals.

In **Indonesia**, OHCHR initiated engagement with CSO youth networks and academic networks. In cooperation with the National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas Ham), OHCHR partnered with the Department of Law at Parahyangan Catholic University, in Bandung, to conduct its annual intervarsity competition on "Upholding Pancasila toward human rights-based business and investment environment in Indonesia." Over 300 participants from 16 universities and 16 schools participated in the three-day event, which was livestreamed on Facebook. In addition, OHCHR closely cooperated with the youth wing of the National Alliance of Indigenous Peoples of Indonesia (AMAN) to deliver a virtual

workshop for indigenous youth HRDs from Indonesia entitled “Strengthening awareness and engagement with United Nations mechanisms.”

**Regionally**, research for the public report, *Protecting civic space online in South-East Asia: A human rights analysis*, began in 2021. An independent consultant examined patterns of abusive behaviour by State and non-State actors in South-East Asia, as well as the failure of governments and companies to take adequate measures to identify and respond to trolling, hate speech, incitement and other forms of organized online harm. The analysis also reviewed how human rights violations were facilitated by laws, policies and technical tools that empowered governments to censor, surveil and limit access to the Internet, without adequate oversight, and in extreme instances, shut it down completely. It is anticipated that the final report will be launched in 2022.

OHCHR collaborated with UN Women and UNESCO to organize a 10-month online training for 42 women journalists from the region, with the completion of monthly desynchronized e-modules followed up by live participatory webinars. The training focused on the enhanced protection of women journalists and women’s human rights in the context of shrinking democratic space in Asia. One of the key outcomes was the establishment of a community of practice, with monthly live events, and the establishment of external and internal partnerships, including with 11 national and international NGOs, two regional organizations (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and a member of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights) and one NHRI (Indonesia’s National Commission on Violence against Women).

## Peace and Security

**PS5 – UN country policies and programmes, including CCAs and UNSDCFs, successfully integrate international human rights norms, standards and principles, including recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.**

3 5 8 10 13 16 17 

OHCHR contributed to the enhanced integration of international human rights standards into the UN development and humanitarian cooperation mechanisms at the regional and country levels, including by building capacity and providing analysis and technical expertise.

The OHCHR Emergency Response Team (ERT) continued to focus on tracking and responding to emerging human rights concerns as its core responsibilities. For instance, it provided significant and sustained information management support to the **Myanmar** team that monitored the serious deterioration of the human rights situation in the country, following the coup, in February. This support included data collection, information management and the preparation of analysis on key human rights issues, such as the arrest and detention of pro-democracy activists, extrajudicial killings and trends in the internal conflict.

In addition, the ERT assisted with the integration of human rights into joint UN reporting on the Papua region of **Indonesia** through 12 human rights updates and the preparation of a trend analysis report for the UN’s global-level prevention mechanisms. More specifically, it established a dashboard that draws from open-source reporting and provides updates on trends related to armed clashes, displacement, demonstrations and reported incidents

of violence against civilians in the Papua region.

Furthermore, the ERT continued to report on developments concerning the pro-democracy movement in **Thailand**. It also strengthened the links between country and thematic issues and the global and regional early warning and prevention platforms of the UN and the humanitarian community, including by supporting reporting through the UNOCC daily updates on 12 occasions.

The ERT provided support with regard to early warning, human rights risk analyses and prevention work for United Nations in-country entities. It strengthened the implementation of the Human Rights up Front (HRuF) Initiative, the Secretary-General’s prevention agenda and, more recently, the Secretary-General’s Call to Action for Human Rights (C2A). In 2021, the ERT assisted with the C2A roll-out by organizing a peer-to-peer exchange between Resident Coordinators in the South-East Asia region and the Assistant Secretaries-General coordinating the C2A. The objective of the exchange was to encourage human rights dialogues between UN entities at the country level, including through the Asia-Pacific Human Rights Working Group (AP HRWG).

The ERT supported human rights risk analyses in the CCAs of countries in the region, thereby creating opportunities to strengthen the UN’s work on early warning and integrating key human rights risks into the risk analysis sections in the UNSDCFs of **Bangladesh, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Maldives, Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam**. This was achieved through a combination of trainings, workshops and analytical inputs over the past three years. In 2021, the ERT facilitated training on prevention and human rights risk analysis for the

UN in **Iran, the Maldives and Nepal** and provided inputs during the preparation of the draft CCAs for **the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and the Pacific**.

