



United Nations Human Rights Report 2020



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

**United Nations
Human Rights
Report 2020**



Credits

In memoriam

UN Human Rights staff members, Habib Nasri, Malaz Wagialla Osman Wagialla and Wellington Pinzón, who passed away in 2020.

With special recognition to staff members who lost loved ones in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and were unable to return home due to their deployment.

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Saliou Dian Diaby, a student involved in Guinea's "Building Back Better" campaign, at an awareness-raising activity in Kipé, Conakry, on Children's Rights Day, 20 November 2020.
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Foreword by the High Commissioner



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2020 was a harrowing year for people around the world. The COVID-19 pandemic raced across pre-existing fault lines in every society, exploiting and enlarging human rights gaps. From discrimination and inequalities in access to core rights and services, such as health care and social protections, to the censorship of criticism – which undermines sound policy and erodes public trust – lethal vulnerabilities have been created.

As we at the UN Human Rights Office stepped up our monitoring and developed new strategies, working methods and data-based analytic tools to anchor human rights in responses to the pandemic, it became obvious that our significant experience in combating discrimination and inequalities makes us highly qualified to help societies to not only recover from the immediate medical and socio-economic wounds – but also to repair key underlying weaknesses.

I am proud of the speed and efficacy with which we shifted to pandemic operations so that we could continue implementing almost all of our planned work – even in the face of budget restrictions – while also addressing the many new challenges posed by the global pandemic with respect to human rights.

This Annual Report outlines a wide variety of examples. We mapped the needs of groups with unequal access to social protection and health care in countries such as Serbia, Ukraine and other European States where vulnerable groups included Roma people, persons with disabilities, homeless people and LGBTI persons. In Serbia, we worked with national partners,

The COVID-19 pandemic raced across pre-existing fault-lines in every society, exploiting and enlarging human rights gaps.

including civil society, Roma representatives and government officials, to produce a deep dive assessment of over 700 Roma settlements – some of them lacking electricity, clean water and sewage systems. This could prove transformative, enabling both the United Nations and national authorities to step up delivery of targeted support.

We provided UN Country Teams across every region with support from development and economic and social rights experts to address the impacts of COVID-19, develop methodologies and present policy options aimed at enhancing revenue generation, social spending and social protection.

Our field presences monitored the situation of older persons and migrants, including many trapped at borders or held in migrant detention centres, for instance in Bolivia, Guatemala and Panama. We also advocated for better access to health care and crucial services for persons with disabilities.

Across nine countries in West Africa, we rapidly mapped differential and often intersectional vulnerabilities based on

gender in order to collect quality data and inform the adoption of human rights-based policy. We also worked with groups of *talibé* children in street situations, who were forced to beg and faced exposure to violence and COVID-19 infection, to integrate them into families or childcare.

In every region, we consistently advocated for medical experts, journalists, human rights defenders and the general public to be able to speak out without fear or censorship. Participation in public decisions is a right. It is also key to shaping better, more effective policies through frank and continuous feedback. And it is the only way to build public trust – which is crucial to navigating any crisis.

We supported increased engagement by civil society and key partners to ensure that any policy is better informed and more effective. Last year, 126 civil society organizations from across Somalia submitted a joint report for their country's third Universal Periodic Review, a coalition of 27 CSOs submitted the first alternative report on Jamaica and Rohingya groups living in the Cox's Bazar refugee camps issued the first UPR report on the situation of Rohingya people in Myanmar.

In Mexico, we helped to set up a Climate Justice Network with more than 25 civil society groups, which issued a joint proposal to the Ministry of Environment that included specific recommendations regarding the integration of human rights into the country's commitments under the Paris Agreement.

And globally, we developed and distributed extensive and practical policy and technical guidance to ensure that human rights are situated at the heart of the COVID-19 response and recovery efforts of States, UN partners, national human rights institutions and civil society. By embedding human rights recommendations within the UN's Common Country Analyses and Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and developing detailed checklists and other evidence-based tools, we helped to translate the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights into practical action – leveraging the full power of the UN family in support of life-saving human rights goals on the ground.

In these pages, you may be surprised to discover a wealth of human stories – stories that highlight the impact of our training programme for human rights defenders in Thailand; provide insights into our work with indigenous communities and business actors in Cambodia and with victims of torture in Lebanon; outline why we have strengthened a partnership with the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs; and feature our efforts with WHO and Oxford University to launch a series spotlighting comprehensive sexuality education, contraception, maternal mortality and morbidity and violence against women.

You will also find people speaking out about the need to revisit and reform laws in Sudan; details about our work with Latin American judiciaries to dismantle harmful stereotypes about women and ensure that legal decisions are based

on facts and not beliefs about the roles of women and men; the importance of supporting Syrian civil society actors in their struggle to claim their rights; and how one woman in Kenya, whose child was suffering from lead poisoning, led her community to a groundbreaking court case that may durably alter conditions in communities poisoned by toxic chemicals from extractive industries.

For this – and more – we have many to thank, beginning with you, our donors. Last year, you contributed to our highest-ever level of voluntary financial support, and we, like those who benefit from our work, are truly grateful.

I am convinced that at this crucial moment in history, the work we do can help save societies, economies and individuals from shattering injustice. And I trust that we can continue to count on your support as we look to the future.

Thank you for standing up for human rights.




Michelle Bachelet
High Commissioner for Human Rights


May 2021

UN Human Rights in 2020 Facts and figures

MEMBER STATES COOPERATION

 **Human Rights Council**
97 resolutions adopted

 **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**
28 UPR outcomes adopted


Treaty bodies 
12 treaty actions
(2 signatures, 5 ratifications,
5 accessions)

 **Special procedures**
13 country visits (hosted
by 12 governments)


 **Documentation**
2,818 official documents
(submitted for meetings of the GA, ECOSOC
and the international human rights mechanisms)

97 State Party reports received
39 reviewed (and 1 review by CED
under its additional review procedure)

PEOPLE-CENTRED

 **Humanitarian Funds**
Direct assistance and
rehabilitation provided to
40,443 victims of
torture (in 78 countries)
15,371 victims of
contemporary forms of slavery
(in 33 countries)

 **Fellowship Programmes**
61 persons with
enhanced capacities
(39 women and 22 men from
communities of indigenous peoples,
people of African descent and
minorities from 37 countries)

 **Committee on Enforced
Disappearances (CED)**
189 new urgent actions
registered

CIVIL SOCIETY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

 **Participation in Human Rights Council sessions**
1,939 oral
statements by
civil society
organizations (CSOs)
45 statements
by national human
rights institutions
(NHRIs)
520 civil society written
statements (50% included
details on COVID-19 impacts on
human rights)

 **Engagement in the field**
More than **1,650**
partnerships established/
enhanced (with CSOs and
human rights defenders)

 **Submissions to reviews
by treaty bodies**
307 from CSOs
30 from NHRIs

UN PARTNERS COLLABORATION

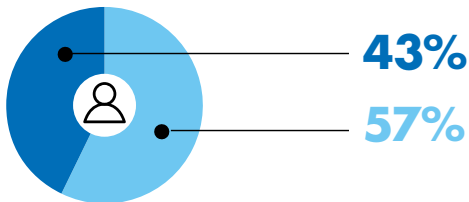
 **UN Country Teams**
43 human rights
advisers deployed

