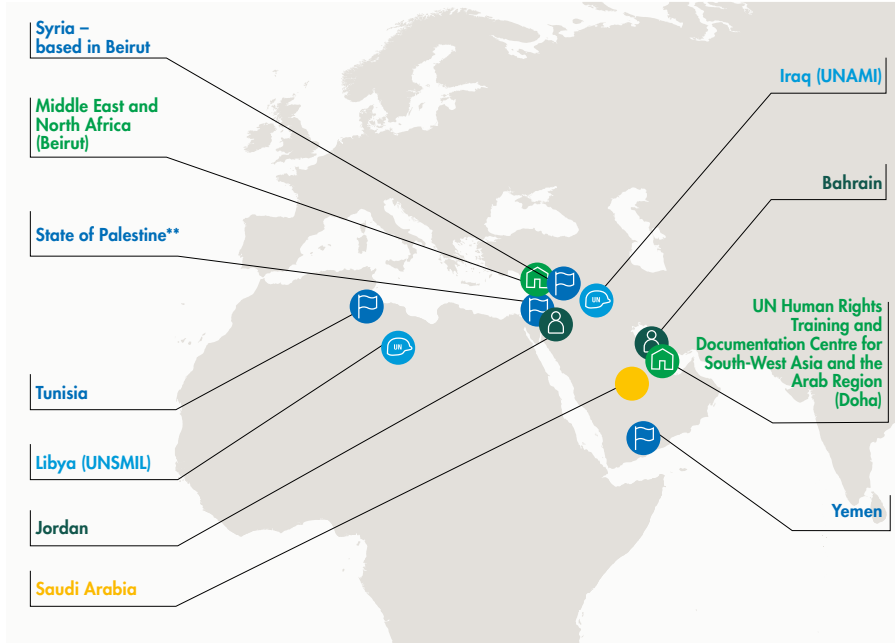




# UN Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa




## 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

- State of Palestine\*\*, Syrian Arab Republic (based in Beirut, Lebanon), Tunisia and Yemen

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- Middle East and North Africa (Beirut, Lebanon), UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha, Qatar)

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- Iraq (UNAMI) and Libya (UNSMIL)

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- Bahrain and Jordan

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- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

\* Human Rights Advisers are deployed under the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group.  
 \*\* Hereinafter, all references to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.

## LEGEND:

### Spotlights:

-  Disabilities
-  Youth
-  Women

### Shifts:

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

### SDGs:



In 2021, the work of UN Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region covered 19 countries. The Office supported two regional offices/centres, the Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (ROMENA) and the UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region; four country offices (State of Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen); two human rights advisers (HRA) in Bahrain and in Jordan; two human rights components in missions in Iraq and Libya; and a project presence to build national capacity in relation to human rights in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Office also continued to implement dedicated country programmes in the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Office provided support to two special procedures country mandates, namely, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967 and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Support to these mandates continued through a number of activities, including contributions to mandated reports, communications and press releases on human rights issues and engagement with States and civil society. The Office also served as the Secretariat to the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, as mandated by the General Assembly. In addition, the Office cooperated with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic and

the Independent International Commission on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, the Fact-Finding Mission on Libya and the Independent Yemeni National Commission of Inquiry to Investigate Alleged Human Rights Violations (NCIAHRV).

During the course of the year, the Office continued to monitor, publicly report and undertake strategic advocacy on the human rights situation in the region, in parallel with increased engagement, technical cooperation and capacity-building with States. UN Human Rights field presences supported regional governments, civil society organizations, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and other actors to prevent violations and strengthen the protection of human rights. In the context of enhancing engagement with the international human rights mechanisms, the Office organized two training of trainers' workshops on those mechanisms for members of the Secretariat of the League of Arab States; a virtual training workshop for Iranian State officials; and workshops for officials of the National Reporting Committees of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The Office further supported phase two of a hybrid workshop on engagement with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) for officials from Syria. Field presences also continued to work with key partners, including UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and Resident Coordinators (RCs) across the region, to support the integration of human rights into development agendas and the implementation of strategies to curb inequalities, including in the context of COVID-19.

In addition to the devastating loss of life resulting from COVID-19, ongoing lockdowns, curfews and other imposed restrictions continued to impact on peoples' lives. Widespread economic consequences resulted in an increase in poverty and food insecurity, particularly in contexts characterized by weak public health-care systems and fragile economies. In a number of States in the region, people protested for the right to health, economic assistance, good governance and access to treatment. Groups in vulnerable situations, including persons with disabilities and migrants, were disproportionately affected. People on the move faced discrimination, hostile statements from public officials, a lack of access to basic services and, in some cases, arrests and detention. At the same time, religious and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, LGBTI persons and other groups in vulnerable situations continued to be marginalized in some States. Discrimination against women persisted in law and in practice in numerous States.

During the year, OHCHR supported the development of draft legislation to combat violence against women in Libya, in cooperation with Members of Parliament, lawyers, relevant ministries and civil society. The Office organized two regional roundtables to develop a road map for the integration of a gender perspective into educational curricula and textbooks and a roundtable event on the situation of women human rights defenders (WHRDs) in the region.

Meanwhile, ongoing conflicts and violence across the region resulted in the

loss of life and damage to physical infrastructure, amid continued violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. In this regard, OHCHR reiterated its call for the promotion of human rights and the protection of civilians in situations of armed conflict, particularly in light of the pandemic, through the preparation of reports and briefings to the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Security bodies in some States targeted human rights defenders (HRDs), lawyers and political activists to silence protests or opposition to government policies, including when criticizing the response of governments to the pandemic. Arbitrary detention, extrajudicial killings, torture and disappearances continued to be documented. In a number of States, serious concern was raised regarding the conduct of security forces and adherence to the rule of law, fair trial standards and the right to due process.

Several States also implemented measures that limited or eroded the exercise of the rights to freedoms of expression, association and assembly.

Furthermore, the pandemic impacted on the situation of persons deprived of their liberty, particularly in overcrowded facilities with a lack of access to adequate health care. During the reporting period, the death penalty was imposed in multiple States, some of which executed child offenders. Field presences interviewed persons deprived of their liberty and visited places of detention, including in Iraq, Libya, the State of Palestine and Yemen.

OHCHR's advocacy work with relevant authorities across the region resulted in the release of more than 100 persons deprived of their liberty, including in Algeria, Iran, Libya and the Gulf region.

**IRAQ: UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR IRAQ (UNAMI)**

Population size <sup>1</sup>	Surface area <sup>1</sup>	Human Development Index <sup>2</sup>	NHRI (if applicable) <sup>3</sup>
41.18 million	435,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.674 (rank: 123/189 in 2019)	A Status (2021)
<b>Type of engagement</b>	Special Political Mission		
<b>Year established</b>	2004		
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Baghdad, Basra, Erbil, Kirkuk and Mosul		
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2020-2024		
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2021</b>	41		

**XB requirements 2021****US\$1,326,000****Key OMP pillars in 2021**<sup>1,2,3</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.176**PILLAR RESULTS:****Accountability**

A1 – Iraq fully respects the rule of law in the administration of justice. In particular, courts fully comply with due process and fair trial standards, in accordance with international law and the Constitution of Iraq. Allegations of torture are thoroughly investigated, victims are provided with appropriate care, protection and compensation and those responsible are held legally accountable. Iraq fully complies with international standards in relation to the treatment, care, protection and rehabilitation of women and children who enter the criminal justice system. All sectors of Iraqi society have equal access to justice, including women, ethnic and religious and other minorities, persons with disabilities, youth and marginalized groups. The Government of Iraq ensures that any person who violates international

human rights, humanitarian or criminal law will be held accountable before competent courts that fully respect due process and fair trial standards. Legislation grants jurisdiction over international crimes to Iraqi courts and Iraq becomes a signatory to the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

**16**

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

OHCHR and UNAMI continued to implement the detention and trial monitoring programme in 2021, raising awareness

about how a lack of access to health care and extreme overcrowding in some facilities has exacerbated concerns over detention conditions, particularly in the context of COVID-19.

In August, OHCHR and UNAMI jointly published a report entitled *Human Rights in the administration of justice in Iraq: Legal conditions and procedural safeguards to prevent torture and ill-treatment*. Based on the findings of 235 key informant interviews with people deprived of their liberty, as well as prison staff, judges, lawyers and families of detainees, the report addresses the need for increased compliance with key legal conditions and procedural safeguards. It also provides an analysis of risk factors for torture and ill-treatment during interrogations and in places of detention and contains specific recommendations aimed at strengthening the Government's response to torture. Following the release of the report, OHCHR engaged in discussions and advocacy with authorities, civil society and lawyers in Federal Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

OHCHR enhanced advocacy efforts for the promotion and protection of the human rights of religious minorities to help achieve social cohesion as part of a broader objective to secure peace, security and development in Iraq. In particular, OHCHR leveraged the Peace Narratives to mobilize Iraqi youth as catalysts for change in building social cohesion and peaceful coexistence. Within this framework, UNAMI launched a multimedia platform to highlight examples of local youth-led peace narratives. It also reached out to religious and ethnic communities to address cross-cutting human rights issues and facilitate greater social cohesion and tolerance between members of different religious communities.

In December, OHCHR and UNAMI partnered with the United Nations Office

to Counter Terrorism (UNOCT) to conduct a training for 20 mid- to senior-level law enforcement officials in order to strengthen the human rights compliance of law enforcement operations in the context of counter-terrorism activities. This was followed by a policy dialogue with senior government officials to develop a road map on increased adherence to international human rights standards when engaging in efforts to counter terrorism.

**A1 – The Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights (IHCHR) complies with the Paris Principles, fulfils its mandate under the Constitution of Iraq and meets international standards. The institutional frameworks of the committees of the Council of Representatives ensure that human rights are respected and protected by the legislative process and when public policies are formulated. Government departments fully respect Iraq’s international obligations with respect to human rights and the rule of law. These standards are understood to be fundamental to public policies and programmes.**



OHCHR continued to strengthen the capacity and action of the IHCHR to ensure the promotion of human rights in legislative processes.

OHCHR strengthened the institutional capacity of the IHCHR, particularly at the governorate level, by working on issues related to enforced disappearance, the prevention of torture and the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. By way of example, with support from OHCHR, the IHCHR organized a series of workshops throughout the year for personnel from the Ministry of Interior to enhance their capacities to protect human

rights during their operations. Despite concerns over its independent functioning, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions accredited IHCHR with “A” Status, in July.

Also in July, the four-year term of the IHCHR Board of Commissioners (BOC) came to an end. The Council of Representatives, however, did not vote to end the tenure of the Commissioners as required by law. Instead, the Council of Ministers appointed an internal interim committee for continued administrative and operational functioning until the appointment of the new BOC. This is the only representative and functional body of the IHCHR.

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



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

Despite the fact that no new cases were reported in 2021, CRSV continues to be underreported due to stigma, fear of reprisals, family pressures and a lack of trust in the judicial system. This trend is not likely representative of the prevalence rate in Iraq. Survivors returning to Iraq continue to report CRSV incidents from previous years. It is also believed that men who are CRSV survivors are unlikely to come forward due to stigma and an absence of dedicated services.