At the **regional level**, the ERT is part of a UN regional coordination forum, the Issue-Based Coalition (IBC) on Building Resilience, which enabled the Office to integrate human rights into the UN's regional work on disaster risk and resilience, including through the development of a risk marker for the UN operating at the country level and a Guidance Note on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.

The ERT has also been working with UN partners in the region to combat hate speech through a community of practice composed of UN country and regional colleagues working on the issue. OHCHR organized two technical webinars to discuss engagement on digital platforms and engagement with States. In addition, the ERT worked with regional colleagues in the UN DPPA to address the critical problem of limits to online freedom of expression by establishing a region-specific database on the issue that can be used to raise awareness within the UN.

In a region that is increasingly affected by natural and man-made humanitarian crises, which has a consequential impact on human rights, particularly those of the most vulnerable populations, the ERT worked to build the capacity and awareness of NHRIs, together with the APF, including through an online course on strengthening human rights in humanitarian action for NHRIs in the Asia-Pacific region. The course uses an app that is suitable for mobile phones, making it more widely available and accessible.

The ERT continues to participate in the IASC regional structures, including on emergency preparedness, gender in

humanitarian action and community engagement. In December, as part of the Asia-Pacific Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Working Group, the ERT co-organized a panel discussion on GBV in places of detention.

## Non-discrimination

**ND1 – Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to Leave No One Behind, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.**



Through awareness-raising and capacity-building and by facilitating new partnerships and networks, OHCHR contributed to increasing the compliance of oversight, accountability or protection mechanisms with international human rights standards on issues related to the rights of women.

In **Thailand**, OHCHR built the capacity of WHRDs from the Southern Border Provinces (SBPs), with a focus on security laws, DNA collection, arbitrary arrests and detention. This took place, online, during mock sessions on the UPR and CERD. The UNCT members supported the mock sessions and government officials and key NGOs, such as the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and Amnesty International, also participated.

In **Indonesia and Malaysia**, the Office worked closely with WHRDs and LGBTI networks, under the Access to Justice Project, and facilitated their engagement with the international human rights mechanisms. In **Indonesia**, OHCHR delivered practical workshops and knowledge

sessions to promote different avenues to interact with the CEDAW Committee in anticipation of its review of Indonesia's eighth periodic report. This resulted in oral and written submissions by civil society and the UNCT and the inclusion of key issues of concern in its list of issues and concluding observations.

**ND2 – Justice systems and related institutions increasingly monitor and investigate discrimination and provide redress to victims.**

OHCHR contributed to enhancing awareness and capacity of NHRIs to monitor and investigate cases of discrimination.

UN Human Rights, through the Access to Justice (A2J) project, continued to support its partner, the ICJ, in an online initiative on engaging with formal justice actors, with a focus on strengthening awareness on gender discriminatory attitudes and behaviours that hinder women and sexual minorities from accessing justice. This included participation, in October, as an observer in a webinar co-organized by the ICJ and the Supreme Court of Indonesia on strengthening gender equality in the Judiciary. The webinar focused on opportunities, challenges, and practical steps for judges in promoting the implementation of CEDAW and the Bangkok General Guidance adopted by the Indonesian Supreme Court Regulation No. 3 of 2017.



**ND6 – Migration governance measures (national and regional laws, regulations, policies, processes and agreements and their implementation) increasingly comply with international human rights law. Sustained advocacy is undertaken with States to ensure migrants in vulnerable situations have improved access to their human rights, with particular attention paid to their specific experiences, views and needs. Positive public narratives based on human rights, shared values and common humanity increasingly challenge and reframe negative narratives against migrants.**



OHCHR contributed to increasing the compliance of oversight, accountability or protection mechanisms with international human rights standards on issues related to the rights of migrants.

OHCHR actively supported the Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), in March, and facilitated the involvement of the NHRI and CSO partners. It also ensured that the intergovernmental discussions were founded on a human rights-based framework. OHCHR took a leadership role in engaging regional stakeholders in the implementation of the GCM. To this end, it co-hosted a region-wide consultation for more than 100 stakeholders. It briefed CSOs and other partners on the 2022 International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) and sought their views on future engagement with the regional network. The consultation was preceded by 12 small-group consultations composed of various stakeholder groups, including NHRIs, the media, academia

and parliamentarians. In December, the Regional Office for South-East Asia intervened in the opening session of the third annual meeting of the UN Network on Migration to reflect on its working methods. In addition, a series of consultations was launched by GCM Champion Countries in the Asia-Pacific region, which was supported by the regional network.