 **UN Peace Missions**
12 human rights
components (501 staff
supported by UN
Human Rights)

Global presence in 2020



Staff distribution by category

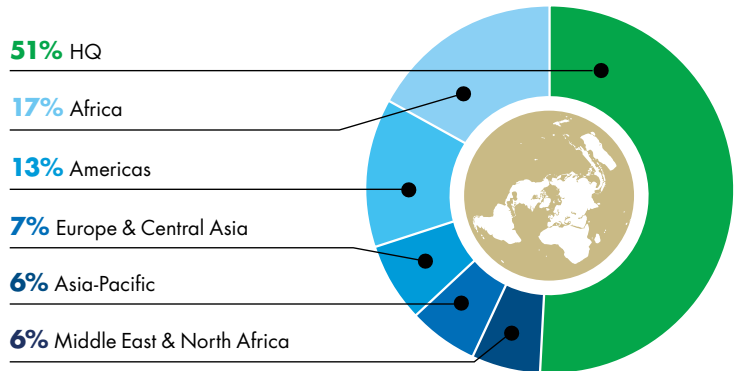


● national staff ● international staff

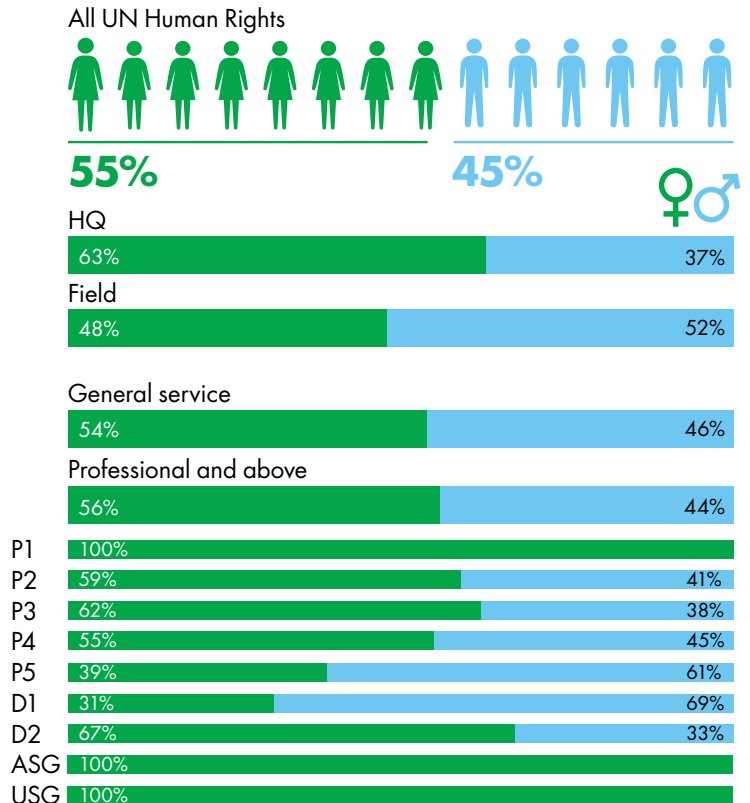


Notes: The data include all UN Human Rights and UNDP-administered staff in the General Service, National Officer, Professional and higher categories on temporary, permanent, continuing and fixed-term appointments. Locally recruited staff in the General Service category are considered as national staff. HQ includes staff at the Geneva and New York locations.