In spite of the significant efforts undertaken by UN entities and CSOs, meeting the needs of survivors remains a challenge. While survivors of CRSV have had some access to medical and psychosocial support, available services are insufficient to fully meet their needs. In early 2021, activists raised concerns over an increase in suicides among members of the Yazidi community, including survivors of CRSV, and called on the Government to develop and implement a national suicide prevention strategy. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the vulnerability of CRSV survivors due to the loss of livelihoods, the closure of social services and movement restrictions.

The endorsement of the Yazidi Female Survivors Law by the Council of Representatives, in March, represents an important legal recognition of the magnitude and nature of the crimes committed. It also underscores the need to hold perpetrators of sexual violence accountable, while addressing the needs of survivors of sexual violence and the issue of reparations. The law applies only to women and girls from the Yazidi, Turkmen, Christian and Shabak communities and does not address the issue of children born of rape.

In August, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs established a Directorate for Survivors Care in the Ninewa Governorate to start receiving applications from CRSV survivors. The absence of government funding for the Directorate and the implementation of the Yazidi Female Survivors Law remains an impediment.



## Non-discrimination

**ND1 – Iraq develops as a multi-ethnic and religiously inclusive State in which the country’s ethnic and religious minority communities are protected from violence and can fully participate on equal terms in political, social and economic life. Members of Iraq’s diverse ethnic and religious communities have returned to their places of origin, in accordance with humanitarian principles. All sectors of Iraqi society are protected from violence and have equal access to justice without discrimination, irrespective of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, orientation, disability or other status. Persons with disabilities enjoy guaranteed and universal access to basic services. Laws are in place that prevent discrimination against individuals on grounds of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, orientation, disability or other differences.**

5 10 16

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

Protection of women and girls from domestic violence was at the core of advocacy efforts undertaken by OHCHR in 2021. In March, OHCHR partnered with UNAMI and IHCHR to screen the film “Breaking the silence,” thereby contributing to raising awareness about issues related to domestic violence, perpetrator accountability and support systems for survivors. In addition, four awareness-raising events were organized by OHCHR and UNAMI in Baghdad, Basra, Kirkuk and Mosul, engaging 41 women and 32 men. OHCHR also documented and monitored challenges faced by minority and women candidates during

the electoral processes through 228 interviews (147 interviews with women and 81 with minority candidates).

OHCHR sustained efforts towards the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination. In February, OHCHR and UNAMI collaborated with IHCHR to co-facilitate a virtual meeting of the Minority Rights Working Group in Iraq. During the meeting, participants discussed the implementation of the concluding observations issued by CERD and the need to preserve and promote minority languages in Iraq. On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March), OHCHR engaged national authorities and CSOs in joint advocacy to support the annual theme “Youth standing up against racism and discrimination” during a dedicated virtual event.



## Peace and Security

**PS1 – Civilians are protected, to the greatest extent possible, from the effects of armed conflict. They can leave areas affected by conflict in safety and dignity, return to their homes in full compliance with humanitarian principles (voluntarily and in dignity and security when it is safe to do so) and they can access basic humanitarian assistance at all times. The policies of the Government and the Iraqi security forces to combat terrorism, armed violence and conflict fully respect and protect human rights at all times and in all circumstances and comply with international humanitarian law.**

5 16

OHCHR contributed to enhancing the protection of civilians by monitoring and reporting on violations of human rights and by disseminating relevant

information to inform the responses of key stakeholders.

In Iraq, remnants of ISIL continued to carry out attacks, particularly in the Governorates of Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al Din, targeting Iraqi Security Forces, including Popular Mobilization Forces, civilian authorities, former members of security forces, tribal elders and any other individual perceived to be against ISIL. The Human Rights Officer (HRO) closely monitored the impact of security-related incidents causing harm to civilians and other protection concerns.

Between 1 January and 10 December, OHCHR recorded 757 civilian casualties (246 deaths, 511 injuries) in 232 incidents of armed conflict, representing a 45 per cent increase over 2020. The civilian casualties also included 120 children (53 killed, 67 injured) and 32 women (nine killed, 23 injured). This increase reversed a decreasing trend that was observed following the official defeat of ISIL in December 2017.

The leading causes of civilian casualties included various types of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that caused 361 civilian casualties (87 deaths, 274 injuries); small arms fires resulting in 175 civilian casualties (91 deaths, 84 injuries); and explosive remnants of wars and/or unexploded ordinances that led to 114 civilian casualties (50 deaths, 64 injuries). Airstrikes and shelling attacks attributed to the Turkish military caused 34 civilian casualties (eight deaths, 26 injuries) and indirect fires (mortars/rockets) caused 31 civilian casualties (five deaths, 26 injuries).

As was the case in previous years, 61 per cent of civilian casualties (165 deaths, 293 injuries) were attributed to ISIL



and caused by small arms fires, suicide attacks, roadside IEDs, targeted killings and executions.

**PS4 – All sectors of Iraqi society, including communities and individuals, have access to justice for human rights violations, abuses or crimes, regardless of when or where they were committed or by whom. Community and national reconciliation processes take place that are built on respect, mutual understanding and trust. They provide justice to victims of human rights violations and abuse.**

**16** 

OHCHR continued to strengthen the engagement of civil society and the Government with the international human rights mechanisms, with a focus on cases of enforced or involuntary disappearance.

In November, OHCHR organized a two-day training in Baghdad to discuss Iraq's international obligations with regard to enforced disappearance. The event featured two members of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances and brought together 25 representatives from the Ministries of Defence, Interior, Justice and Foreign Affairs, as well as the Iraqi National Intelligence Service, the Counter-Terrorism Service and the High Judicial Council. To promote civil society's engagement, OHCHR organized a separate training for 11 CSOs on 14 November, delivered by the aforementioned experts. Participants agreed to: 1) conduct joint advocacy in support of the adoption of a national law that criminalizes enforced disappearance; 2) promote the establishment of a central database to record all cases of missing persons; and 3) enhance cooperation by the Government

of Iraq with the Committee on Enforced Disappearances.

Ninewa is one of the governorates in Iraq most impacted by enforced disappearances. As a result, OHCHR facilitated a virtual roundtable, in August, with 11 Ninewa-based civil society activists to build their capacity in relation to the protection of persons from enforced disappearance and the documentation of individual cases. During the roundtable, participants agreed to form a civil society working group to devise strategies and promote joint advocacy efforts in alignment with national and international legal standards.



## Mechanisms

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

**16**

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

With the support of OHCHR, the Government of Iraq continued to strengthen engagement with the international human rights mechanisms, including the human rights treaty bodies and the special procedures. In particular, OHCHR collaborated with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary

Disappearances and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances to build national capacities and provide recommendations for engagement with the Government.

In July, the Human Rights National Action Plan of Iraq was launched with financial support from OHCHR. Prepared by the Ministry of Justice and endorsed by the Council of Ministers, the Plan will contribute to harmonizing national legislation with international human rights standards, strengthening national policies for the promotion and protection of human rights and building human rights capacity within government institutions.

OHCHR also facilitated and co-chaired the Minority Rights Working Groups in Federal Iraq and the Kurdistan Region, which provide a platform to advance the implementation of CERD recommendations and develop joint projects to raise awareness about Iraq's linguistic, ethnic and religious diversity.

In January, the Office engaged with the special procedures mandate holders to support their preparation of a joint communication on summary executions, torture and terrorism and human rights concerning the alleged approval of 340 death sentences. In addition, between November and December, OHCHR launched a social media campaign "Justice in Iraq" to raise public awareness about Iraqi legislation and commitments to prevent torture in places of detention. The campaign encouraged several CSOs to submit inputs to the Committee against Torture, generated the interest of CSOs to establish a network for the implementation of the Committee's recommendations and resulted in increased attention from national security and intelligence officials during detention visits.



## Participation

**P1 – Iraq citizens have equal access to all basic services, including clean water, electricity, health care, housing and education. The rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly are fully respected and protected in law and in policy. The roles of journalists and media professionals are respected and protected by law and policy and they are protected from threats, intimidation or violence when they carry out their professional duties. Parliamentary and democratic procedures are consultative and participatory, notably with respect to women, youth, ethnic and religious minorities, persons with disabilities and LGBTI persons.**

**16**

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

With support from OHCHR, UNAMI released a report, in May, entitled *Update on demonstrations in Iraq: Accountability for human rights violations and abuses by unidentified armed elements*. The report highlights measures put in place by Iraqi authorities and recommends that further efforts should be undertaken in the areas of investigations, accountability and protection. In addition, capacity-building training was provided to members of the Fact-Finding Committee. The Committee was tasked by the Prime Minister to investigate crimes and violations committed during demonstrations from 1 October 2019 onwards.

OHCHR and UNAMI also released a report on *Freedom of expression in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq*, which documents cases of arbitrary arrests, threats and intimidation against journalists and activists. The report's findings fed into the ongoing dialogue with the Kurdistan Regional Government to promote human rights, foster accountability and secure redress for victims.

In parallel, OHCHR monitored and reported on the human rights aspects of the elections held on 10 October. OHCHR and the UNAMI Gender Unit co-facilitated an online workshop for CSOs to build their capacities to monitor and report hate speech and gender-based violence (GBV) prior to the elections.



## Towards the prevention of torture in Iraqi detention facilities

“It was the same routine every day, hanging me up and beating me,” said Ahmed,<sup>16</sup> a detainee in an Iraqi prison. “There are things they did to me that I am too ashamed to talk about.”

Ahmed was one of 235 detainees who were interviewed for a recent **report** on torture prevention in places of detention in Iraq by UNAMI and UN Human Rights.

Although Iraq is party to several international treaties that prohibit torture and ill-treatment, more than half of all interviewed detainees provided credible and reliable accounts of torture. The prevalence of torture was confirmed in confidential interviews with Iraqi judges, lawyers and medical practitioners.

As one lawyer stated, “Perpetrators are not really afraid about the consequences of torture since they know they will not be punished by the official system.”

Founded on an analysis of risk factors for torture, the report highlights many troubling facts about investigation practices and conditions inside Iraqi facilities. Interrogations are generally aimed at eliciting confessions and often use coercion. Access to a lawyer is systematically delayed until after suspects have been interrogated.

In addition, there is no standard practice of medical screenings of detainees when they arrive at a facility to detect if they have been subjected to prior ill-treatment.

### **BEYOND ALLEGATIONS, TOWARDS PREVENTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

While the recent report details horrific accounts of torture in Iraqi facilities, Danielle Bell, Chief of the Human Rights Office at UNAMI, says that UN Human Rights aims to “move beyond” debating the existence or extent of these practices to instead focus on supporting government efforts to strengthen compliance with the international and national legal framework.

“The ultimate goal is to reduce the likelihood of torture or ill-treatment ever occurring,” said Ms. Bell, noting that independent monitoring of places of detention is crucial in this process.