The Office also intervened to address critical human rights situations affecting migrants. More specifically, it built the capacity of governments and other actors to promote and protect the human rights of migrants; issued a public statement calling on all States in the region to suspend returns to Myanmar in light of the rapidly deteriorating human rights situation; provided training to staff from IOM-Thailand on international human rights law and standards in the context of immigration detention in Thailand; and, in collaboration with IOM and based on the OHCHR Trainers Guide on Human Rights at International Borders, delivered training to 25 Thai border officials in Ubon Ratchathani province.

In June, for the first time, OHCHR was invited to participate in the intergovernmental Task Force on Planning and Preparedness of the Bali Process. It submitted a written statement to the co-Chairs, calling for enhanced human rights framing in discussions. It also undertook research to develop an analytical mapping of pathways for entry and stay for migrants on human rights and humanitarian grounds. A report on the laws and practices of 17 countries in the region will be launched in 2022.

Furthermore, the Office focused on emerging issues on migration and human rights in the region. In early June, it partnered with the Conscious Advertising

Network to hold a session on ethical advertising and human rights at the UN Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum (RBHRF) for Asia-Pacific, featuring a keynote address from the Special Rapporteur on minority issues. OHCHR also contributed to a guide on conscious media by the World Advertising Research Centre (WARC), through an article on human rights and advertising and participation in a webinar launch, along with representatives from GSK Consumer Healthcare and Diageo.

In collaboration with the Disaster Displacement Working Group of the Issue-Based Coalition on Building Resilience and Chulalongkorn University, OHCHR initiated analytical research on human rights and categorization in the context of environmental mobility. It engaged a consultant to produce an analysis, based on a desk review and consultations, on returns and the reintegration of migrants into South Asia, under the mandate of the Regional Monthly Review. Further, OHCHR is undertaking an analysis of human rights in the context of temporary labour migration programmes in the Asia-Pacific region that will also fall within the mandate of the Regional Monthly Review. In that context, in November, OHCHR held an expert consultation on temporary labour migration programmes with 25 participants from academia, CSOs, trade unions and UN agencies and will launch the outcome report in 2022.

OHCHR co-led a workstream on support for GCM engagement, resulting in a mapping of the development of national migration networks in the Asia-Pacific region. It also supported work on climate change and human mobility taking place in the Pacific, under the leadership of OHCHR's Regional Office for the Pacific.

Continuing a robust programme of work on addressing public perceptions and changing narratives on migration and migrants, the Office contracted Love Frankie Ltd. to conduct research on public narratives on migration and migrants in two countries in the region, namely, **Malaysia** (South-East Asia) and **Australia** (Pacific). The research was founded on a desk review, interviews with key stakeholders, mobile data survey and online message testing forums. As part of this research, OHCHR partnered with ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights and held consultations with Members of Parliament in Malaysia, convened CSO partners in Malaysia to present preliminary findings of the research and briefed the UNCT in Malaysia. The public campaigns will be launched in 2022.

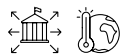


## Mechanisms

**M1 – Civil society organizations, 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.**

16

17



OHCHR continued to support the engagement of civil society and NHRIs with the international human rights mechanisms.

OHCHR supported CSO engagement with the special procedures, resulting in communications that were sent to a number of governments (five in relation to Thailand, three in relation to Lao PDR, seven in relation to Viet Nam and four in relation to Malaysia). OHCHR also supported the joint submission of reports by CSO coalitions to the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR in Indonesia,

Lao PDR (for the first time), Malaysia and Viet Nam. In addition, it supported the engagement with CEDAW of the UNCT, CSOs and the NHRI in Indonesia.

Through OHCHR's support, environmental HRDs (EHRDs) in the region increasingly engage with international human rights mechanisms and have access to national/regional advocacy platforms. From 17 to 19 November, OHCHR, UNEP, the Asia-Pacific Network of Environment Defenders and partner organizations co-organized the Asia-Pacific Environmental Human Rights Defenders Forum that was based on the theme "Building safe spaces for dialogue and support among environmental human rights defenders." The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment and a member of the UN Working Group on business and human rights attended the Forum and interacted with EHRDs.

The Office continued to support the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) on the issue of freedom of religion and belief (since 2019) and the rights of the accused (since 2020). It facilitated a self-assessment of AICHR to strengthen its protection mandate and partnered with it to conduct a joint expert group meeting on human rights and the environment. The objective of the expert group meeting was to advance the promotion and protection of human rights and the environment, particularly in relation to environmental decision-making, climate change and its impact on vulnerable groups, especially children and youth.