Staff distribution by location at HQ and in the field



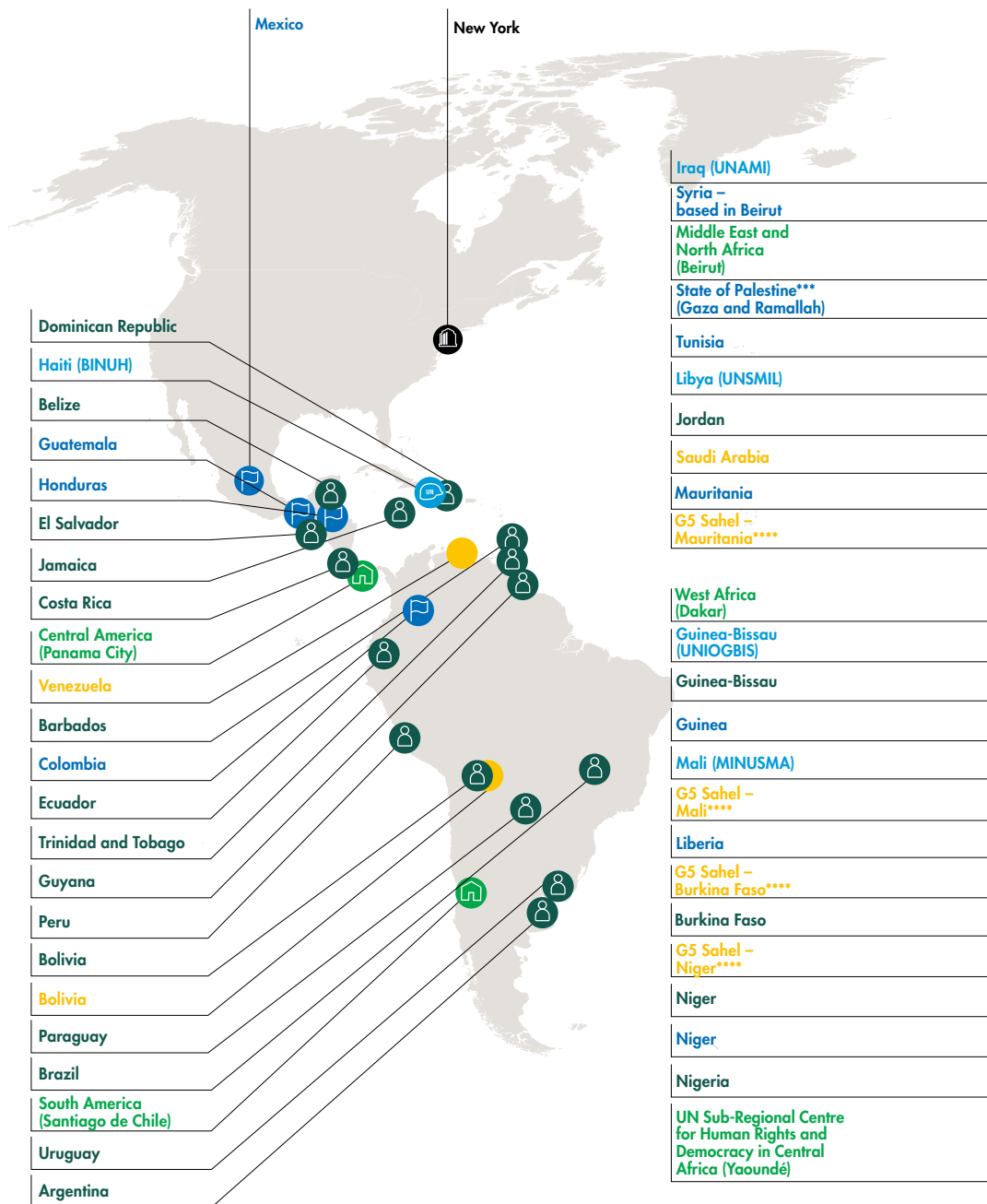
Staff distribution by gender

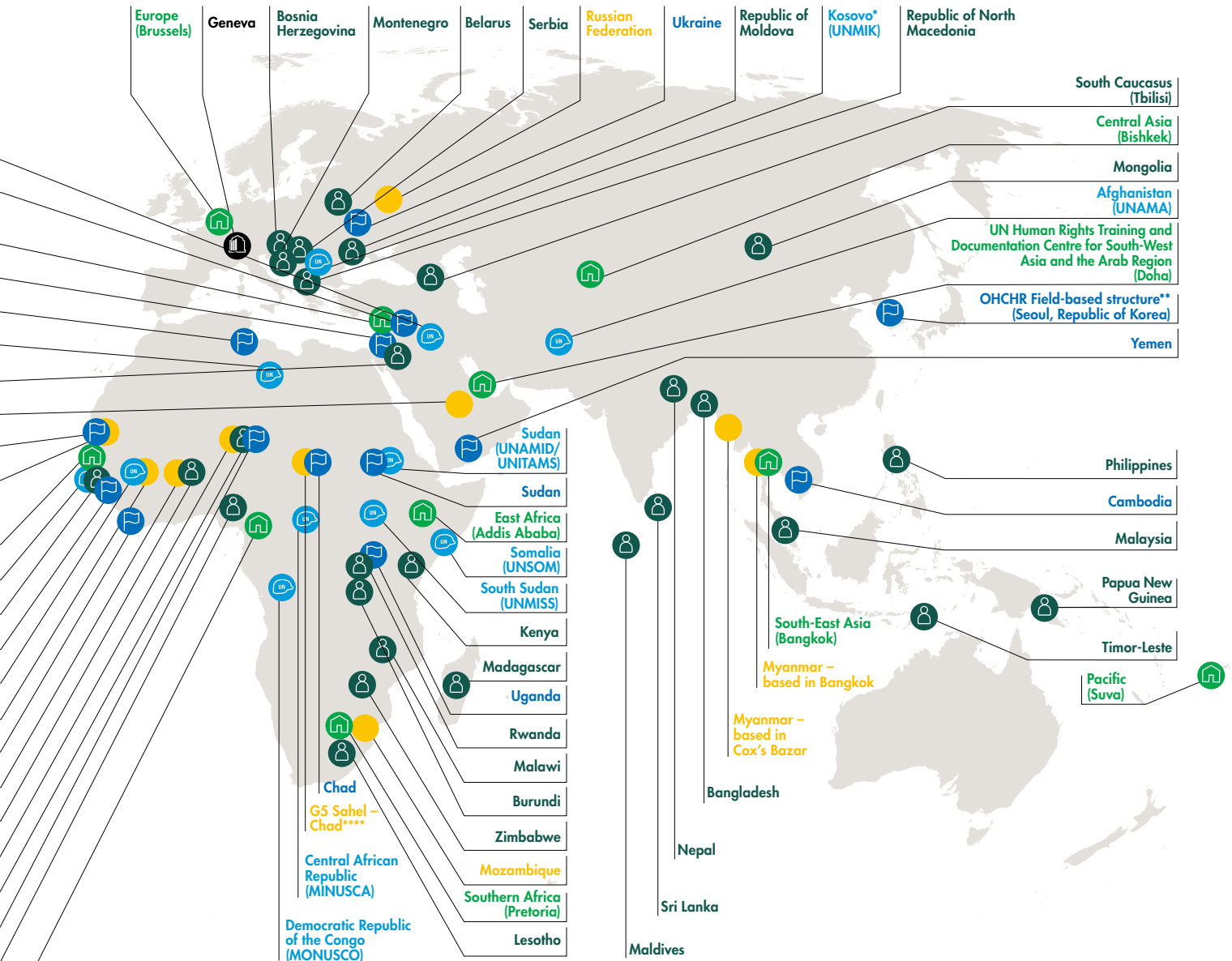


UN Human Rights around the world in 2020

2 + **92**
 HQ locations field presences

-  **2** Headquarters
-  **18** Country/Stand-alone Offices/ Human Rights Missions
-  **12** Regional Offices/Centres
-  **12** Human rights components of UN Peace/Political Missions
-  **43** Human Rights Advisers deployed under the framework of the UNSDG
-  **7** Other types of field presences





* Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

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

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

**** G5 Sahel Joint Force Compliance Framework Project (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger).

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



Highlights of results



UN Human Rights team visiting Mayan weavers in Santiago Sacatepéquez, Guatemala. The Office purchased and distributed 3,000 masks featuring traditional weaving patterns to support local economic development, protect collective intellectual property rights and help fight COVID-19. © OHCHR

COVID-19 response and recovery: “Build Back Better”

Three lessons of COVID-19 – by the High Commissioner

Before we begin our discussion of the Office’s work on key aspects of the pandemic, let me outline what I see as the three lessons of COVID-19 to date.

LESSON ONE

COVID-19 zeroed in on the social and economic fractures created by gaps in human rights protection. As a result of these fault lines, the pandemic moved through societies with accelerated speed, unmasking the profound fragilities created by discrimination and inequalities – not only for the individuals concerned, but for everyone. If those fractures had been fixed, the scale of the medical pandemic, and the vast socio-economic shocks it created, could have been less devastating. Long-standing failures to eradicate discrimination, address inequalities and **prioritize the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights**, made societies exceedingly vulnerable.

LESSON TWO

The pandemic clearly demonstrated the powerful and effective protection that is afforded by human rights-based policies and measures. Some countries could count on pre-existing systems to deliver affordable and accessible health care

and well-established social protections to shield people from the worst impacts of the economic and social aftershocks. These investments provided practical, life-saving relief. Sound protection systems are not necessarily expensive or the reserve of wealthy countries. In 2017, ILO showed that a universal social protection scheme that includes allowances for all children, maternity benefits for all women with newborns, benefits for all persons with severe disabilities and universal old age pensions will cost an average of 1.6 per cent of a developing country’s GDP.¹

Secretary-General Guterres has repeatedly emphasized that the UN’s COVID-19 response must be grounded in human rights because **human rights-based solutions are effective**. The New Social Contract must tackle the roots of inequality by combating discrimination, establishing universally accessible services, including quality education, and giving fair opportunities to all. In repairing the damage that has been done, we need to rebuild just, sustainable and environmentally friendly economies and respect for the human rights of every member of society.

¹ See Isabel Ortiz and others, *Universal social protection floors: costing estimates and affordability in 57 lower income countries*, ESS –Working Paper No. 58, Social Protection Department, ILO (2017).



© OHCHR

LESSON THREE

Our world will be stronger and more resilient when we can count on **cooperation and solidarity between nations** that is based on mutual support. Without these international and multilateral bonds, the poorest will be set further back and everyone, to varying degrees, will suffer.

In the following section that is dedicated to our COVID-19 response, we summarize and give examples of the extensive body of work our teams undertook in 2020. We will continue this work and strive to do better, because delivering on human rights recommendations means helping to create more sustainable, inclusive and resilient societies in order to build a better future.

Adapting to COVID-19: UN Human Rights in 2020

COVID-19 has hit societies at their core, with deep and devastating social, economic and political impacts. It has exacerbated existing gaps in human rights protection, leading to increased poverty, exclusion and violence and deepening inequalities. It has led to restrictions on fundamental freedoms and civic space. It has set back progress in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as key climate goals. As the pandemic surged forward, UN Human Rights ramped up its support to embed effective, human rights-based policies in pandemic responses by States, UN partners, UN Country Teams and other stakeholders. Our monitoring was strengthened to enable a clear focus on the vulnerable people who are most likely to be left behind. Detailed checklists and other evidence-based tools were created to contribute to easily adaptable and immediately effective policies. In every region, we delivered targeted, practical guidance and assistance. We also laid out pathways to ensure that as societies begin to rebuild from this crisis, their recovery efforts can focus on constructing more resilient systems – systems that advance people’s rights and dignity and better protect everyone from harm, including harm resulting from climate change.

“With COVID-19, a fast-moving and global health crisis has collided with many slower, and more entrenched, political, social and economic crises around the world. The first lesson of the pandemic is its demonstration of the profound value of human rights-based approaches. Long-term discrimination and inequalities have severely undermined the resilience of all of society – and we need to address them, now.”