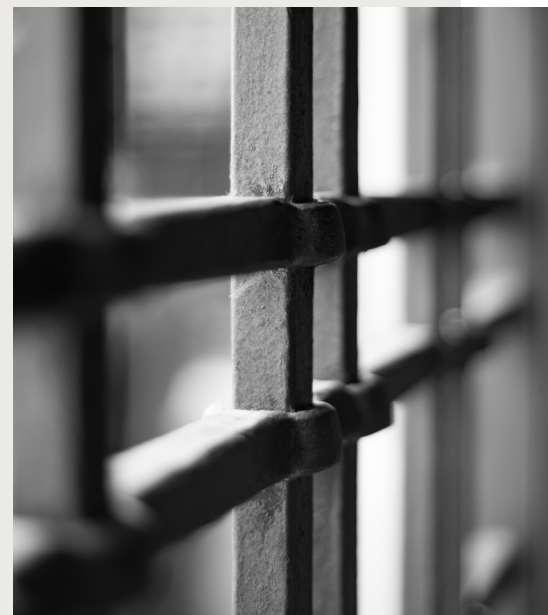
“As torture almost always takes place in secret, greater transparency and openness concerning what takes place in detention facilities, which is facilitated by providing access to independent monitoring bodies, are significant steps towards prevention,” she said. “These steps not only remove opportunities for torture to occur, they also protect authorities from unfounded allegations.”

The report outlines a series of recommendations, such as urging Iraq to consider the adoption of a comprehensive Anti-Torture Law and Policy, strengthening training for officials involved in custody and interrogation of detainees, and urgently reviewing interrogation rules and practices.

Since the report’s release, UNAMI staff have engaged in constructive dialogue with Iraqi and Kurdish authorities and other stakeholders, including the Iraqi Bar Association and CSOs, to encourage concrete steps towards strengthening compliance with international and national standards and safeguards to prevent torture.

Authorities have expressed a commitment to fully investigate torture allegations, however, there are other hurdles that need to be overcome.

Ms. Bell concluded, “The UNAMI Human Rights Office will continue to work with the Iraqi Government in its endeavours to prevent torture and ensure accountability.”



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<sup>16</sup> Ahmed’s name has been changed to protect his identity.

**JORDAN**

Population size <sup>1</sup>	Surface area <sup>1</sup>	Human Development Index <sup>2</sup>	NHRI (if applicable) <sup>3</sup>
10.27 million	89,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.729 (rank: 102/189 in 2019)	A Status (2016)
<b>Type of engagement</b>		Human Rights Adviser	
<b>Year established</b>		2018	
<b>Field office(s)</b>		Amman	
<b>UN partnership framework</b>		United Nations Sustainable Development Framework in Jordan (2018-2022)	
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2021</b>		1	

**XB requirements 2021** **US\$416,000**

**Key OMP pillars in 2021**



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

**PILLAR RESULTS:**
 **Peace and Security**

**PS5 – Human rights information and analysis are integrated into early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policymaking, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate and/or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.**

**3 5 8 10 13 16 17**

OHCHR contributed to integrating and operationalizing a human rights-based approach (HRBA) in the UNCT Prevention Strategy.

A number of practical steps were taken during the reporting period to implement the Strategy. For example, risk assessments related to the Common Country Analysis (CCA) were updated and the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) enhanced its

capacities to make effective use of social media tools and undertake media monitoring on issues related to the SDGs and human rights. In addition, the HRA re-established a technical level working group of international partners, including embassies, INGOs and UN agencies, to exchange information and coordinate assistance on issues relating to accountable institutions, empowered people and the rule of law and first discussions led to a mapping of international partners' support to the justice sector and strengthening support on legal aid.

With support from the HRA, the RCO published an op-ed, in July, on the ongoing legislative reform process. More specifically, it called for joint efforts to realize the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights and emphasized that human rights must be placed at the centre of all COVID-19 recovery and national reform efforts.

Finally, the HRA lent support to UNCT members on the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP), with a risk assessment completed in relation to the Elsie Initiative Fund to increase uniformed women's participation in UN peace operations.

 **Development**

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



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

The HRA supported the UNCT in integrating an HRBA into the UN's key priorities, programming, monitoring and evaluation efforts in Jordan. As a first step, the HRA supported the preparation of a mapping of Jordan's national and international commitments, relevant global norms and standards and UN Jordan's programming documents in order to facilitate the identification of key priorities for the biennium 2021-2022. In March, three priority areas of action were identified by the UNCT, namely, 1) Building forward better, with a focus on inclusive, diverse, resilient and sustainable economic recovery and growth; 2) Climate justice, including by addressing water scarcity and supporting food security; and

3) Strengthened and accountable institutions with human rights at the centre.

As a result of the HRA's advocacy efforts and technical support, in April, the UNCT adopted three action plans for 2021-2022, including 12 concrete joint actions. The action plans provide the RCO/HRA with a clear mandate to ensure coherent engagement with the Department of Statistics to improve data collection, analysis and management related to Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) policies; integrating human rights analysis into UNCT policy briefs; preparing an HRBA of revenues in Jordan for the Surge Initiative; collecting and rolling out good practices on interministerial coordination and multi-stakeholder engagement; preparing a Prevention Strategy; and rolling out the Guidance Note on the protection and promotion of civic space.

Following the HRA's capacity-building efforts and in the context of preparing for its new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, the UNCT recognized that UN Jordan needs to increase its human rights-based work and advocacy related to future programming. To this end, the HRA supported the RCO to undertake an LNOB/HRBA of the budgetary and other resources that are needed to ensure the progressive realization of the rights to education, food and water, which are among the priority rights to be advanced in Jordan between 2023-2027.

In parallel, the HRA contributed to the support provided by the UN to Jordan for the preparation and submission of its Voluntary National Review (VNR) report in 2022 and the Voluntary Local Review process on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, a data committee will be

established to ensure reporting consistency regarding the different SDGs. Gender and human rights were identified as specific and cross-cutting issues. A joint UNDP/OHCHR project under the Human Rights Mainstreaming Trust Fund supports the mainstreaming of human rights into this process, including with the National Centre for Human Rights.

The HRA conducted a number of capacity-building activities at the technical level with all UNCT members, as well as the UNRWA senior management team, the IOM-led National Migration Task Force and UNFPA's implementing partners on issues related to an HRBA and development.



## Mechanisms

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

16 | 17

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

The HRA facilitated Jordan's engagement in the regional consultations for the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF) and is leveraging the VNR as an entry point to forge synergies between different implementation and reporting processes.

The HRA produced key outreach materials that highlight Jordan's engagement with the international human rights mechanisms to inform joint advocacy efforts, such as the background paper on United

Nations Human Rights Mechanisms Jordan's Engagement, and a flyer presenting recommendations issued by those mechanisms in relation to Jordan towards building forward better, fairer and greener.

**LIBYA: UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT MISSION IN LIBYA (UNSMIL)**

Population size <sup>1</sup>	Surface area <sup>1</sup>	Human Development Index <sup>2</sup>	NHRI (if applicable) <sup>3</sup>
6.96 million	1,676,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.724 (rank: 105/189 in 2019)	B Status (2014)
<b>Type of engagement</b>		United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL)	
<b>Year established</b>		2011	
<b>Field office(s)</b>		Tripoli and Tunis, Tunisia	
<b>UN partnership framework</b>		United Nations Strategic Framework 2019-2022	
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2021</b>		15	

**XB requirements 2021****US\$215,000****Key OMP pillars in 2021**<sup>1,2,3</sup> Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.176**PILLAR RESULTS:**

**Accountability**

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



OHCHR contributed to enhancing the compliance of legislation and policy with international human rights law norms and standards through advocacy with the judiciary and other national partners.

To counter arbitrary detention, OHCHR facilitated the establishment of a high-level committee, which includes representatives from the Ministries of Justice and Interior, the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Military Prosecutor and the Office of the First Deputy Prime Minister. OHCHR provided support for

the development of a draft action plan and guiding principles to bring an end to arbitrary detention in Libya. Moving forward, the committee will coordinate the implementation of the action plan and its recommendations and measures and will follow up on and address individual cases on an ongoing basis.

OHCHR mobilized national partners, in particular the Committee of Libyan Experts on Combating Violence Against Women, to conduct a comprehensive review of the draft law on violence against women to ensure its compliance with international human rights standards. Following a series of virtual and in-person consultations, the draft law was presented under the auspices of the Ministry of Women’s Affairs of the Government of National Unity. The draft was presented, in October, to 19 women Members of Parliament and other national partners during an in-person meeting that was

co-organized with UNFPA and UN Women. Joint efforts will now focus on launching an advocacy campaign to support its endorsement. The draft will be presented to the newly elected House of Representatives.

OHCHR also initiated dialogues with national experts, representatives of academia, CSOs and other UN agencies to review and assess the current legal framework on the rights of the child.

**A1 – Those who are charged are promptly prosecuted, in accordance with the right to due process. Crimes committed after 2011 are prosecuted.**



OHCHR contributed to the enhanced capacities of the judiciary to ensure that accountability mechanisms operate in conformity with international human rights standards, including in the context of the electoral process.

In the lead up to the presidential and parliamentary elections that were scheduled to take place in December 2021 and January 2022 and then postponed, OHCHR effectively supported the judicial system in adjudicating election disputes and monitoring election-related violence. This included providing advice to the Political Parties Affairs Commission at the Ministry of Justice on the registration of political parties, monitoring attacks against members of the judiciary and addressing the security of electoral justice systems. In addition, OHCHR provided technical assistance to judges involved in the process, in collaboration with the Supreme Judicial Council.

Following the appointment of the new Attorney General for Libya, in April, OHCHR facilitated exchanges with Egypt and Tunisia to support the restructuring of his office, in alignment with good practices in the region. As a result, the Attorney General announced the establishment of two key departments focusing on human rights and on judicial inspection within the Office of the Public Prosecution, respectively.

In response to the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on national judicial systems and mechanisms, OHCHR provided virtual technical assistance to both the Supreme Judicial Council and the Supreme Court on issues related to legislative amendments, virtual hearings, the organization of the judiciary, the establishment of dedicated courts for cases related to violence against women and children and technical deliberations on alternatives to imprisonment, with a view to reducing the number of prisoners in correctional facilities.

**A1 – Detention centres operate legally and under the control of the State. Trained judicial police officers and procedures are in place to prevent torture and ensure the release of individuals who are unlawfully detained.**

**16**

OHCHR contributed to the increased compliance with international human rights standards of programmes, policies and practices of the judicial police and other key actors involved in the management of detention facilities through technical assistance and advocacy.

In February, UNSMIL and UNICEF conducted a joint mission to the al-Jdayda Prison in Tripoli to assess the situation of women and children detained for their alleged affiliation with ISIL. Most of the detainees had spent more than five years in arbitrary detention and some of the children had been born in and/or spent most of their lives in the facility. As a result of advocacy efforts undertaken by OHCHR and UNSMIL, and by working in collaboration with both the Libyan and Tunisian authorities, all Tunisian women and children detained in the al-Jdayda Prison were transferred to Tunisia, in March.

In cooperation with the Tunisian Embassy, OHCHR and UNSMIL conducted an assessment mission on the needs of women and children detained at the Mitiga Detention Centre in Tripoli. As a result of joint advocacy efforts, the Special Committee of Screening Arbitrary Detention Cases, established by the Attorney General, reviewed and brought before the Criminal Court the legal cases of 2,845 inmates, 2,150 of whom were consequently released.

In September, OHCHR conducted a mission to Benghazi, which resulted in an updated assessment of the correctional sector in the eastern region. This was the first visit to the city since the attack against the UN in August 2019.

OHCHR and UNSMIL continued to support the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice and police forces in implementing mitigation measures against the spread of COVID-19 and addressing other security concerns. In December, UNDP and UNSMIL delivered 610 Personal Protective Equipments to relevant line ministries and police forces and vehicles for the Demining Unit of the UNSMIL-UNDP Police and Security Joint Programme in Libya.