## Development

**D5 – Laws and policies on the environment, climate change, extractive industries and urban planning comply with international human rights standards and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. National institutions and civil society organizations act to ensure that rights-holders can participate in decision-making processes on the environment and climate change, and engage with duty-bearers and the private sector on these issues.**

13 14 15



OHCHR advocated for the increased compliance of legislation with international standards on climate change.

OHCHR cooperated with UNICEF and UNEP to release a joint statement and organize a virtual launch of the *Principles and policy guidance on children's rights to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment in the ASEAN region*. The document is the result of an 18-month collaboration between the three UN agencies and child, youth, and adult experts from the ASEAN region. It sets out fundamental principles for realizing the rights of the child to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment and for putting the best interests of the child at the forefront of those efforts. It provides essential policy guidance for governments, civil society, businesses, the media and children to implement these principles.

A child-friendly version for youth aged 14-18 years was also developed.

To raise the awareness of States and business enterprises about their human rights obligations in the Asia-Pacific region, OHCHR engaged with regional dialogue forums, including the Asia-Pacific

Adaptation Forum (APAN), the APFSD, the RBHRF for Asia-Pacific, the Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2021 and the Third Asia-Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP) Joint Forum. During these events, the Office ensured that due attention was paid to the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on the rights of those affected, including women, children and other at-risk groups at the national level, as well as to the gaps and challenges in integrating procedural rights (access to information, meaningful participation and access to remedy) into the climate action and environmental decision-making process.

**D7 – UNCTs and agencies in priority UN common country planning processes (United Nations Development Assistance Framework roll out countries) and priority countries involved in supporting separate Sustainable Development Goal planning/programming, incorporate a human rights-based approach into their joint UN development programme planning and ongoing implementation, with a strengthened focus on universality and alignment with international human rights norms, standards and principles.**

OHCHR supported the mainstreaming of human rights into the process leading to the adoption of new CCAs and UNSDCFs in the region.

OHCHR's engagement in the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) 2021, significantly increased compared to previous years. As a result, human rights featured prominently in several discussions, background documents and in the recommendations issued by the APFSD. OHCHR also engaged in the APFSD Youth Forum, the Asia-Pacific People's Forum and the annual workshop

on the VNRs for countries reporting to the High-level Political Forum 2021. Activities included the organization of side events on the rights of indigenous peoples and COVID-19, access to justice and public participation in environmental decision-making, the role of environmental HRDs in supporting COVID-19 recovery and accelerating the monitoring and implementation of actions related to COVID-19 recovery by working to implement SDG 16+.

OHCHR increased its engagement in support of the integration of human rights into the VNRs in **Indonesia** and **Lao PDR**. Following that engagement, Indonesia's 2021 VNR report integrates various recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms and OHCHR, including in relation to SDG 16.

The Office also supported UNCTs in **Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Iran, Lao PDR, the Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam** in order to strengthen the integration of human rights and an HRBA into the CCAs and UNSDCFs. This was achieved through technical advice and capacity-building for UNCT staff. In South-East Asia, it actively engaged in UNCT processes to develop the CCAs and UNSDCFs. In addition, the Regional Office supported UNCTs in **Indonesia** and **Malaysia** in ensuring the application of an HRBA in the development and monitoring of joint workplans.

OHCHR and UNFPA co-chaired the AP HRWG, which was established in April, under the Issue-Based Coalition Promoting Human Rights, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, to strengthen the links between the UN at the regional level and UNCTs, in particular the Human Rights and Gender Theme Groups. The Working Group serves as a

platform to share information and experiences, provides a safe space to discuss human rights and gender equality trends and challenges in the region and enables members to collaborate on areas of mutual interest, notably, the elimination of racial discrimination and protection of minorities, addressing human rights violations that often cause infertility and the promotion of civic space.

## Training women journalists in Asia



A graphic on self-help strategies produced from a discussion by participants in the last session of the training programme for women journalists, 20 October 2021, organized by OHCHR's Regional Office for South-East Asia. © OHCHR

Journalism can be a tough business, especially for women journalists in Asia where democratic space has continued to shrink, from Myanmar to the Philippines. In order to enhance the protection of women journalists and advance women's human rights in the context of shrinking democratic space in Asia, OHCHR worked closely with UN Women and UNESCO to implement a training programme. The programme, which was conducted online between December 2020 and October 2021, was attended by 42 participants from 15 countries.