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, **Michelle Bachelet**



On 10 December 2020, UN Human Rights celebrated Human Rights Day by reaffirming the importance of placing human rights at the heart of the recovery to build back the world we want. © OHCHR

Human rights at the heart of the response: Key figures

GUIDANCE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT



UN system guidance

1 comprehensive UN-wide policy brief (on COVID-19 and human rights)

18 focused UN policy briefs and technical documents (on COVID-19 impacts on vulnerable groups and on thematic and geographical issues)



UN Human Rights guidance

12 targeted guidance notes (with recommendations for governments, UN bodies and others)



Socio-economic impacts of COVID-19

The Surge Initiative contributed operational advice to

59 countries (on integrating ESCRs, SDGs and human rights-based macroeconomic analyses into responses)

MONITORING AND REPORTING



Data and analysis

10 specific indicators developed (to assess COVID-19 human rights impacts)



Human rights trends and good practices

1 COVID-19 information management tool created



Persons in detention

At least **267,500** people benefited from urgent releases/alternatives to detention

AWARENESS-RAISING AND ADVOCACY



Human Rights Day #RecoverBetter

90 million people reached



Engagement by human rights mechanisms

30 country infographics (with recommendations)

Human Rights Council **1st** virtual informal conversations (with the HC and SPs); **1st** decision undertaken by silent procedure

Treaty bodies **5** detailed guidance notes, **8** legal opinions and **1** toolkit on treaty law and jurisprudence

Special procedures **124** press releases, **206** communications, **15** reports and **13** tools

ADJUSTING WORKING METHODS



Human Rights Council and UPR Working Group

Annual programme of work completed (remotely or in a hybrid format)



Treaty bodies

8 (out of 10) migrated their work online



Human rights training

Approximately **58%** of workshops delivered online

Our COVID-19 response: Examples of UN Human Rights actions

COVID-19 provided an unprecedented opportunity to work collectively to situate human rights principles at the heart of response and recovery efforts. UN Human Rights enhanced its monitoring, reporting and advocacy efforts to address human rights concerns during the crisis. It provided technical advice on laws and policies, issued thematic guidance notes and delivered virtual capacity-building. Field presences documented an array of promising practices that were adopted to alleviate the negative effects of the crisis, particularly those of a socio-economic nature, and could be used to build more equal, inclusive and sustainable societies.

SUPPORTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE AND GROUPS

The virus may not discriminate, but unequal societies do. Data collected in 2020 showed that people who were already left behind were more likely to be infected by and die of COVID-19. They were also the hardest hit by the socio-economic consequences of the crisis. UN Human Rights contributed to assessing the impacts of COVID-19 on different population groups, building disaggregated data sets and informing policy solutions, with a focus on consolidating accessible health care and social protection systems.



Inequalities



UN Human Rights organized an outdoor exhibition in Kyiv City Centre for Human Rights Day. The exhibition portrayed people in vulnerable situations during COVID-19 and those who helped them, such as this nurse from eastern Ukraine. © Zhenya Pedin

UN Human Rights mapped the needs of groups with unequal access to social protection and health care in Serbia, Ukraine and other European countries – including **Roma people, persons with disabilities, homeless people and LGBTI persons**. Field presences monitored the situation of **older persons and migrants**, including those trapped on the borders between two countries or held in centres for migrants in Bolivia, Guatemala or Panama. In West Africa, rapid gender assessments were carried out in nine countries to collect quality data and inform the adoption of sound policies. The Office advocated for inclusive social protection schemes and integrating lessons learned from the crisis into the European Union Green Paper on Ageing and the European Union Disability Strategy.

A coordination mechanism created between Kyiv City authorities and civil society to address homelessness in the context of the pandemic compiled targeted recommendations that were issued in relation to the human rights impacts of COVID-19 in Ukraine. Stories of vulnerable people and those who helped them were released through key media outlets and on social media platforms to raise awareness about their situation.



Ameriyah neighbourhood, Baghdad. Twenty murals ranging from 20 to 45 metres were painted on more than half a kilometre of walls in the city, raising awareness about COVID-19 and providing instructions on caring for ill family members at home. © OHCHR-Iraq

UN Human Rights produced a Guidance Note on COVID-19 and women's rights. It was used to raise awareness about gender-based violence (GBV) in countries such as Cambodia, Iraq and Syria and to advocate for support services and the availability of shelters during quarantines and lockdowns, for instance, in Liberia. The Office supported the creation/strengthening of hotlines in Latin America (Colombia, Costa Rica) and the provision of legal aid for GBV survivors (Mexico). In Cambodia, when 30,000 factory workers (mostly women) were subjected to quarantine, UN Human Rights provided support to create safe spaces for women and children in quarantine centres.

Standard operating procedures (SOPs) on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) were developed and disseminated in Liberia during lockdown. In Baghdad, 20 murals were painted across the city to increase public awareness regarding human rights concerns that emerged with the spread of COVID-19, such as an increase in the prevalence of GBV and stigma and discrimination directed towards sick persons.



UN Human Rights staff visiting a childcare facility in the Gambia for children who were removed from the streets. © OHCHR

In Western Africa, UN Human Rights worked with talibé children in street situations, where they were forced to beg and faced exposure to violence and COVID-19 infection, to integrate them into a family environment. The Office and its partners provided support to childcare facilities and families in six countries. At the global level, the Office collaborated with ILO and others to conduct an online survey on youth and COVID-19, which indicated that actions undertaken by youth during the pandemic were key to supporting vulnerable groups, fighting misinformation and saving lives. In Serbia, the Office and a local partner reached 800,000 people through an online campaign to raise the awareness of youth on the human rights impacts of COVID-19.

More than 2,000 talibé children were reintegrated into their families and 3,000 children were provided with support in childcare facilities (in the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger and Senegal).



The Head of the UN Human Rights Regional Office for the Pacific with Mereseini Vuniwaqa, Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, members of the Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation and other partners celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December 2020. The theme was “Building Back Better.” © OHCHR

UN Human Rights engaged with many stakeholders for an inclusive COVID-19 response to address concerns linked to access to health care and the disruption of services for persons with disabilities. The Office raised the awareness of authorities and offered technical assistance, including in Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Montenegro, the Russian Federation, Togo and in the Pacific region. In Guinea, theatre performances were organized with three coalitions of organizations of persons with disabilities to raise awareness about the impacts of COVID-19 on this group of individuals.

A protocol developed to ensure the full accessibility of virtual hearings held by the Constitutional Court of Guatemala on COVID-19 and persons with disabilities was disseminated for use by other public authorities.

PROTECTING PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

A vibrant civil society is essential to building back better. In the context of COVID-19, UN Human Rights helped to ensure that all affected people were informed and able to participate in shaping policies that impact on their lives. The Office took steps to protect civic space and human rights defenders (HRDs). It also recalled the importance of ensuring data protection and privacy while using new technologies, such as COVID-19 contact tracing applications.



In December 2020, UN experts expressed alarm at the ‘naming and shaming’ of COVID-19 victims in Cambodia, noting that the publication of personal information about individuals who had tested positive is a breach of privacy. © OHCHR

By using new technologies and through remote monitoring, UN Human Rights documented hundreds of COVID-19-related incidents of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, religious intolerance, hate speech and incitement to hatred in over 50 countries. The Office ran campaigns to counter false or misleading information as the pandemic set off a wave of disinformation that fueled fear, prejudice and posed risks to public health, including in Cambodia and in the Middle East and North Africa region. In Southern Africa, the Office engaged actors with different opinions in public debates about the crisis.