## Participation

**P1 – National and international stakeholders strengthen their networking and coordination. Civil society organizations provide assistance, including legal aid, to human rights defenders and victims of torture and other violations.**

**16**



OHCHR strengthened the capacities of the Government and CSOs to engage with the international human rights mechanisms, implement their recommendations and operate in an increasingly integrated way.

In order to address ongoing challenges and restrictions faced by civil society and human rights defenders, on 8 and 9 November, OHCHR and UNSMIL convened a consultation with members of the Civil Society Commission and representatives of other CSOs. The meeting provided a platform for participants to discuss national legislation regulating the role of CSOs and paved the way for the development of a protection strategy for HRDs in Libya, particularly women. The meeting was attended virtually by the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.



 **Peace and Security**

**PS1 – Violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law are monitored and reported by HRDs, enabling the international community to respond effectively to abuses by armed groups and cases of arbitrary and unlawful detention, torture, hostage-taking and extrajudicial kidnapping, while also protecting civilians, upholding freedom of expression and combating discrimination against women and migrants.**

**5 16**

OHCHR contributed to the increased awareness of the international community regarding the situation of migrants and asylum seekers in Libya.

In support of advocacy efforts for solutions to address ongoing human rights violations, OHCHR continued to provide the international community with information and analysis on the situation of migrants and asylum seekers in Libya, including those being held in the detention centres operating under the Directorate for Combating Illegal Migration, in trafficking camps and at sea.

In parallel to these activities, OHCHR intensified its efforts to raise awareness about increasing restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association. It also raised awareness regarding human rights violations against individuals and groups of peaceful activists. Finally, OHCHR reported on its social media channels about several cases of discrimination, hate speech and incitement to violence against women and men activists.

**MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA**

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates
Year established	2002
Field office(s)	Beirut, Lebanon
Staff as of 31 December 2021	39

**XB income US\$2,231,386**

**XB requirements 2021 US\$5,196,000**

**XB expenditure US\$2,837,170**

Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC <sup>4</sup>
<b>68%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>10%</b>
\$1,925,043	\$618,530	\$293,597

**RB expenditure US\$111,920**

Personnel
<b>100%</b>
\$111,920

**Key OMP pillars in 2021**



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

**PILLAR RESULTS:**

 **Accountability**

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

**16**

OHCHR contributed to improving legislation/policy, in compliance with international human rights norms and standards, through strategic advocacy and engagement, technical support and capacity-building.

With a view to ensuring the independence of judges and lawyers, UN Human Rights participated in joint advocacy with other UN agencies in Lebanon, including through the publication of UN reports, statements and calls for a transparent and impartial investigation into the 2020 Beirut Port explosions and joint support for the elaboration of a National Action Plan on Human Rights. At the request of the Parliament’s Administration and Justice Committee, UN Human Rights provided inputs to a draft law on the independence of the judiciary, which is being finalized. UN Human Rights will follow up with an expert consultation in the first half of 2022 that will include members of the Committee and other stakeholders, including civil society actors.



In collaboration with the United Nations RCO and the Conseil National des droits de l'Homme (CNDH) of Algeria, a workshop was organized on the “Operationalization of a human rights-based approach to data in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals and human rights reporting.” The objective was to build the capacities of the NHRI and the National Statistics Office in their use of indicators and data as effective oversight tools for reporting and monitoring on human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The workshop was attended by 20 participants from the NHRI, the National Statistics Office, representatives of the Ministry of Digitization and Statistics, the National Economic, Social and Environmental Council, the Centre National d'Etudes et d'Analyses pour la Population et le Développement, the Ministry of National Solidarity, Family and the Status of Women, the National Institute of Public Health, the National Institute for Research in Education, the National Gendarmerie General Command and the Centre for Research in Applied Economics and Development.

To promote and protect the rights of migrants, UN Human Rights engaged with the UN Network on Migration and UN National Migration Networks and participated in the development of the Situation Report on International Migration for the Arab region. On 30 November, UN Human Rights organized a briefing for Member States and members of the UN Regional Network on Migration in order to provide an overview of how the UN Regional and National Networks on Migration and in-country presences can assist Member States. UN Human Rights collaborated with UN partners to develop a joint Policy Brief on reform of legal frameworks, which allow

employers to file “absconding” charges against migrant workers, thereby increasing their vulnerability. The Policy Brief will be launched in 2022.

Trainings for border officials in Morocco were delivered. OHCHR organized a high-level dialogue with representatives of relevant ministries involved in border governance, with a view to ensuring a whole-of-government approach to collaboration on this issue. The dialogue enabled engagement with relevant authorities on key challenges and good practices on human rights protection at international borders. Subsequently, the Migration Unit and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism delivered a training course on human rights at international borders. A total of 50 border officials provided positive feedback on the impact of the training and reported an increased understanding on human rights principles, recognition that language can change perceptions of migrants and the importance of taking into account different situations that migrants may face, particularly women and those in situations of vulnerability.

UN Human Rights contributed to a meeting of the UN Network on Migration that was held on 3 June, in Bahrain. The Office provided a brief on its support for Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States in fulfilling their human rights obligations and on a study that is underway on the human rights of migrant workers in GCC countries.

UN Human Rights also supported the “First Regional Review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Arab Region,” held virtually from 24 to 25 February. The event maintained a strong focus on the human rights of migrants and involved the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, NHRIs and members of

migrant communities. OHCHR also participated in the Stakeholder Engagement Task Force to ensure an inclusive, whole-of-society approach.



## Participation

**P1 – Enhance legal, policy and accountability environment to protect civil society groups, human rights defenders and activists.**

16



OHCHR contributed to improving the legal, policy and accountability environment, including through advocacy, strategic engagement and partnerships, technical support and capacity-building.

In an effort to counter hate speech, UN Human Rights co-facilitated a discussion with the UNCT in Lebanon and the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect (OSAPG), in March. This led to the development of a UNCT draft plan of action on hate speech and, in collaboration with the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL), the launch of quarterly monitoring updates on incidents and observed trends of hate speech. The plan of action, which will be adopted by the UNCT in 2022, outlines a number of actions to monitor and analyse hate speech trends, develop key messages for its mitigation and engage with partners to raise awareness and combat hateful speech. OHCHR will, in collaboration with OSAPG, organize an event on countering hate speech in 2022.

OHCHR established a strategic partnership with nine universities across Lebanon to implement the project “Dealing with the past: Memory for the future.” The project aims to promote truth-seeking,

foster collective remembrance and facilitate reconciliation around the legacy of the civil war, which included brutality that was perpetrated against women, men and children. The project activities were designed by the universities, in line with project guidelines, and sought to contribute to consolidating peace and preventing a relapse into conflict. Most of the activities were implemented in 2021. The strategic partnership with universities aims to enhance engagement with youth on peacebuilding, increase their knowledge and build their capacities to participate in peacebuilding processes.

Additionally, UN Human Rights organized a virtual conference on “Monitoring the right to food in Lebanon: Towards empowering youth for the full realization of the right to food amid current and rising insecurities in the country.” More than 80 experts, including the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, academics, civil society actors, youth, government officials, diplomats, lawyers and NHRI members participated in the conference. The event focused on the relationship between policies of the agricultural and food sector and the right to food in the context of increasing food insecurity in Lebanon.

Finally, UN Human Rights organized an online training workshop on youth engagement in human rights, in Bahrain, bringing together 17 university students who gained an increased understanding about human rights norms concerning participation in public affairs.

## **Non-discrimination**

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



OHCHR contributed to promoting the establishment of anti-discrimination laws, policies and practices across the region.

In an effort to foster human rights education and eliminate gender stereotypes, UN Human Rights and the UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (UNTDC) organized two regional roundtables, in February and April. The roundtables brought together representatives of UN agencies (UNFPA, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN Women), the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), regional human rights NGOs, women’s studies and research institutes, organizations involved in children’s education and human rights education and researchers and academics working in the field of education. These events provided an opportunity for the development of a road map on the integration of a gender perspective into educational curricula and textbooks, as part of a broader process of combating gender stereotypes and fostering human rights education in primary and secondary school systems.

Two regional webinars were held, in April, on the rights of persons with disabilities in the Middle East and North Africa, focusing on the impacts of COVID-19 on mental health. The webinar featured six panellists, including three human rights treaty body experts (from CEDAW, CRC and CRPD), the former Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and two representatives of governmental organizations on mental health and persons with disabilities from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Jordan. The panellists engaged with more than 20 mental health practitioners and human rights experts from the region, including Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and the State of Palestine, and shared their experiences and good practices.

In May, OHCHR organized a regional virtual symposium on the compliance of national legislation with CRPD. The symposium discussed the compliance with CRPD of relevant national legislation in Arab countries, highlighted the current situation of persons with disabilities and provided recommendations and good practices for the fulfilment of the rights of persons with disabilities in the region. The symposium was attended by 128 activists, experts, academics, government officials, members of NHRIs and individuals, including 60 women, from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and the United States of America.

Additionally, on 2 December, UN Human Rights and the Arab Organization for Human Rights (AOHR) conducted a virtual conference on “Combating incitement to hatred and promoting tolerance

in the Arab region.” The objective of the online conference was to shed light on hate speech in the MENA region, including by presenting relevant international standards, plans and programmes to combat hatred, discrimination and racism. It also facilitated discussions on the important role of religious, political and societal leaders in promoting the discourse of tolerance, citizenship and acceptance of the Other. The conference brought together human rights experts and defenders, civil society leaders, legislators, media professionals and religious leaders from 14 countries in the Arab region.

## Mechanisms

**M2 – Promotion of the role of CSOs and NHRIs as key stakeholders within the international human rights mechanisms. Protection from reprisals is ensured.**



OHCHR supported substantive submissions by NHRIs, CSOs, UN entities and individuals to the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures, the Human Rights Council and the UPR.

OHCHR published its first regional thematic report on the right to freedom of association, entitled *Freedom of association in the Middle East and North Africa: An overview of trends, challenges and good practices*. The report focuses on the right to freedom of association in the 10 countries being served by the Regional Office, including Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Drawing on information emanating from the engagement of States with the international human rights mechanisms, the report identifies

challenges, good practices and national updates on the right to freedom of association in all 10 countries. The report aims to inspire reflection and dialogue on how to enhance the promotion, protection and enjoyment of the right to freedom of association. It also seeks to encourage States and civil society to work together and collaborate on human rights action. The report will inform a number of events and consultations planned for 2022 and will be complemented by a second report that will focus on freedom of expression.

## Peace and Security

**PSS – The Regional Office has dedicated capacity to provide early warning analysis and response.**



OHCHR contributed to enhancing awareness and knowledge on the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

UN Human Rights supported the Oxford University Price Media Law Moot Court Competition regional rounds for the Middle East, bringing together university students from across the MENA region to debate human rights principles related to the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. OHCHR’s engagement with universities to promote dynamic discussions and debates on human rights issues is part of its broader work in supporting and advancing youth as a spotlight population.

OHCHR provided human rights analysis based on its monitoring and recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms to UNCTs, led the UNCT Human Rights Working Group in Lebanon and coordinated joint UNCT

submissions and analysis, including in relation to the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy risk assessment. UN Human Rights continued to use its case database, which has been utilized by ROMENA since 2020, to register cases of human rights violations.