The course took the form of curated e-Modules that were combined with live webinars, allowing for in-depth discussions between participants. They also learned about various topics, including the impact of shrinking civic space on women journalists, digital safety, access to justice and practical steps to providing information to human rights mechanisms.

"This course was an eye-opening journey for me," said Ruhina Ferdous, a journalist with the Daily Bonik Barta, in Bangladesh, where women journalists face low pay, threats, harassment and

vexatious litigation. "Women journalists continue to be a minority among those practicing journalism. It is not only about silencing journalism, it is about silencing women. This is why addressing these issues is very important for me."

During the course, Ferdous and the participants also learned about basic human rights principles, CEDAW, girls' and women's rights, justice sector reform to protect and enforce women's rights and other gender-related issues.

To further their learning and ensure the long-term sustainability of the programme, an online community of practice was established and launched on the last day of the training, enabling ongoing engagement, sharing and support. "This training course has created a network of women journalists across Asia that are able to support each other," said Carla Covarrubias, a Human Rights Officer in Bangkok who spearheaded the sessions.

"The course stimulated the sharing of experiences among peers, including about the role of national human rights institutions and leveraging the UN mechanisms for protection, which is an essential step towards meaningful change on the ground."

**SRI LANKA**

Population size <sup>1</sup>	Surface area <sup>1</sup>	Human Development Index <sup>2</sup>	NHRI (if applicable) <sup>3</sup>
21.5 million	66,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.782 (rank: 72/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2018)
<b>Type of engagement</b>		Human Rights Adviser	
<b>Year established</b>		2004	
<b>Field office(s)</b>		Colombo	
<b>UN partnership framework</b>		United Nations Sustainable Development Framework 2018-2022	
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2021</b>		4	
<b>XB requirements 2021</b>		<b>US\$738,000</b>	

**Key OMP pillars in 2021**

<sup>1,2,3</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.176

**PILLAR RESULTS:**
 **Development**

**D3 – Measures are in place to ensure the return of all land that is occupied by the military, the payment of appropriate compensation and the settlement of land-related disputes that are linked to displacement that occurred during the 30-year conflict.**

**1 11**

The HRA contributed to the improved compliance of land legislation/policies with international human rights standards.

The HRA, together with the RCO, continued to monitor land issues in recognition of their potential to trigger conflicts. A preliminary study on land disputes analysing the different categories and causes for dispute was produced and fed into RCO conflict analysis tools. In addition, the HRA participated in the

development of the CCA as part of preparations for the next UNSDCF.

 **Peace and Security**

**PS6 – All Sri Lankan military or police personnel proposed for deployment in UN peacekeeping operations undergo a stringent screening process, which is led by civilians.**

**16** 

The HRA supported the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL), the UN and the Government to integrate international human rights norms, standards and principles into their work.

With assistance of the HRA, the HRCSL continued to screen peacekeepers in 2021, using the tools developed in 2018. Unfortunately, the formal independence of the Commission was significantly

weakened as a result of constitutional amendments. The HRA continued to support the HRCSL, however, vetting arrangements will need to be reviewed.

 **Mechanisms**

**M1 – Sri Lanka's standing invitation continues to result in visit requests from the special procedures and the Government agrees to visit dates and formats and facilitates their constructive engagement.**

**16 17**

The HRA continued to support the engagement of the special procedures with Sri Lanka.

Despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis and prolonged lockdowns, the Government agreed to a country visit by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, which took place from 26 November to 3 December. The visit included field visits to tea plantations in the Central Province and garment factories in the Western Province. A press conference was held on 3 December, where the Special Rapporteur highlighted that while Sri Lanka has a robust legal framework to tackle contemporary forms of slavery and has been making progress in some areas, such as increasing the minimum age of employment from 14 to 16 and the establishment of a child-labour free zone, it still needs to become more inclusive and embrace all sectors of society if it is to overcome major issues such as caste-based discrimination and labour exploitation, which in some cases may amount to forced labour and servitude.

**TIMOR-LESTE**

<b>Population size<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Surface area<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Human Development Index<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>NHRI (if applicable)<sup>3</sup></b>
1.34 million	15,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.606 (rank: 141/189 in 2020)	"A" Status (2018)
<b>Type of engagement</b>	Human Rights Adviser		
<b>Year established</b>	2013		
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Dili		
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2021-2025		
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2021</b>	4		

**XB requirements 2021****US\$653,000****Key OMP pillars in 2021**<sup>1,2,3</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.176**PILLAR RESULTS:**

**Accountability**

**A1 – The police and army comply with international human rights standards that prohibit torture and ill-treatment.**

**16** 

The HRA supported the police and the army in their compliance with international human rights norms and standards that prohibit torture and ill-treatment by providing technical support and targeted capacity-building initiatives.