In the context of increasing disinformation, the Office created a dedicated COVID-19 web page to disseminate information in Cambodia, in Khmer and English. In Liberia, UN Human Rights supported awareness-raising by civil society on COVID-19 and human rights through radio spots and on social media platforms.



On Human Rights Day, in Conakry, the Head of UN Human Rights met with defenders of the rights of persons with albinism. © OHCHR

UN Human Rights engaged in advocacy to support the ability of experts, medical professionals, journalists and **human rights defenders** to speak without fear or censorship. Across all regions, the Office built the capacities of CSOs and national human rights institutions (NHRIs) to integrate human rights into activities aimed at curbing the spread of the virus and its negative impacts. In cooperation with the NHRI in Morocco, and with contributions from NHRIs in Jordan, Mauritania and the State of Palestine,² the Office organized a training on the role of NHRIs in MENA countries to protect the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of COVID-19.

Provisions to limit freedom of expression in the context of COVID-19 were repealed from emergency decrees that were adopted in Bolivia. In a landmark development, spearheaded by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and UN Human Rights, the UN adopted a system-wide Guidance Note on the promotion and protection of civic space.



As the Bolivian Government closed its borders on 25 March 2020, UN Human Rights ensured the application of a human rights-based approach to assistance provided to migrants at the Tata Santiago quarantine camps at the border with Chile. © OHCHR

UN Human Rights contributed to making **information accessible and available for all** – in multiple languages, including in indigenous languages, and accessible formats for persons with disabilities, for instance in the Gambia, Mexico, the Republic of Moldova, Tanzania and Tunisia. In several countries, such as the Central African Republic, Colombia, Honduras, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, the Republic of Moldova, the State of Palestine, Thailand, Uganda and Ukraine, media campaigns took place to raise awareness on the impacts of COVID-19 on human rights, with a focus on groups such as HRDs, migrants, domestic workers and persons with albinism.

In Honduras, the advocacy campaign to prevent discrimination against migrants and returnees in the context of COVID-19 reached 255,000 Facebook users and produced 325,000 impressions. The Office at headquarters organized 19 global webinars on human rights-based responses to COVID-19.

² All references to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with General Assembly resolution 67/19.

ADDRESSING SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

As emergency measures were adopted by many countries, UN Human Rights raised awareness to ensure that restrictions were necessary and proportionate and that they were applied fairly and humanely, with a focus on safeguarding public health. The Office called for immediate action to be taken to prevent COVID-19 from sweeping through places of detention and confinement, including immigration and pretrial detention facilities.



Prevention



Senior police officers from the Police Special Response Unit and the Human Rights Cell during a human rights training facilitated by UN Human Rights on the prevention of torture and use of excessive force, including in the context of enforcing states of emergencies, at the Fiji Police Academy, in October 2020. © OHCHR

UN Human Rights monitored **law enforcement** and assessed the legality and proportionality of emergency measures to ensure that they did not unnecessarily limit the rights to freedom of expression or assembly and were not applied indiscriminately. The Office delivered technical assistance and training on various topics, including the role of prosecutors, police conduct in enforcing curfews and emergency restrictions, assessing legal aspects of restrictions and reporting on violations of measures (for instance in Angola, Fiji, Georgia, Guinea, Honduras, Maldives, the State of Palestine and Zambia).

Revised regulations related to court hearings were adopted in Ukraine to allow remote participation, thereby ensuring access to justice during the pandemic. Guidance Notes on access to justice and the deprivation of liberty in the context of COVID-19 were widely distributed among judges, prosecutors and lawyers and in detention centres in the State of Palestine.



Prevention



Mobile court session of the Makamba High Court, in Burundi, in May 2020. © OHCHR

UN Human Rights and the High Commissioner for Human Rights called on governments to explore options for release and alternatives to detention to mitigate the risk of contagion in **places of detention**, with a focus on the release of those who were most vulnerable, including children and persons with health conditions, low-risk profiles or imminent release dates and those detained for offences not recognized under international law. In Chile, the Attorney General urged prosecutors to consider alternatives to pretrial detention. In Mexico, an amnesty law was adopted by the Congress.

Seven mobile court sessions were held in Burundi, resulting in the expedition of 206 cases and the release of 89 detainees, including seven women and one child. UN Human Rights advocacy efforts contributed to the release of detainees in many countries around the world, including 30,000 in the Southern Africa region, 17,500 in Iraq, 7,700 in Sudan, 3,900 in Libya, 2,773 in Honduras, 2,710 in Senegal and 1,326 in Somalia.

REDUCING NEGATIVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACTS

As it became clear that the crisis would have long-lasting and profound effects on people's lives, UN Human Rights worked to address inequalities and ensure rights-based approaches were applied to COVID-19 responses and recovery efforts. The Office advocated for fiscal stimulus and social protection packages aimed at those least able to cope with the crisis, with a view to building back better and advancing human rights, implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and protecting the right to a healthy and sustainable environment.

 Inequalities



Kirkuk, Iraq – In July and August, 140 volunteers distributed 28,500 posters across 18 governorates with human rights awareness messages.

© OHCHR-Iraq

To combat the increase in inequalities generated by the pandemic, UN Human Rights enhanced its work on **economic, social and cultural rights** (ESCRs) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through its **Surge Initiative**. Support from ESCR and development specialists was provided to field presences to address the impacts of COVID-19 on those rights and to engage with UN Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs), in line with the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights and his vision for a New Social Contract. The Office designed surveys, undertook analyses, developed methodologies and presented policy options to curb inequalities aimed at enhancing revenue generation, social spending and social protection, for instance in Argentina, Cameroon, Madagascar, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Tunisia and Ukraine.

The Surge Initiative contributed guidance to 59 countries, including through 27 seed funded projects and 30 UNCT COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Assessments (SEIAs) and Socio-Economic Response Plans (SERPs). The seed funded projects were initiated to reinforce human rights-based analyses, the use of disaggregated data and the formulation of policy options to address the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups.

INTEGRATING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE UN RESPONSE

COVID-19 exposed and exacerbated inequalities within and among countries, necessitating an increase in international cooperation. UN Human Rights supported the UN system in applying a human rights-based approach (HRBA), including in relation to the right to development, in its response to COVID-19 and in Common Country Analyses (CCAs) and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs).



In Ukraine, Alla, an 85-year-old woman with a disability, lost her pension bank card and had to travel to government-controlled territory to get a new one. She was stuck in ‘the grey zone’ because she did not have a smartphone to install the ‘Act at Home’ self-isolation application that is required to enter the territory. © OHCHR

At the request of the UN Crisis Management Team, UN Human Rights developed 10 thematic human rights **indicators** to support immediate UN socio-economic, health and humanitarian responses to COVID-19 and address issues of discrimination and inequality. The Office helped UNCTs and UN partners integrate an HRBA into their policies and programmes, for instance in Bangladesh, Cambodia, the Dominican Republic, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Uruguay. The indicators were also used to collect data for CCAs and UNSDCFs and as a basis for advocacy with governments.

The Office developed a Checklist for a Human Rights-Based Approach to Socio-Economic Country Responses to COVID-19 in cooperation with UNDP and the UN Development Coordination Office. The Checklist, which contains suggested actions, tools and resources, was used by UNCTs to integrate human rights into socio-economic impact assessments, responses and recovery plans and to ensure that No One was Left Behind.