## STATE OF PALESTINE

<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>
5.22 million	6,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.708 (rank: 115/189 in 2019)	A Status (2015)
<b>Type of engagement</b>	Country Office		
<b>Year established</b>	1996		
<b>Field office(s)</b>	East Jerusalem, Gaza, Hebron and Ramallah		
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2022		
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2021</b>	26		

<b>XB income</b>	<b>US\$2,158,115</b>		
<b>XB requirements 2021</b>	<b>US\$5,229,000</b>		
<b>XB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$2,657,358</b>		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC <sup>4</sup>	
<b>77%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>10%</b>	
\$2,045,883	\$343,378	\$268,097	
<b>RB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$2,512,190</b>		
Personnel	Non-personnel		
<b>85%</b>	<b>15%</b>		
\$2,130,203	\$381,987		

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

**16**

OHCHR contributed to increasing the compliance with international human rights standards of the Government’s oversight, accountability and/or protection mechanisms.

UN Human Rights continued to strengthen Palestine’s human rights treaty implementation and accountability, including by providing technical assistance to key government institutions and enhancing the role of civil society in holding the Government accountable for the implementation of its human rights obligations. In particular, the Office sought to build the capacities of the justice and security sector, such as law enforcement officials, to apply human rights standards in all cases of arrest, detention

and investigation. In July, OHCHR organized a workshop for the Office of the Public Prosecutor on investigating allegations of torture and ill-treatment, which focused on women in detention and the identification of physical and psychological signs of torture and ill-treatment. Another workshop was co-organized with the Ministry of Interior for police officers from the internal complaints’ units within the Palestinian Authority Security Forces to address their role in the protection of human rights, with an emphasis on CAT and ICCPR. The occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) has yet to establish a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) in accordance with OP-CAT. OHCHR is working in coordination with international partners through the messaging of public advocacy campaigns and bilateral meetings with the Government on the NPM.

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

**16**

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

UN Human Rights continued monitoring and documenting all death sentences issued by the courts of the de facto authorities in Gaza. In addition, it advocated for the fulfilment of the obligations of the de facto authorities under international law by establishing an immediate moratorium on executions as a step towards the full abolition of the death penalty. It also raised concerns about individual cases. OHCHR publicized these messages

through local social media posts, reported to the international human rights mechanisms and delivered briefings to Member States about developments. Although the number of death sentences issued and confirmed on appeal in Gaza were significant, with 16 death sentences that were issued by first instance courts and six that were confirmed on appeal, no executions have been carried out in Gaza since 2017.

In commemorating World Day Against the Death Penalty, OHCHR partnered with the European Union (EU), the Human Rights and Democracy Media Centre (SHAMS), the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR), Palestine University and Palestine Aliya University to deliver a number of sessions on the abolition of the death penalty for approximately 80 students in Gaza and the West Bank. Moreover, a series of interactive social media Stories Q&As were shared to raise awareness on Palestine's obligations related to the death penalty. The campaign was posted on OHCHR's social media channels and reached over 64,000 people.

#### **A1 – Member States and international and regional actors incorporate OHCHR's information, analysis and recommendations into their positions demanding accountability for Israeli violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law in the State of Palestine.**



OHCHR contributed to timely and high-quality information to international forums with regard to violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law committed by Israel.

UN Human Rights carried out monitoring, documentation and reporting on

human rights and violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law across the State of Palestine. Ground monitoring resumed in 2021 and the Office made use of remote monitoring and documentation methods that were put in place during the COVID-19 lockdowns. Over 125 cases were documented and the Office carried out an analysis of relevant legal developments in Israel and in Palestine. Based on information that was gathered from first-hand monitoring and analysis, OHCHR contributed to the drafting of key documents, such as the mandated reports of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights and provided inputs to Security Council briefings. This information was also used in regular briefings to Member States and monthly briefings to the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), was shared with the UNCT and informed advocacy messaging of the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC). In addition, OHCHR played a critical role in the justice and security sector working groups and advocated for the inclusion of human rights concerns, including in relation to legislative changes.

Furthermore, OHCHR established a system and trained the team to monitor and document election-related violations that were committed from January to May. As a result, OHCHR became the authoritative source for information on arrests, harassment, intimidation and other violations for the UN system and Member States. During the escalation in hostilities that occurred between Israel and Palestinian armed groups in Gaza, in May, OHCHR monitored and documented casualties and identified the status determination of emblematic cases in order to highlight its concerns regarding violations of international humanitarian law.

#### **A2 – Israeli and Palestinian detention policies and practices conform more closely to international human rights standards. The number of cases of arbitrary detention, ill-treatment and torture has declined.**



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

Restrictions on access to detention facilities were lifted in the first quarter of 2021, which enabled OHCHR to conduct monitoring and document issues, such as the legality of detention, ill-treatment, torture and concerns specific to women and girls. Regular detention visits resumed in the autumn. A total of 26 visits, including 20 in the West Bank and six in Gaza, were carried out. Regular information exchanges and meetings were held with partners working on detention-related matters in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank. OHCHR was denied access to Israeli detention facilities and faced challenges in accessing Israeli data regarding Palestinians in Israeli detention. Monitoring and documentation on violations against Palestinians in Israeli detention was made possible through communications with released detainees and their family members and lawyers and with prisoners' organizations.

OHCHR continued to document cases of arbitrary detention, including of women, allegations of ill-treatment, possibly amounting to torture, and concerns related to fair trial guarantees. OHCHR engaged in active dialogue with relevant authorities in Gaza and the West Bank to raise its concerns and provide recommendations. Despite these efforts, the human rights situation deteriorated in the West Bank. Presidential decrees undermined the



separation of powers and independence of the judiciary and abuses were committed by Palestinian Security Forces following the cancellation of long overdue elections. OHCHR undertook advocacy, including through meetings with the Prime Minister, and highlighted detention-related concerns with Member States and donors actively supporting the security and justice sectors. There was no contact with Israeli authorities.

To strengthen the capacity of actors in the justice and security sector to apply human rights standards, OHCHR delivered a workshop for the Office of the Public Prosecutor on investigating allegations of torture and ill-treatment. Another workshop was held for police officers within the Palestinian Authority Security Forces on the role of their internal complaints units in the protection of human rights, with a focus on CAT and ICCPR.



## Participation

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

16



OHCHR continued to raise the awareness of both Israeli and Palestinian authorities regarding their obligations related to the protection of civic space.

OHCHR stepped up its monitoring and reporting on civic space-related violations and documented 22 cases of violations. OHCHR met regularly with CSOs to exchange information on how to increase protection for HRDs and increased its cooperation with the national human rights institution (NHRI) on HRDs.

OHCHR provided trainings and technical support to CSOs, the NHRI and government institutions on international human rights mechanisms, standards and monitoring. In August, a working session was held with the NHRI in Gaza and the West Bank on working with and protecting HRDs. In July and October, the Office collaborated with the Ministry of Women's Affairs to deliver a series of trainings to CSOs on WHRDs, which was attended by more than 75 participants from Gaza and the West Bank. In July, in cooperation with the NHRI and UNESCO, a working session was held on the international human rights mechanisms, with a focus on free media. The session was attended by 14 journalists from Gaza and the West Bank. In August, the Office partnered with UNESCO to convene a workshop on mechanisms for the safety of journalists.

To raise public awareness about the protection of HRDs, OHCHR engaged with diplomats on Human Rights Day to encourage solidarity with HRDs by posting photos of themselves featuring the hashtag “#IStandwithHumanRightsDefenders” on social media platforms. The campaign was shared on OHCHR's social media channels and reached over 100,000 people.



## Non-discrimination

**ND3 – Israeli practices (as the occupying power) and Palestinian laws, policies and practices increasingly comply with international human rights standards related to sexual and gender-based violence and other discriminatory practices against women as a first step towards the promotion of women's equality.**

5

9

10



OHCHR contributed to increasing the knowledge of Palestinian women about their rights, including by engaging with relevant actors and creating networks with civil society partners.

OHCHR increased its monitoring of women's rights in priority areas, including the gendered impacts of the occupation in terms of violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, WHRDs, women in detention and SGBV. UN Human Rights continued to gather disaggregated data on women in Israeli and Palestinian detention. It carried out four visits to women in detention in Gaza and the West Bank and to a shelter in the West Bank.

OHCHR engaged with Palestinian security agencies and authorities in Gaza and the West Bank to follow up on cases of concern and identify wider patterns of discrimination against women, including discriminatory movement restrictions in Gaza. In August, in cooperation with the Ministry of Women's Affairs, OHCHR delivered trainings on an HRBA and human rights mainstreaming for staff of gender units within Palestinian Ministries. In December, the Office cooperated with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Women's Affairs to provide another training on a HRBA for staff of gender units and supporting units within the



general intelligence service and military intelligence service.

The Office consistently highlighted women's rights and gender issues in presentations to donors and the international community. Critical women's rights issues were reflected in OHCHR's public statements and communications products. In partnership with UN Women, the Office marked International Women's Day with a campaign to raise awareness about women's political participation in the context of elections. The campaign was rolled out across the State of Palestine and included a series of six social media cards, five daily radio spots on six local radio stations and an animation video that was shared on social media and aired on the two primary local TV stations. On the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign, the Office launched its own campaign, with a focus on violence against women in the streets, online and in the home. A series of videos were developed with the testimonies of GBV survivors and a set of social media cards with key advocacy messages were directed towards duty-bearers and the general public. Through OHCHR's social media channels, the campaign amassed over 815,000 views.

**ND7 – National authorities recognize and have begun to address discrimination against groups with hidden vulnerabilities who are at a high risk of institutional and social discrimination for cultural reasons.**



OHCHR contributed to improving the narrative on selected human rights issues by identifying and mapping hidden vulnerabilities in Gaza and the West Bank

and monitoring the violations to which they are subjected.

OHCHR increased its work on the rights of persons with disabilities by providing technical assistance to government institutions, strengthening civil society engagement with the international human rights mechanisms, such as CRPD, and increasing awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns on disability rights. In cooperation with ICHR, OHCHR organized a workshop on alternative reporting and engaging with the CRPD Committee. In February, the Office launched an awareness-raising campaign to disseminate COVID-19-related information, in accessible formats, for persons with disabilities and their families, including information on psychological and social support services that are provided by the Government and NGOs. The campaign was developed and implemented in cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Health. The campaign registered more than 230,000 views on the social media channels of OHCHR, Palestinian Television, the Government and CSOs. In March, OHCHR cooperated with the NHRI and the Central Elections Commission (CEC) to conduct workshops on the equal participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in elections. On the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December), OHCHR partnered with the Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO) to produce a video featuring the experiences of activist Ms. Rabab Nofal, from Gaza, who speaks about the daily challenges, stigma and discrimination she faces as a woman living with a disability and the lack of available services in Gaza. The video has amassed more than 200,000 views.

With regard to LGBTI rights, UN Human Rights continued to monitor individual situations and cases and participated in an informal group, composed of international and national civil society actors and the NHRI, to exchange information and devise responses and protection strategies in relation to individuals at risk. Collaboration with UNFPA, as the GBV Sub-Cluster coordinating agency, was strengthened to provide various means to address sensitive cases, particularly in light of insufficient protection offered by the authorities in the West Bank and the total absence of protection in Gaza. Efforts were initiated to map and analyse the situation and applicable domestic legislation across the State of Palestine.