Despite the outbreak of COVID-19 in Timor-Leste, in March, and the difficulty of conducting training remotely due to weak Internet connectivity and the limited resources of the respective institutions, the HRA worked closely with stakeholders to conduct key trainings, thereby maintaining some momentum in the multi-year programme.

Four in-person, week-long trainings were conducted, in partnership with the Ministry of Defence, the National Police Training Centre, the Timor Leste Defence Force (F-FDTL) and the Office of the Provedor for Human Rights and Justice (PDHJ). A total of 86 participants took the trainings, including 22 women, from the army and the police, including in three districts (Lautem, Viqueque and Manatuto). The Timor-Leste National Police (PNTL) showed a growing interest in the trainings and requested additional trainings for 2022.

The programme with the army, which was initiated in 2018 and is based on a manual that was prepared with support from the HRA, focuses on the role of the army to respect and protect human rights in times of crisis and during arrests, the use of force and searches. A more in-depth discussion on states of emergency was held in light

of the pandemic and concerns about the actions of the military during the more restrictive initial states of emergency.

Six years into the training programme with the police, the revision of the human rights manual for the capacity-building programme of the PNTL, which began in 2020, was completed. The revision was undertaken to incorporate the lessons learned since the training programme was initiated and to reflect current developments in the country's legal framework. It also includes new sections on states of emergency and on the role of the PNTL in relation to the challenges faced by vulnerable groups in the country. Moreover, it incorporated the lessons learned from the implementation of prior trainings provided to new recruits at the National Police Academy. The updated manual was developed and launched through a participatory process involving all partners.

According to data collected by the PDHJ for its annual report, during 2021, there were no cases of police agents who were involved in human rights violations that had attended the human rights training.


**Participation**

**P6 – Youth, women and discriminated groups, and those who represent them, regularly advocate for human rights.**



The HRA contributed to enhancing the meaningful participation of youth, LGBTI persons and women in selected public processes by providing technical expertise, funding and support for advocacy campaigns.

The Human Rights Defenders' Network (HRDN), which was established in 2015 with a grant from OHCHR and is now

composed of 11 NGOs, continued to conduct joint public advocacy, with an emphasis on addressing impunity and calling for enhanced respect of human rights. The HRA supported the Network, in particular by sharing guidance on human rights issues in the context of COVID-19 and more broadly, by discussing strategies and analysis. The HRA also supported the HRDN in preparation for the submission, in July, of a stakeholders' report in anticipation of the third UPR cycle of Timor-Leste, scheduled for early 2022.

Throughout the year, the HRA held three regular quarterly meetings with CSOs and the PDHJ. The meetings focused on specific human rights issues of concern in the country, including the UPR process and the participation of CSOs, and involved the National Director for Human Rights of the Ministry of Justice, the entity responsible for the drafting of the UPR State report. Other issues of discussion included patterns of human rights violations committed by police while working and off-duty and consequential accountability. The PNTL Commander was in attendance.

In light of reports of incitement to violence and death threats against HRDs that represent child victims of sexual violence and attempts to discredit and shame CSOs that provide these victims with additional support, the HRA wrote an opinion article on behalf of the RC. The opinion article highlights the importance of the work being undertaken by HRDs and their fundamental role in the independence and democratization of the country. The article also recognizes the pervasiveness of sexual violence in the country and the need to develop efforts to demonstrate that these types of crimes will not be tolerated, that any abuses will be properly investigated and that appropriate actions

will be taken in accordance with the law against perpetrators.

The HRA continued to regularly engage with several other HRDs and CSOs on diversity issues, including the rights of persons with disabilities, LGBTI persons and women, providing technical support and legal and strategic advice.

## Non-discrimination

**ND1 – Legal drafters and judicial actors take into account the rights of persons with disabilities.**



The HRA contributed to improving the level of compliance of selected State institutions/programmes with international human rights standards.

The HRA continued to advocate for and promote the rights of person with disabilities. It also supported organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) in reinforcing their calls for the ratification of CRPD, including through raising awareness in bilateral meetings with different ministries and during UPR-related discussions. As a result of joint efforts with OPDs, support and awareness for the rights of persons with disabilities and the ratification of CRPD increased at the highest levels of the Government and within the Parliament.