A meeting of the Human Rights Council during the pandemic. © OHCHR

UN Human Rights provided advice to ensure human rights were integrated into SERPs in the context of COVID-19. The Office stepped up its efforts to mainstream the **right to development**, highlighting the need for international solidarity on issues such as access to medicine, medical equipment and vaccines, closing digital divides, climate action, financing for development and global governance. In West Africa, the UN Regional Gender Group, led by UN Human Rights, provided guidance to the UNCTs on the gender dimensions of the pandemic.

A panel discussion held at the forty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council on COVID-19 and the right to development enabled the exchange of good practices of global solidarity during the pandemic, such as South-South cooperation to deploy health-care professionals and ensure access to essential medical products. Within the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) Task Team on Leaving No One Behind, Human Rights and the Normative Agenda, UN Human Rights coordinated a review of 109 SERPs in terms of human rights mainstreaming.

Voices from UN Human Rights staff in the field



“When it comes to work, [physical] distancing has a huge impact. Human rights work is all about the people and the bonds we create,” said Ricardo Neves, a UN

Human Rights staffer working in Mexico. Amid the pandemic, the Office continued to shed light on the situation faced by HRDs and journalists by supporting national protection mechanisms and assisting all of those affected by emergency measures. A total of 51 HRDs from 13 States took part in an awareness-raising campaign that reached 340,000 Facebook users.



“COVID-19 exacerbated all of the issues we had pointed out before the pandemic: the intersectionality of certain factors like poverty, level of education and the lack of access to health services,” said Nwanneakolam Vwede-Obahor, former Head of the UN Human Rights East Africa Regional Office. The Office addressed issues linked to stigmatization and discrimination, monitored states of emergency with CSOs partners and worked on risk communication and community engagement.



“This has been an enormous learning experience, especially in

fulfilling the unique mandate that UN Human Rights has in the field: to ensure that human rights are not forgotten, even in these restrictive times and in states of emergency across the globe,” said Milan Markovic, Human Rights Adviser in Serbia. The Office closely monitored the restrictive measures adopted during the pandemic, in collaboration with local organizations, and advocated with the Government to mitigate the impact of restrictions on vulnerable groups.



“The restrictive measures adopted to fight COVID-19 in Iraq heightened

the risk of domestic violence, while at the same time substantially reduced the ability of victims to report abuse and seek effective shelter, support and access to justice,” said Danielle Bell, Head of UN Human Rights in Iraq. The Office redoubled its advocacy efforts to contribute to the protection of women against violence and increase accountability, including through the adoption of the Anti-Domestic Violence Law.



“Since the outbreak of COVID-19, we have seen a diminishing of

the civic and democratic space in Cambodia where freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association are being met with a deepening intolerance of dissent and repression by the Government,” said Sally Soen, a UN Human Rights staffer in Cambodia. The Office developed ways to support and protect HRDs and CSOs, such as maintaining direct contacts with them through secure communication platforms or by increasing its advocacy with the Government for the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms.

COVID-19 Tracker: Leveraging information to build back better

In 2020, the COVID-19 crisis cast a long shadow over human rights across the globe and required UN Human Rights to increase its situational awareness around the many human rights concerns that arose. The Office took proactive steps to track COVID-19-related issues of concern and transform itself into an organization that employs technology to effectively work with data and develop analytics. This resulted in enhanced collaboration across UN Human Rights and informed strategic decision-making.

EARLY PHASE AND BUILDING THE TRACKER

At the onset of the crisis, human rights concerns were quickly emerging. The UN Human Rights Emergency Response Section immediately began monitoring the media and analysing secondary data to identify trends and design data visualizations for the internal COVID-19 Task Force.

As information needs evolved, the team adapted its work. “We failed fast, learned and altered our approach as required,” noted Mark McCarthy, Head of the Information Management and Data Analytics Unit. The team set up a prototype COVID-19 Tracker, which was initially used to store data from open source media monitoring efforts and field inputs for the UN Operations and Crisis Centre (UNOCC). Three areas were defined to capture and organize information: issues of concern (trends, risks, early warning); mitigating measures undertaken

by governments and others; and actions undertaken by UN Human Rights.

Building this tool was central to supporting integrated analysis as mandated by the Secretary-General’s Prevention Platform. The Tracker provided human rights officers and content experts with a structured way to gather, extract and analyse data. It also enabled the Office to produce two-page visual snapshots with regional information on key human rights concerns, which were prominent contributions used by the Crisis Management Team that was hosted by WHO.

EMBEDDING HUMAN RIGHTS IN COVID-19 RESPONSES

By December, the Tracker had identified over 3,100 issues of concern, 1,900 mitigating measures and 1,050 UN Human Rights actions related to the pandemic. The data were leveraged to provide case samples, enhance the Office’s reporting and respond to a wide range of requests from various partners. For instance, “This helped to draft a UN Human Rights report on COVID-19 for the March 2021 session of the Human Rights Council,” said Human Rights Officer Chitralkha Massey. Further, it was used by UN Human Rights to encourage States, UN partners and other stakeholders to incorporate human rights into their pandemic responses.

This innovative tool made it possible for UN Human Rights to track a global situation in near real-time, for the first time. It improved internal access to information and fostered cooperation. It also supported evidence-based decision-making and engagement with external actors. Moreover, the Tracker highlighted good practices that could be replicated across countries to mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19 on human rights and build back better.

“The Tracker enabled UN Human Rights to gather and provide timely information and analysis on the human rights impacts of COVID-19 and the required responses by all relevant stakeholders. It also helped to illustrate the Office’s key message that a human rights approach is indispensable to overcoming the crisis,” concluded Reem Mazzawi, Human Rights Officer at the UN Human Rights Executive Office.



COVID-19 Tracker interactive dashboard with a view of a UN Human Rights actions data set. © OHCHR

Implementing the OMP in 2020

The priorities, strategies and targets of UN Human Rights are set out in the OHCHR Management Plan (OMP) 2018-2021. The Plan provides a robust results framework and is based on six Pillars, four Shifts and three Spotlights. This framework remained relevant throughout the COVID-19 crisis and simultaneously provided the needed

flexibility to respond to changing circumstances. This led to the decision to extend the current OMP until 2023 and to update some elements. Extending and updating the OMP will ensure that results continue to be consolidated while providing us with the opportunity to re-calibrate our focus in response to the human rights impacts of the COVID-19 crisis

and ensuring that important initiatives such as the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, the Common Agenda and other recent developments are included. This extension will also align future OMP cycles with the High Commissioner's mandates.

The Secretary-General's Call to Action: Human rights at the centre of the United Nations

The Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights has been a key catalyst for the Office, which is co-leading the implementation of the initiative with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG). UN Human Rights played a central role in launching strategic initiatives across all seven thematic areas, which are backed by an extensive institutional architecture that includes 35 UN entities. The UN's expertise and operational reach will ensure that the Call to Action achieves its transformative potential and facilitates the realization of practical results for people around the world. This necessitates a strengthening of the UN leadership on human rights across the system, particularly at the country level. To that end, Assistant Secretary-General Brands Kehris and Volker Türk, Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination, worked together to spearhead regional dialogues with Resident Coordinators in order to further advance the objectives of the Call to Action. Efforts to generate the collective engagement of the UN system were accompanied by outreach to Member States and civil society to raise awareness about the Call to Action and to ensure that it will be implemented in a collective manner and will bring about actual human rights improvements with real impact for all people.

OMP 2018-2021 at a glance



Overview of progress made towards achieving OMP results in 2020

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic generated significant challenges in terms of programme delivery and demands for working on new and pressing issues. The data that follow are based on self-assessments undertaken by 115 reporting entities regarding their level of progress, notably in reference to a shift, a spotlight population or the country results that were set as targets for 2021.