## **Peace and Security**

**PS5 – Human rights are integrated into the Humanitarian Programme Cycle, including its strategy, planning and programming, and into advocacy efforts undertaken by the Humanitarian Coordinator and Humanitarian Country Team.**



UN Human Rights contributed to ensuring that humanitarian operations integrate into their work the international human rights norms, standards and principles and the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

OHCHR responded to shifting needs, including as a result of the 11-day escalation in violence that took place in May, by strengthening its coordination with partners and authorities, adapting its work modalities and enhancing remote responses in line with global minimum standards. In ensuring updated information, the Office consistently met reporting

requirements and circulated daily updates and situation reports. In addition, the Office developed and coordinated protection components of the Flash Appeal, in May, and incorporated funding for projects addressing child protection, service provision for GBV survivors, mental health, housing and land and property. It also ensured that programmes to monitor and document violations of international law during the escalation were included in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and the oPt Humanitarian Fund. Moreover, the Office led the Protection Sector’s annual needs analysis and response planning through extensive consultations with implementing partners, thereby contributing to the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and the 2022 HRP. It was also responsible for the implementation of the 2021 HRP Protection Response. OHCHR ensured that protection, including human rights and international humanitarian law, remained central to the humanitarian context analysis. During the May escalation, the Office activated the Protection Cluster’s Contingency Plan and Emergency Preparedness Response for Gaza and supported the implementation of the Gaza Inter-Agency Contingency Plan. The Office organized a lessons learned exercise regarding the emergency response, in May, and contributed to the OCHA-led After Action Review. The lessons learned reports will be used to revise the 2022 Emergency Preparedness Plan and simulation exercises. Finally, the Office produced its first protection analysis update, in line with the new Protection Analysis Framework that was developed by the Global Protection Cluster, which served as pilot experience for the Framework and closely contributed to its development.

## SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

<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>
18.28 million	185,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.567 (rank: 151/189 in 2019) -	-
<b>Type of engagement</b>		Country Office	
<b>Year established</b>		2018	
<b>Field office(s)</b>		Based in Beirut, Lebanon with presence in Gaziantep, Turkey and Amman, Jordan	
<b>UN partnership framework</b>		-	
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2021</b>		16	
<b>XB income</b>		<b>US\$1,430,492</b>	
<b>XB requirements 2021</b>		<b>US\$4,941,000</b>	
<b>XB expenditure</b>		<b>US\$2,809,341</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>		<b>Non-personnel PSC<sup>4</sup></b>	
<b>83%</b>		<b>8%</b>	
\$2,317,607		\$231,005	
		\$260,729	

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

#### **16**

OHCHR contributed to the extent to which the peace missions integrate international human rights norms, standards and principles and the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms into their work.

Over the course of the year, the Office produced the legal note on the “Accountability in Syria under the Convention against

Torture: The Joint Canada/Netherlands’ Initiative,” which was disseminated in English and Arabic. It also prepared a number of ad hoc advisory documents for its UN, diplomatic and civil society partners on topics such as sieges, returns and economic and social rights.

In addition, OHCHR shared its data and analysis with UN partners, including the OSE, on topics that are relevant to their respective mandates, including detention, abduction and missing persons; the situation in areas of shifting control; economic and social rights; protection and human rights concerns arising in the al-Hol camp and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Office's long-standing work on detention and missing persons was a particular focus in its 2021 programming and it reached out regularly to OSE and the ICRC around its work in this area. These two agencies are key members of a forum of international actors that the Office has been working with for more than four years to strengthen communication among stakeholders. OHCHR organized two collective meetings with forum members, in February and June, and maintained quarterly (or more frequent) bilateral meetings with each agency. OHCHR's messaging on this issue was reflected in public statements delivered by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and in interventions of the High Commissioner, Deputy High Commissioner and other senior officials at General Assembly meetings, the Fifth Brussels Conference on "Supporting the future of Syria and the region" and other activities. Furthermore, the Office developed a briefing on the right to know the truth about the circumstances of an enforced disappearance and the fate of a disappeared person in order to help Syrian and international counterparts understand the legal framework of this right.

**A3 – Accountability initiatives address sexual and gender-based violence. Syrian civil society has increased its capacity to monitor SGBV and associated violations.**



OHCHR contributed to strengthening protection mechanisms and accountability for SGBV, including through advocacy work.

OHCHR supported Syrian civil society to know their rights in this area. In September, the Office organized a two-day online training on international mechanisms and resolutions for the promotion, protection

and advancement of women's rights. A total of 21 participants, including 14 women and seven men from 11 organizations, attended the workshop. The workshop covered a variety of topics, including the concept of gender and gender-based violence, an introduction to CEDAW, international human rights mechanisms for the protection of women's rights, the SDGs and its interlinkages with human rights and gender and an introduction to Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. In 2022, the Office will be working bilaterally to follow up with the participants and provide support.

OHCHR has long emphasized the gender-based impact of detention and enforced disappearance in Syria and consistently highlights its specific impact on women and girls in its public advocacy and messaging. This was further elaborated during a three-day workshop, in September, with family associations and other Syrian CSOs on applying an HRBA to their advocacy and programming, including through the use of the international human rights mechanisms to raise their claims. Such activities are an important element in the Office's cross-cutting programming on missing persons across all units. Substantial progress was reported in 2021, with an escalated momentum in the call for an independent mechanism to clarify the fate and whereabouts of missing persons. This culminated in the adoption by the General Assembly Third Committee of a resolution that tasks OHCHR with undertaking a study to bolster efforts in this area.

For Human Rights Day, the Office organized an online roundtable on "Equality and the right to health in Syria," during which Syrian CSOs were invited to present their work and concerns on issues of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and in relation to

persons with disabilities. The Deputy High Commissioner and the Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria made opening remarks, which were followed by statements from key guest speakers, including the OHCHR Disability Adviser, the UNFPA Regional Adviser, international NGOs and Syrian CSOs working on these issues. A pre-recorded message from the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences was relayed to participants.



## Participation

**P4 – The civic space in the Syrian Arab Republic has expanded, enabling civil society actors and victims' rights groups to defend human rights in a safe and enabling environment.**



OHCHR facilitated the engagement of CSOs working inside and outside of Syria with the international human rights mechanisms.

The Office's work with Syrian civil society remained robust in 2021. Particular emphasis was placed on supporting the sub-granting process for five grassroots Syrian CSOs working inside the country. More specifically, the Office worked with an implementing partner to provide technical and financial assistance and mentoring to organizations implementing community-level HRBA projects in government-held areas. OHCHR sought to engage organizations inside Syria that have had less access to international expertise and capacity-building opportunities as those abroad. Selected projects addressed issues such as social cohesion, women's rights and child protection. OHCHR

organized a series of roundtables for CSOs on the rights of the child and their protection; effective advocacy strategies, including social media; international human rights mechanisms and resolutions for the promotion, protection and advancement of women's rights; and risk assessment and security training. A total of 66 individuals (49 women, 17 men) participated in the roundtables.

This process is paving the way for new partnerships between the Office and a broader array of local organizations, including CSOs undertaking capacity-building for other groups, with a view to promoting this methodology as a valuable entry point to human rights work in a context that is marked by restricted civic space. While the preparation of a publication was anticipated, the Office temporarily deferred this activity due to the timeframe required for the completion of the projects.

In 2022, OHCHR will build on this work by organizing a new round of sub-grants to support grassroots Syrian CSO programming.

To support engagement in Syria's third UPR cycle, scheduled in January 2022, the Office organized three trainings to facilitate the participation of Syrian CSOs. A total of three online trainings were held, in March, for nearly 70 CSO representatives working with organizations based inside and outside of Syria. Following the trainings, at least nine CSOs submitted organization-specific alternative reports and additional organizations contributed to joint reports. The Office also facilitated a meeting, in December, during which CSOs presented their concerns to Member States.

Furthermore, OHCHR renewed its capacity-building support for CSOs in relation to monitoring and documentation with a three-day training, in December, for 18 participants based inside and outside of

Syria. The Office conducted two thematic workshops in 2021. The first workshop focused on international human rights mechanisms for CSOs working on women's rights and gender issues and the second elaborated on the HRBA for those working on enforced disappearance. These activities were complemented by a three-day training on monitoring and evaluation.

Dedicated support was offered to Gaziantep-based organizations through the long-established Human Rights Reference Group (HRRG), which held bimonthly meetings throughout 2021. Established to provide a space for Syrian human rights NGOs to share information with humanitarian actors, the HRRG meetings addressed topics such as the engagement of the international human rights mechanisms on key economic and social rights, gender equality and the Office's forthcoming work on Leaving No One Behind.



## Peace and Security

**PS4 – Syria has embarked on a process which appropriately integrates a gender perspective in order to meaningfully address the past, with support from the international community.**

16



OHCHR contributed to the extent to which transitional justice mechanisms that conform to international human rights norms and standards are in place and/or functioning.

OHCHR retained its programmatic focus on missing persons as a key priority, cutting across all programming areas. The Office maintained a strong gender perspective in its reporting, analysis and advocacy messaging given the gendered harms of enforced disappearance. Specifically, the

Office included this issue as a key theme within its monitoring and reporting activities. OHCHR took steps to strengthen the work of family associations and other CSOs by encouraging the application of an HRBA to their programming and advocacy and the use of OHCHR's platform to amplify their messages.

The Office convened regular inter-agency discussions of UN and non-UN actors (the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (CoI), the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, OSE, ICRC and the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP)) that are working on issues related to detainees and missing persons in Syria. Furthermore, it organized a high-level meeting between OHCHR, the CoI and OSE on the mechanism and convened a meeting of Member States, in May, so that family associations could present diplomats with their vision of how this issue should be addressed.

Moreover, OHCHR developed inclusive transitional justice-related messaging that emphasized the importance of the right to know the truth and accountability. It also provided materials to support the call of the families for the establishment of a mechanism to clarify the fate and whereabouts of those who have gone missing.

Finally, the Office focused on this issue in public and private advocacy initiatives, such as the 10-year statement by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the delivery of high-level messages at the Fifth Brussels Conference and the production of a web story on missing persons in Syria.

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



OHCHR contributed to the extent to which humanitarian operations integrate into their work the international human rights norms, standards and principles and the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

OHCHR succeeded in securing greater support from humanitarian leadership and partners to include human rights issues in their response based on verified monitoring information and data gathered in their Syria response. More specifically, stronger language that reflects international human rights law and international humanitarian law was used in key humanitarian documents, including the Humanitarian Needs Overview and the Humanitarian Response Plan. In addition, a humanitarian leadership Protection Advocacy Plan was adopted. Moreover, the Office contributed to the improved use of relevant legal norms by these partners, within the framework of their respective mandates.

Specifically, OHCHR supported the UNCT's revision of the United Nations Strategic Framework, the preparation of the Collaborative Risk Management Strategy, an update of the Risk Register and the report on the COVID-19 Socio-economic Impact Assessment. OHCHR also provided support to the UNCT sub-structures, including the Resident Coordinator's Office, the Project Management Team and the Working Groups on gender, the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and risk management.

The Office also worked with senior humanitarians to strengthen advocacy messaging in response to crisis situations, such as reduced water levels in the Euphrates River, civilian casualties in Al Atareb and Aleppo City, severe interruptions at the Alouk Water Station, the situation in Afrin, including a strike on the al-Shifaa Hospital and increased hostilities in Dara'a.