The HRA consistently engaged with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI) to follow up on the 2020 report that was prepared by OHCHR on the impacts of COVID-19 for persons with disabilities in Timor-Leste and contributed to raising awareness within the Ministry on the need to better integrate the specific needs of persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of measures

developed to combat the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the HRA agreed with the MSSI to support the implementation of commitments outlined in the National Action Plan (NAP) for Persons with Disabilities, which was adopted in October, and which were included in the recommendations of the report. In particular, several ministries committed to increasing the number of people with disabilities who are employed in their respective institutions.

Access to employment and job security were identified by the HRA as two of the biggest challenges facing persons with disabilities, which were exacerbated during the pandemic. In response, the HRA commissioned research aimed at: 1) identifying the challenges faced by persons with disabilities in Timor-Leste when attempting to realize their right to access and participate in the labour market, with a focus on public institutions; 2) assessing the employment opportunities, working conditions, accessibility and treatment at work offered by public institutions in Timor-Leste to persons with disabilities; 3) identifying recommendations or opportunities to better involve persons with disabilities at the policy level and to create and/or improve an enabling environment for their integration through employment in and access to public institutions. This research will serve as the basis for further work in 2022.

In partnership with UN Women and the UN Gender Theme Group, the HRA is financing and overseeing the development of a Country Gender Equality Profile (CGEP). The CGEP will be used to support the systematic monitoring and reporting of Timor-Leste's commitments towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. In addition, it will be used to monitor the implementation of Timor-Leste's

gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) commitments, including CEDAW's concluding observations, the Beijing Platform for Action, the National Strategic Development Plan (2011-2030), the Maubisse Declaration (2018-2022), the National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence (NAP GBV) (2017-2021), the National Action Plan on Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security (2016-2020), the 2017 UPR recommendations and the 2019 SDG Voluntary National Review report. The CGEP will also provide a reference for national and international partners on the current operating context in relation to GEWE.

**ND7 – The public supports the application of a human rights-based approach to disability. The public opposes discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.**



The HRA contributed to strengthening the narrative on the rights of persons with disabilities and LGBTI persons in Timor-Leste by providing expert advice on compliance with international human rights law and supporting advocacy campaigns.

During the year, the HRA supported the Association of Persons with Disabilities in Timor-Leste (ADTL), an umbrella association for organizations working on issues related to persons with disabilities, to implement a national campaign on the rights of persons with disabilities. The campaign called on various stakeholders, including government institutions, development partners, CSOs and OPDs, to promote knowledge and behaviours that uphold the equal rights of persons with disabilities.

In November, during the lead up to the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the HRA supported ADTL in launching a campaign to combat discrimination against persons with disabilities and to mark the International Day on 3 December. The HRA also supported awareness-raising activities on the rights of persons living with mental disabilities, including advocacy with the diplomatic community on recommendations related to their rights that will be put forward during the UPR review of Timor-Leste in early 2022.

The HRA also provided support to other organizations holding events to celebrate Human Rights Day, on 10 December, including those working to end violence against women and participating in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign. In cooperation with the PHRJ, the HRA organized a large-scale visual campaign around the city of Dili. Banners featuring articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), informing residents of their human rights, were hung on public buildings, such as the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion, the Ministry of Defence, the PNTL, the F-FDTL, the National University of Timor-Leste, the District Court and the Anti-Corruption Commission. Banners were also seen on other institutions and the main road of Dili and in the districts of Manufahi and Oecussi (approximately seven per district).

Within the UN, at the regional level, the HRA contributed to a campaign that was developed by the Asia-Pacific Human Rights Working Group to celebrate Human Rights Day, with a focus on different dimensions of equality. The HRA contributed specific human rights messaging for an initiative undertaken by the RCO to financially support the Max

Stahl Audiovisual Centre of Timor-Leste (CAMSTL) in its production of six videos to mark 30 years since the Santa Cruz massacre.

The HRA finalized the research on the situation of LGBTI persons in accessing education in Timor-Leste and outlined a series of recommendations to stop discrimination and acts of violence against LGBTI students and to make schools and universities safer for LGBTI students. It also initiated discussions with other UN entities and the Ministry of Education to advance concrete strategies to address the concerns identified.

## Development

**D7 – National actors and the United Nations integrate human rights norms and standards into their programmes.**

The HRA contributed to the satisfactory integration of international human rights standards into UN common country programmes, including the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

In the context of the pandemic, the HRA continued to provide guidance, inputs and comments and shared relevant standards and documents with the UNCT to integrate human rights into the prevention and response strategy to COVID-19, including within the UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19. This included inputs to the data collection tools/questionnaires that served as the basis for the second national Socio-economic Impact Assessment that was carried out in 2021 by several UN agencies.