REPROGRAMMING TO RESPOND TO THE PANDEMIC

UN Human Rights found creative solutions to continue implementing its planned work in the context of COVID-19. In fact, the challenges posed by the global pandemic to the respect for and observance of human rights led to the reprioritization of its work to address new concerns. It also resulted in the adoption of new working methods and a new focus within existing work streams. The Office provided extensive policy and technical advice to ensure that human rights were situated at the heart of the response and recovery efforts of States, UN partners, NHRIs, civil society and others and that targeted actions were implemented to support vulnerable groups.

Various activities of the international human rights mechanisms were particularly affected, such as country visits by special rapporteurs and the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT) and the reviews of State Party reports by the human rights treaty bodies. In lieu of country visits, the special procedures followed up on reports related to previous visits, engaged with HRDs and other stakeholders and drafted thematic reports with an emphasis on trends and new challenges. The human rights treaty bodies held online sessions, including several that facilitated the delivery of testimonies by victims or their families, to maintain the consistent protection of rights-holders. Across the organization, a number of meetings, briefings, consultations and trainings were held virtually or in hybrid forms, as feasible. Despite the many challenges of online meetings, such as lack of equipment/connectivity of partners, poor IT literacy or fears of surveillance, the meetings offered the potential for much broader participation, irrespective of the location of participants.

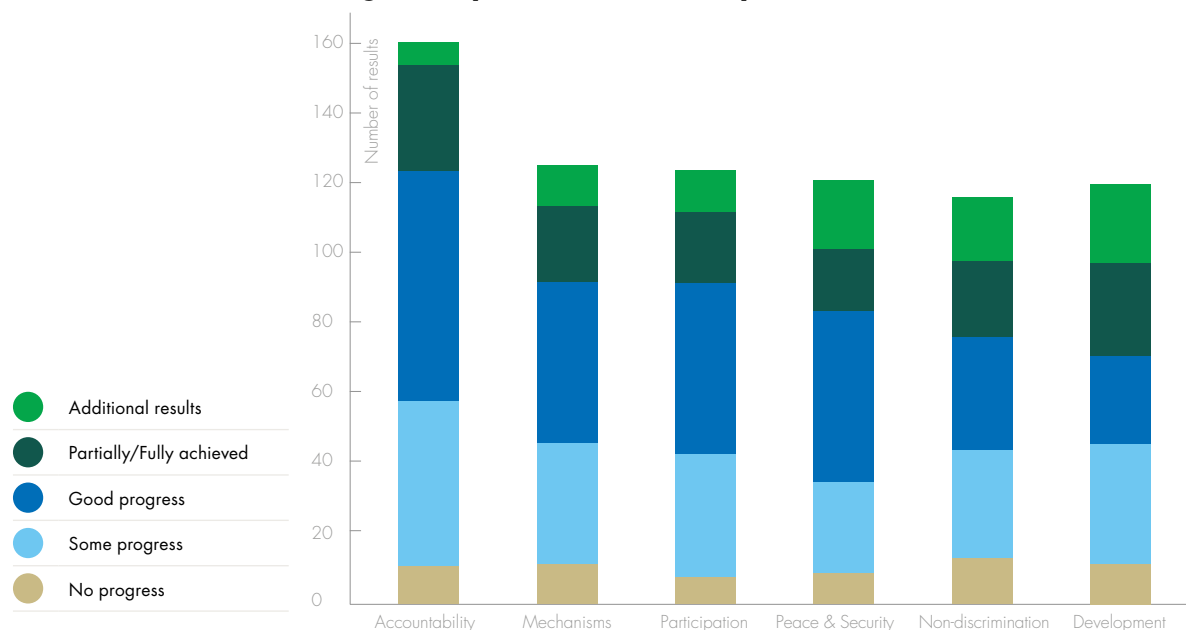
Movement and travel restrictions significantly affected the capacity of UN Human Rights to carry out field monitoring missions to collect data, document and report alleged human rights violations. The

Office adapted by increasing its remote monitoring and support to local partners for the monitoring and investigation of situations of concern.

PROGRESS TOWARDS COUNTRY RESULTS

From the updates on progress made towards the achievement of country results, we note that the number of results reported as partially or fully achieved continued to increase in 2020, with positive signs that the results set for 2021 would be achieved (from 105 in 2019 to 139 in 2020). The results for which no progress or some progress was reported were related to funding and staffing constraints, challenges emanating from complex political contexts and COVID-19 (from 29 in 2019 to 60 in 2020). On the other hand, the year 2020 saw a higher number of reported “additional results” (from 39 in 2019 to 77 in 2020), demonstrating that reprogramming enabled the Office to effectively adapt to the circumstances generated by the pandemic. The Development, Peace and Security and Non-discrimination Pillars saw a higher increase in the number of additional results.

Progress reported under each pillar in 2020



CONTRIBUTIONS TO SHIFTS AND SPOTLIGHT POPULATIONS

Four shifts are identified in the 2018-2021 OMP, contributing to: (1) the **prevention** of conflict, violence and insecurity; (2) the expansion of **civic space**; (3) a broadening of the **global constituency** for human rights; and (4) the exploration of emerging human rights concerns identified as “**frontier issues.**” This last shift has five sub-thematic categories, namely, **climate change**, digital space and **emerging technologies**, **corruption**, **inequalities** and **people on the move.**

The spotlight populations identified in the OMP are **women**, **youth** and **persons with disabilities.**

“Prevention” and “civic space” were the major shifts selected by reporting entities in 2019-2020. Unlike the situation in 2019, there was a significant increase in the selection of the “inequalities” and “global constituency” shifts in 2020.

As in previous years, “women” was the most commonly selected spotlight population. This was followed by “persons with disabilities” and “youth.”

Specific results related to the shifts and spotlight populations are highlighted throughout the report.

Mechanisms (M)

Increasing implementation of the outcomes of the international human rights mechanisms



HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (HRC) AND UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)



HRC panels

14 discussions held (including on COVID-19 and the right to development, climate change, the rights of persons with disabilities and the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration)



UPR mid-term reports

7 documents submitted (on the implementation of recommendations issued during the 2nd and 3rd UPR cycles)

TREATY BODIES



Experts

172 treaty body experts



Recommendations

39 concluding observations (and 142 lists of issues prepared)



General comments

4 new comments (on trafficking in women and migration; science and economic, social and cultural rights; racial profiling; and peaceful assembly)



Individual complaints

317 new communications registered (by 8 treaty bodies, with 239 views and decisions adopted)



Capacity-building

2,446 State officials trained (to engage with the treaty bodies, with participants from 61 countries)

SPECIAL PROCEDURES



Special procedures mandates

44 thematic
11 country-specific



Standing invitations Extended by

127 States (to thematic mandates)



Reports

166 presented to the General Assembly/HRC (64 on country visits)



Communications

681 communications sent (to 152 States and 76 non-State actors)
433 replies received

REPORTING AND FOLLOWING UP ON RECOMMENDATIONS



National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up

46 newly established and/or strengthened

Children's rights in the Pacific: An historic treaty body session in Samoa

“For many years, we spoke and dreamed of holding a session outside Geneva,” said Luis Pedernera, the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC). “This week, that dream became a reality. It’s an historic moment,” he said of the Committee’s extraordinary outreach session that was held in Samoa, in March. During the session, the Committee met with government officials, UN entities, civil society, NHRIs and children to discuss the situation of children’s rights in the Pacific.³

Like all other UN human rights treaty bodies, the Committee usually meets in Geneva, Switzerland. Yet, the Pacific is the region most adversely affected by its remoteness from Geneva. Since 2016, six of the seven State Party reviews from the region have been conducted via video link. During the 2020 consultations on the treaty body system’s review process, participants stressed the importance of regional sessions to increase domestic stakeholder accessibility, enhance the visibility of the treaty body system and more closely interact with national and regional human rights systems.