OHCHR also supported the Humanitarian Liaison Group (HLG) meetings and the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) in Gaziantep by providing technical advice on international human rights law and international humanitarian law issues, including on protection-related developments in north-west Syria. Further, it participated in meetings of the Syrian Salvation Government (SSG), delivered written and oral updates on the situation in Syria, including in al-Hol and other areas of concern, and issued recommendations on required action to the co-chairs and humanitarian leadership.

Between April and June, the Office delivered nine briefings to UNCT members on the UPR process, the reporting framework and how to draft a report for consideration in the review. In August, it supported the submission of the UNCT's first joint report for inclusion in the *Compilation of UN Information* report.

Finally, OHCHR provided support for the revision/operationalization of the Humanitarian Coordinators' Protection Advocacy Plan, which was endorsed by the SSG, in June. OHCHR worked with Whole of Syria (WoS) stakeholders to identify key protection issues that will be emphasized in forthcoming high-level advocacy initiatives and operations, including: 1) protection of civilians in the conduct of hostilities; 2) freedom of

movement; 3) mitigating risks of gender-based violence; and 4) addressing explosive ordnance. OHCHR's suggestion to table a regular protection briefing at SSG meetings was endorsed. Despite the ongoing provision of technical guidance and support to the Humanitarian Coordinators and WoS Protection Sector, the SSG delayed the decision to table the protection item on its agenda that was endorsed in June.



**TUNISIA**

<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>
11.94 million	164,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.740 (rank: 95/189 in 2019)	B Status (2009)
<b>Type of engagement</b>	Country Office		
<b>Year established</b>	2011		
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Tunis		
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2021-2025		
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2021</b>	18		

<b>XB income</b>	<b>US\$579,267</b>		
<b>XB requirements 2021</b>	<b>US\$3,405,000</b>		
<b>XB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$1,145,421</b>		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC <sup>4</sup>	
<b>66%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>11%</b>	
\$753,977	\$259,638	\$131,806	

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:**

**Non-discrimination**

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



Through technical assistance provided to relevant partners, OHCHR supported the prevention of discrimination and the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities.

In the context of a project on the integration of an HRBA and economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs) in planning processes at the municipal level, the Office delivered its first workshop, in April, with one of the two pilot municipalities, Menzel Bouzelfa. Nearly 25 attendees participated in the workshop, including persons with disabilities, members of the municipality Council and leaders of youth networks. The workshop focused on ESCRs, the rights of persons with disabilities as enshrined in CRPD and national legislation related to the fundamental rights of persons with disabilities. In November, the Office organized a second workshop

with the Municipality of Menzel Bouzelfa on the application of a disability-inclusive approach to local policies, with the aim of supporting the development of an inclusive development programme. As a result of this work, persons with disabilities in Menzel Bouzelfa have increased their participation in municipal-level decision-making fora.

Furthermore, in September, OHCHR supported a group of women with disabilities from Tunis, Sfax, Gabes and Gafsa governorates in the process of creating the first association of women with disabilities in Tunisia. The Office facilitated two training sessions for 21 women representatives from CSOs on the legal framework for disability services and support associations in Tunisia and on the rights of persons with disabilities and relevant national legislation.

**Peace and Security**

**PS2 – The State develops and implements policies and practices to counter terrorism and violent extremism that are in compliance with international human rights standards and relevant UN resolutions and guidelines and ensures that civil society participates meaningfully in this process.**



Through training and awareness-raising activities, OHCHR aimed to support the increased compliance of policies on counter-terrorism and violent extremism with international human rights norms and standards, and to promote societal dialogue based on tolerance and inclusion.

On 7 April, the Office launched a joint project with UNESCO on “Empowering the education system and school communities



through the promotion of human rights, global citizenship education and media literacy.” The project, through the mainstreaming of human rights language and concepts, aims to build the capacity of the national education system and community education actors to prevent violence and hate speech among youth, while also supporting Tunisia in implementing its National Action Plan on the Prevention of Violent Extremism.

The Office continued to support the National Counter-Terrorism Commission, including by facilitating a consultation between the Commission and civil society that was co-organized with UNDP to review the National Strategy to Combat Violent Extremism and Terrorism for 2022-2026.

**PS4 – The Specialized Criminal Chambers, the Government, the Parliament and civil society are equipped to fulfil their respective mandates and roles with regard to the transitional justice process.**

**16** 

OHCHR continued advocating for the pursuit of the transitional justice process in Tunisia.

The final list of 126 martyrs and 634 wounded during the revolution was published on 19 March in the Official Journal of the Tunisian Republic. It has been more than five years since the list was published by the Higher Committee for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. OHCHR delivered the initial training, as required by law, to the judiciary of the Specialized Criminal Chambers. It also supported CSOs in their monitoring of the transitional justice-related trials. To date, no judgments have been handed down.

On 10 December, the Office and Lawyers Without Borders co-organized an event, in the Delegation of Gaafour, to commemorate the implementation of one of the recommendations outlined in the final report of the Truth and Dignity Commission, namely, the establishment of a museum that is dedicated to the fight against torture. The museum is housed in the premises of the police station where the martyr Nabil Baraketi was tortured and killed in 1987. Two public memorial stones bearing the names of the four martyrs of the region were installed and a theatre performance was held in front of the old Gaafour police station. More than 150 participants attended the event, including the Delegate of Gaafour, the President of the municipality, CSO representatives, the President and three members of the Truth and Dignity Commission, the former Cabinet Minister responsible for relations with Constitutional Bodies, Civil Society and Human Rights and the former Chief of the National Bar Association and former President of the General Authority of Resistance Fighters, Martyrs and Wounded of the Revolution and Terrorist Operations.



## Participation

**P7 – There is increasing public recognition of the importance of human rights education. Public education helps learners to develop effective responses to violence, including terrorism and violent extremism.**

**1 2 3 4 5 10 16**

OHCHR contributed to increased levels of engagement by the religious community in support of human rights.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding between UN Human Rights and the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Office supported the Ministry and the Union of Imams in organizing a series of three workshops for a total of 73 imams preachers and professional worship staff from across the country, including 23 women, dedicated to freedom of expression and countering hate speech. The workshops aimed at reinforcing the understanding of the imams about international standards on freedom of expression and the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence. It also sought to enhance their ability to identify, prevent and/or counter hate speech, with the aim to contribute to the promotion of pluralism and non-discrimination within their communities.



## Accountability

**A2 – The National Preventive Mechanism is operational and delivers its mandate in compliance with international human rights standards.**

**10 16**

OHCHR supported the increased compliance of the NPM with international human rights standards on the prevention of torture and ill-treatment in places of deprivation of liberty.

In 2021, the NPM proactively pursued its mandate to monitor prison facilities and issued several public statements to express its concerns, particularly in relation to the police handling of and response to the January riots, cases of torture allegedly committed by the Internal Security Forces and suspicious deaths that occurred in detention. In April, the Office and the NPM undertook the first joint visit to the prison of Borj El Amri in the Manouba Governorate, with a focus on the conditions of detention, including issues of overcrowding, due process standards and family visits. Several recommendations were made to the Director of the prison at the end of the visit.

**A3 – Judges assigned to cases that involve gender-based violence are trained on the application of national legislation, in compliance with international human rights standards.**

**5 10 16**

OHCHR continued to develop the capacity of the judiciary to use national and international accountability mechanisms to address gender-based violence.

In December, the Office completed and publicly launched a study on the status of the implementation of Law No. 58-2017 on violence against women by the justice sector. It also contributed to a special session dedicated to the examination of the Law, which was organized at the request of the Parliament. More specifically, the Office delivered a session to Members of Parliament on relevant international human rights standards. Furthermore, at the request of the Ministry of Justice, the Office provided 28 courts of first instance with copies of the Guide and a Trainer's Manual that were issued in 2019 and 2020, respectively, as part of a comprehensive capacity-building programme for judges. The publications provide examples of good practices of fighting gender stereotypes and adjudicating cases of violence against women.

**YEMEN**

<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>
30.49 million	528,000 km <sup>2</sup>	0.470 (rank: 179/189 in 2019) -	
<b>Type of engagement</b>	Country Office		
<b>Year established</b>	2012		
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Sana'a, Aden		
<b>UN partnership framework</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2024		
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2021</b>	15		

<b>XB income</b>	<b>US\$4,384,518</b>		
<b>XB requirements 2021</b>	<b>US\$8,612,000</b>		
<b>XB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$3,841,483</b>		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC <sup>4</sup>	
<b>58%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>11%</b>	
\$2,216,854	\$1,181,245	\$443,384	

**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 – National institutions, including the Ministry of Interior's Corrections and Rehabilitation Authority and the Yemeni National Commission to Investigate Alleged Violations of Human Rights (NCIAVHR), curb human rights violations.**

**16**

OHCHR continued to improve accountability and strengthen the capacity of NCIAVHR.

Between February and June, OHCHR held capacity-building sessions for staff

of NCIAVHR on administrative support, including logistics, procurement, finance and human resources. Under the International Development Law Organization project, OHCHR delivered online training on the investigation of violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. In November, a dedicated training was delivered to 38 field monitors, in Aden, which included information about stress management related to human rights work. OHCHR also contributed to strengthening the IT capacities of NCIAVHR through the installation of new hardware and software to enable improved support for the Commission's field monitors.

In September, OHCHR facilitated a mission to Geneva of nine committee members to increase their understanding of the work and modalities of the international human rights mechanisms, including by engaging with the international human rights experts. On this occasion, the committee members met with members of the international community in Geneva, presented NCIAVHR's 9th annual report and outlined the activities planned for the biennium 2021-2022.

**Participation**

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

**8 16**

OHCHR contributed to increased levels of engagement by the religious community in support of human rights.

In July, OHCHR organized a workshop for Government counterparts and CSOs on the reporting cycle and drafting alternative reports to the CEDAW Committee. OHCHR also supported national partners in the preparation of progress reports and engaged the National Committee for Women and Ministry of Human Rights and Legal Affairs (MOHRLA) to discuss the status of recommendations issued by CEDAW during the previous reporting cycle. In Aden, OHCHR facilitated the engagement of the Civil Alliance for Rights and Feminism (CARF) in the work of CEDAW, which resulted in the submission of an alternative report.

In November, OHCHR convened the fifth meeting of the Human Rights Network to discuss its mission statement and future activities. This is a recently established coalition of six Aden-based CSOs and individuals that provides a platform

for networking and discussions on substantive human rights issues. At the same time, OHCHR's Senior Minority Fellow continued to engage representatives from various religious minorities (i.e., Christian converts, Jews, Bahai, Ismailis) and the Muhamasheen minority on human rights issues. As a result, preparations are ongoing to launch a minority rights platform in 2022 with a public event in Cairo.

During the year, OHCHR improved the knowledge and skills on the promotion and protection of human rights of more than 300 CSOs, including human rights defenders, by disseminating information on the work of the international human rights mechanisms, documenting violations and providing other relevant resources.



## Participation

### P5 – The capacity of CSOs to promote and protect human rights is strengthened.



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

Following the escalation of the conflict, many organizations closed and activists fled the country or resumed their operations outside the country. OHCHR continued to document restrictions on civic space and to analyse the impacts of COVID-19 on freedom of expression across the country.