The HRA continued to support the preparatory discussions and meetings of the Joint Steering Committee (composed



of representatives of the UN and the Government) of the UNSDCF of Timor-Leste, which was approved in 2020. The HRA also supported the UN Monitoring and Evaluation Focal Points Group on data reporting in the UN Information Management System, including on human rights indicators.

More specifically, the HRA provided briefings to the UNCT regarding its engagement with the UPR process in anticipation of Timor-Leste's third cycle review, scheduled for January 2022. Further, it focused on the integration of UPR recommendations into programming. In this context, the HRA re-activated and chaired the Human Rights Working Group, which led all in-country UN agencies on the drafting and submission of the UNCT report, in July, to the Human Rights Council.

Finally, the HRA joined the Asia-Pacific Human Rights Working Group and is the focal point for the Working Group within the UNCT of Timor-Leste. It continued to be part of the UN Gender Theme Working Group and joined the UN Communications Group. Within these forums, the HRA mainstreamed a human rights perspective and provided technical support for joint UN initiatives.



## Mechanisms

**M1 – Reports to the human rights mechanisms are submitted in accordance with guidelines and include adequate information.**

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The HRA provided support to State institutions to ensure that the reports that are submitted to human rights mechanisms substantially or fully conform to reporting guidelines, allowing for a meaningful review.

The HRA supported the Ministry of Justice's National Directorate for Human Rights and Citizenship to conduct two consultations with line ministries and CSOs on progress and challenges in implementing the recommendations issued during the previous UPR review of Timor-Leste (2016), with a view to preparing for the scheduled review.

These consultations provided an opportunity for open discussions on relevant issues that highlighted that despite some progress, much remains to be done to comply with the country's commitments and legal obligations. Following the consultation, the National Directorate for Human Rights and Citizenship concluded the drafting, in Tetum, of Timor-Leste's report to the UPR. The report was translated into English, with the support of the HRA, and was submitted, in October, before the deadline.

The HRA continued to advocate with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in bilateral meetings for the Council of Ministers to approve the country reports (prepared by the Ministry of Justice after consultations that were carried out with the HRA's support) to the Human Rights Committee and CESCR.

The HRA raised concerns about the temporal, human and financial investments that were put into the production of these reports, which were never submitted.

The HRA supported colleagues in Geneva in identifying the list of issues to be sent to Timor-Leste in the context of its obligations under the ICCPR and liaised with the Government.

Timor-Leste is lagging behind in the submission of several reports to the international human rights mechanisms. In 2022, the HRA will seek support for the establishment of a NMRF.

**M2 – The NHRI, the UNCT and civil society coalitions that work on emerging human rights issues submit reports for each scheduled review by the human rights treaty bodies. NGOs submit information to the special procedures.**

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The HRA provided support to the NHRI, CSOs, UN entities and individuals in the development of substantive submissions to the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures and the UPR.

The HRA supported CSOs and the PDHJ, in the preparation and timely submission of their respective reports prior to the upcoming UPR review. Other stakeholders' submissions were due in July.

The HRA provided briefings to CSOs and the PDHJ on the upcoming process, presented and discussed guidelines for submissions and organized meetings to discuss priority human rights issues in the country. In addition, the HRA facilitated the consultations of the Government with CSOs and the PDHJ on this process.

The HRA also hired a consultant to support the HRDN to prepare data and draft the report, which was submitted to the Human Rights Council in July.

With regard to other international human rights mechanisms, the HRA provided some guidance to PDHJ on the submission of its report to CEDAW, which was submitted after last year's delay. As the Government has not submitted any additional reports in 2021 and due to the restrictions and shift in priorities caused by the pandemic, CSOs and the PDHJ did not prepare alternative reports for the other mechanisms.

The HRA submitted a detailed request for an urgent communication to the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences after HRDs raised concerns about violations to the right to privacy and the security of victims of sexual violence that allegedly occurred in the context of an ongoing trial against a former Catholic priest. As a result, a joint urgent appeal was sent to the Government of Timor-Leste, in December, on behalf of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences; the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy; and the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls. The HRA unofficially translated the appeal into Portuguese and liaised with relevant authorities in the Permanent Mission in Geneva (and to some extent in the capital) to ensure that the appeal reached the relevant authorities in time to prevent human rights violations and support the work of the HRDs who were supporting the victims.