Throughout the year, OHCHR documented 29 incidents of violations of freedom of expression and opinion, including four killings, three injuries, 10 detentions, two arrests, three employment dismissals and seven raids of media outlets that resulted in a confiscation of goods and ultimate closure.



## Peace and Security

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



OHCHR continued to strengthen the capacities of relevant authorities of the Government of Yemen by monitoring, documenting and reporting on human rights violations, including those affecting vulnerable groups, with a focus on detention facilities.

From January to November, OHCHR documented a total of 1,420 human rights violations and 643 incidents, including 883 civilian casualties, 290 cases of arbitrary detention, six cases of enforced disappearance, 29 violations of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, 24 cases of gender-based violence and 188 attacks against civilian objects. In addition, between January and September, OHCHR referred 208 victims to protection partners for assistance, including legal aid, medical assistance, access to shelter, non-food items, psychosocial support and financial support.

Three fact-finding missions took place in the Governorates of Marib, Saad'a and Al-Dhaleh. Despite the challenges resulting from COVID-19 restrictions, OHCHR visited the Shabwah Criminal Investigation Prison (Shabwah Governorate), in March, and the Al Mansoura Central Prison (Aden Governorate), in November. After the latter visit, OHCHR reported its observations and recommendations on improving

detention conditions to the Ministry of Interior and the Office of the Attorney General.

In addition, OHCHR promoted joint advocacy efforts and engaged authorities, NCIHVHR, CSOs, the UN system and members of the international community on the promotion and protection of human rights in Yemen. This included press statements and inputs to the reports of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary-General on issues related to violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, the death penalty, the rights of minorities, reprisals, the rights of persons with disabilities and freedom of religion and belief. In partnership with UNICEF, training workshops were organized on the monitoring and reporting mechanisms of grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict, in Aden and Sanaa, in August and October, respectively.

Finally, OHCHR supported the early informal translation and dissemination of the concluding observations issued by CEDAW following its consideration of Yemen's seventh and eighth periodic reports. In December, OHCHR participated in the Fourth Feminist Summit, held in Aden, and contributed to discussions regarding the formulation of Yemen's next National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, which is anticipated to be renewed in 2022 with support from an adviser seconded to UNDP and working with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

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

<b>Type of engagement</b>	Regional Centre
<b>Countries of engagement</b>	Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, State of Palestine, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen
<b>Year established</b>	2009
<b>Field office(s)</b>	Doha, Qatar
<b>Staff as of 31 December 2021</b>	5

<b>XB income</b>	<b>US\$236,400</b>	
<b>XB requirements 2021</b>	<b>US\$720,000</b>	
<b>XB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$165,608</b>	
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC <sup>4</sup>
<b>56%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>12%</b>
\$93,426	\$53,130	\$19,052
<b>RB expenditure</b>	<b>US\$858,448</b>	
Personnel	Non-personnel	
<b>75%</b>	<b>25%</b>	
\$640,334	\$218,114	

### Key OMP pillars in 2021



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

## 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 the enhanced capacity of judges and other stakeholders to increase accountability for serious

violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

In February, UN Human Rights and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar co-organized a training on CAT for judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, prison staff, health officials and representatives of the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It aimed to improve the understanding of participants about the international legal framework for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading

treatment or punishment through the application of international standards and the use of UN tools in investigations and reporting. It also provided support to the Government to further develop its policies and practices and strengthen accountability measures.

OHCHR supported the UNAMI in delivering a training for CSOs on the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance and to enhance their capacities to address related issues. Participants were introduced to ICPED and the role of CSOs in supporting victims of enforced disappearance and their families, as well as the obligations of the Government to follow up on the recommendations issued by the Committee on Enforced Disappearances. Furthermore, OHCHR delivered a training to Iraqi officials to develop their capacities to handle cases of enforced disappearance, encourage follow-up on recommendations issued by the Committee and emphasize the importance of submitting Iraq's State Party report on time. The training was attended by officials from law enforcement, security, intelligence, forensics and judicial bodies.

In an effort to provide stakeholders with access to key publications, which are also used in trainings, UN Human Rights published *The general comments of the Committee against Torture*; the *Updated set of principles relating to the protection and promotion of human rights through taking action to combat impunity*; and *The basic principles and guidelines on the right to a remedy and reparation for victims of gross violations of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law*. Additionally, OHCHR translated into Arabic the *Guidance on casualty recording*; and *Preventing torture: The*

role of National Preventive Mechanisms. It also reviewed the Arabic translation of the *Manual on human rights monitoring*; and the *Resource book on the use of force and firearms in law enforcement*, both of which will be published in 2022.



## Mechanisms

**M1 – Stronger National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRFs), with a clear and comprehensive mandate, are established/promoted.**

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

UN Human Rights organized four online training workshops to foster the engagement of civil society during the UPR of the Syrian Arab Republic. Sixty-one participants (29 women, 32 men) attended from various CSOs operating in Syria, including women's rights groups. The participants received useful resource materials, such as a compilation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in relation to Syria.

As part of OHCHR's efforts to increase the engagement of CSOs with the international human rights system, OHCHR cooperated with the Geneva Institute for Human Rights to hold a virtual training programme for CSOs from 18 Member States in the Arab region. Participants were introduced to human rights terminology and the international human rights treaties. They were also provided with a general overview of the work and modalities of the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures, the Human Rights Council and the UPR as tools to promote

and protect human rights. The training also covered the regional and national human rights mechanisms, human rights indicators and links between human rights and the SDGs.

In addition, OHCHR organized a regional training on "Reporting to the human rights mechanisms and follow-up to recommendations," to increase the knowledge of participants regarding the preparation and drafting of State reports and the role and functions of NMRFs. It provided participants with tools and good practices related to follow-up on recommendations, which included an introduction to the Universal Human Rights Index (UHRI) and the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD). Thirty participants from 14 countries in the region attended the training.

OHCHR and the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions co-organized a training workshop, in Comoros, on "Introducing the international human rights system and establishing national human rights institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles." The workshop outlined the accreditation process of GANHRI and was attended by 40 participants, including representatives from the National Human Rights Committee, relevant line ministries, the Parliament, members of the judiciary, lawyers, CSOs, journalists and academics.

**M2 – CSOs, NHRIs and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.**

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

UN Human Rights collaborated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar to organize a training on "The Engagement of the State of Qatar with the international human rights mechanisms," to improve the knowledge and skills of participants on the engagement and implementation of the recommendations issued by those mechanisms. Participants were introduced to the contents and tools of the UN human rights system, including the international human rights treaties, with special emphasis on the work and functions of the CAT, CEDAW and CRPD Committees; the work and modalities of the Human Rights Council; the UPR; and the role and mandate of the special procedures, with a focus on the work of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. The participants were also introduced to human rights indicators and the UHRI.

In partnership with the League of Arab States, OHCHR organized the first phase of a training of trainers to strengthen the knowledge of participants about the international and regional human rights systems and mechanisms and thematic and non-thematic topics, including respecting human rights while countering terrorism, trafficking in persons, refugees and transitional justice.



During the reporting period, UN Human Rights produced a variety of guidance, reference and training materials, such as *Qatar's obligations under international human rights law* for the Human Rights Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar; *Recommendations made by the Universal Periodic Review to Mauritania*; and *Recommendations made by the special procedures to Mauritania*; and for the NHRI in Kuwait, *Status of ratifications, reporting status, reservations and declarations and objections to the main treaties ratified by Kuwait*; *Recommendations made to Kuwait by the human rights treaty bodies*; and *Recommendations made to Kuwait by the Universal Periodic Review*.

## Non-discrimination

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



OHCHR continued to enhance the knowledge of State institutions and other stakeholders on the rights of persons with disabilities and gender equality.

UN Human Rights and the Qatar Social Work Foundation co-organized a workshop on “The rights of persons with disabilities” for the staff members of several entities of the Foundation. The workshop focused on how to effectively engage with the international human

rights system, the guiding principles of CRPD, Qatar’s obligations under the Convention and its forthcoming State Party report and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society. Participants were also introduced to the mandate and work of the special procedures in relation to the rights of persons with disabilities, the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members and the human rights of persons with albinism. Also discussed at the workshop was the 2019 Doha Declaration and Roadmap “Toward greater complementarity between the UN CRPD and UN SDGs in the context of disability.”

Moreover, OHCHR collaborated with the Qatar Social Work Foundation to organize a training to strengthen the knowledge of participants on the principles of reporting to CRPD, the importance of using human rights indicators and the preparation of alternative reports to CRPD.

OHCHR organized and delivered a workshop on a “Human rights-based approach to advocacy” for Syrian CSOs working on women’s rights and gender-related issues. The workshop aimed to build their capacities to apply a HRBA and develop a results-based framework that focuses on planning and advocacy.

A roundtable was organized on “Gender stereotypes in educational curricula” to facilitate an exchange of experiences and prepare a road map for the integration of a gender perspective into educational curricula and textbooks as part of a wider objective to combat gender stereotypes and foster human rights education in primary and secondary school systems. Thirty-six participants from 12 countries in the region were in attendance.

A second roundtable was organized for representatives of various ministries of education in the Arab region to provide an opportunity for discussion, evaluate educational curricula from a gender perspective and propose practical recommendations regarding methods and measures to address gender stereotypes in these curricula. The roundtable led to the creation of a road map for the integration of a gender perspective, the elimination of gender stereotypes and the introduction of a gender-neutral curricula. A total of 47 participants from eight countries in the region attended the roundtable.

OHCHR also organized an online training on the role of young WHRDs in human rights monitoring and reporting and on international human rights standards and mechanisms relevant to women’s rights and WHRDs. In the first half of the training, participants were introduced to the concept of gender-based discrimination, the international legal framework for the protection of women’s rights under CEDAW and the role of the CEDAW Committee and the special procedures. The second part of the training covered principles related to human rights monitoring, documentation, collecting information, reporting on human rights violations and interactions between the international human rights system and civil society. Thirty-five participants representing 12 countries in the region took part in the training.

## Participation

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

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OHCHR worked closely with State institutions, NHRIs and CSOs to ensure that an HRBA is integrated into their programmes and activities, including in COVID-19 responses.

UN Human Rights organized a roundtable on “Challenges to the right to information and ways to provide more guarantees” for 75 participants, including journalists, legal professionals, NHRIs, CSOs, human rights activists and postgraduate students. OHCHR and experts from the region introduced and discussed guarantees and standards under international humanitarian law regarding the right to information, the right to participate in public affairs and the status of the right to information in the Arab region. Discussions also touched on ways to provide safeguards, ensure access to information during armed conflict and address challenges to hate speech and the right to information during the pandemic.

OHCHR organized a training of trainers on guidelines regarding the right to participate in public affairs for UN staff from Arab-speaking field presences. The training aimed to enable participants to deliver workshops to develop the capacities of national actors in relation to the right to participate.

Targeting stakeholders, including government actors, civil society, academia, journalists and human rights defenders, UN Human Rights printed and distributed the Arabic version of *Guidelines for States on the effective implementation of the right to participate in public affairs*. It also published and translated into Arabic a number of relevant training materials, including *Evaluating the impact of human rights training: Guidance on developing indicators*; and *Evaluating human rights training activities: Workshop guide*.