The CRC session in Samoa represents the first regional-level session held by a UN human rights treaty body, the first time

an official meeting of the Committee was moderated by children and the first time that sign language interpretation was used for all meetings.

During the session, the Committee reviewed the situation of the rights of the child in the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and Tuvalu and held a preparatory meeting for a future review of Kiribati, enabling State Party delegations to hold in-person, constructive dialogues with the Committee. In addition, the Committee met with a broad range of stakeholders, including more than 100 children and passionate child HRDs, to discuss pressing issues in the region, such as climate change and child

rights to participation, education, health and freedom from violence.

Audrey, 16 years old, moderated a discussion on children’s right to health and explained that the session taught her that children’s views matter. “During this session, we learned that we have the right to be heard [and that] children’s opinions, perspectives and problems should be voiced.”

Chair Luis Pedernera added, “We hope [the children] were able to understand how much the Committee appreciates their contributions and that this is just the beginning of strong and meaningful participation of children from the region in our work.”



Child moderator during the official session dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. © OHCHR

³ The session was co-organized by UN Human Rights with the Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) of the Pacific Community (SPC), the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO) and UNDP in Samoa, the Government of Samoa and UNICEF Pacific, with financial support from the RRRT SPC and its donors (Australia, New Zealand, Sweden and the United Kingdom), the Government of Samoa and the RCO in Samoa.

Highlights of pillar results

Mechanisms (M)

The international human rights mechanisms – composed of the Human Rights Council (HRC), with its special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), and the treaty bodies – are the backbone of UN Human Rights' work. Their analyses, monitoring and interactions with States and stakeholders

help to identify strengths, weaknesses, gaps and opportunities in relation to all rights. Through their actions and recommendations, they provide the basis for engagement with States and other actors and support duty-bearers to comply with their obligations and rights-holders to claim their rights. UN Human Rights

provides secretariat support to these mechanisms and supports States in honouring their obligations. Through their procedures and country visits, the international human rights mechanisms give a voice to vulnerable persons and groups at the national level.

PILLAR RESULTS / SHIFTS / SDGs

M1 – NATIONAL MECHANISMS for REPORTING and FOLLOW-UP

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



RESULTS / SPOTLIGHTS

Spotlights: Disabilities Women Youth

UN Human Rights, through its Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme and its field presences, provided technical assistance to support the **establishment or strengthening of National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRFs)** in Benin, Botswana, Cambodia, Egypt, Eswatini, Haiti, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Malaysia, Namibia, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and Venezuela. In particular, support from the Office to Eswatini and to Tonga resulted in the official establishment of NMRFs in 2020. In Sudan, in July, a draft ministerial decree and a road map on the creation of an NMRF were prepared. In August, Peru adopted an intersectional protocol to improve the inter-institutional coordination for the implementation of its international human rights obligations and to facilitate collaboration with civil society. This instrument will pave the way for the creation of an NMRF.

In the Republic of Moldova, Thailand and Uzbekistan, UN Human Rights supported the roll-out of the **National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD)**. In Tunisia, the Office supported the creation of the [NMRF website](#), which will host the NRTD and facilitate interactions with CSOs.

UN Human Rights provided extensive technical assistance in various countries for the **submission of State reports to the international human rights mechanisms**. A number of long overdue State Party reports were submitted with support from the Office, including Côte d'Ivoire's initial report under the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), Guinea's initial report under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and Somalia's initial report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Somalia also submitted its UPR mid-term report.

M2 – ENGAGEMENT with human rights MECHANISMS

Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions 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.





UN Human Rights supported the increased **engagement** of stakeholders **with the UPR Working Group**. For instance, with support from the Office, 126 CSOs from across Somalia submitted a joint report for their country's third UPR review and a coalition of 27 CSOs submitted a first alternative report on Jamaica. These efforts resulted in the submission of a first report by Rohingya civil society groups in the Cox's Bazar refugee camps on the situation of Rohingya people in Myanmar. In addition, UN Human Rights offered assistance for the submission of joint UNCT reports for UPR reviews.

In the Republic of North Macedonia, the Office supported a network of CSOs that are active in the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) to submit a 'spotlight report' to complement the country's first **Voluntary National Review (VNR) report**. The Office also provided technical assistance on the role of CSOs in the **National Preventive Mechanism (NPM)** in South Africa, including by supporting the drafting of a research paper by the African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum (APCOF) on the subject.

Advocacy efforts by UN Human Rights and its partners contributed to the **recognition of the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED) to examine individual complaints in Mexico**. This represents a major breakthrough for the application of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED). Furthermore, the Mexican Senate ratified the **Escazú Agreement** on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, a valuable tool to support HRDs in their struggle against the degradation of the environment.

In April, UN Human Rights supported the Special Rapporteur on the rights to **freedom of peaceful assembly and of association** to issue a **set of indicators** to guide governments when designing and implementing measures to tackle the spread of COVID-19. The indicators were developed taking into account 185 submissions received from representatives of governments, CSOs, women, indigenous communities, youth groups and trade unions from 79 countries.

 The **Committee on the Rights of the Child**, with support from the Office, launched a **web page** for children that provides a simple overview of the Committee's mandate and activities and information on how children can share their views and contribute to its work. A **child safeguarding** procedure was adopted to ensure a safe environment for engagement with children.

 In Mozambique, UN Human Rights provided guidance to **organizations of persons with disabilities and older persons** to engage with the international human rights mechanisms. As a result, umbrella organizations representing these groups submitted their first report in anticipation of the country's third UPR cycle. In the State of Palestine,⁴ the Office coached disability counsellors and disability outreach staff in selected CSOs on the application of an HRBA to disability and identified connections between provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

⁴ All references to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with General Assembly resolution 67/19.

M3 – USE of MECHANISMS' RECOMMENDATIONS

Policymakers, legislators and courts make increased use of the outcomes of the international and regional human rights mechanisms.



The Working Group on discrimination against women and girls and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences advocated for the decriminalization of abortion, including through country visits, recommendations, letters and amicus curiae briefs. In December, **Argentina** adopted a **law legalizing abortion** in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy and the **Republic of Korea** decriminalized abortion.

In **Uzbekistan**, the **Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** was adopted and signed in October and came into force in January 2021, in line with the country's UPR action plan. As a follow-up to the Human Rights Committee's concluding observations, UN Human Rights supported the drafting of an **NGO Code** by civil society experts, which was shared with the Parliament and the Government. A number of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms were incorporated into the **National Human Rights Strategy**, which was adopted in June.

On 16 June, the Supreme Court of **Spain** handed down a **judgment** on the issue of **age determination of unaccompanied migrant children**. In the ruling, the Court cited the views of CRC in its Communications No. 16/2017 and 22/2017, which establish that identity documents should be considered valid unless they have been challenged through judicial means. The Supreme Court also followed the Committee's reasoning that: 1) the person who alleges to be under the age of 18 should be considered as a child until proof to the contrary is obtained; 2) an individualized assessment of age needs to be conducted in light of the circumstances of each case; 3) when a person holds an identity document, s/he cannot be treated as an undocumented migrant; 4) a refusal to undergo medical tests to determine that person's age cannot in itself be considered proof that the person is an adult; and 5) the physical appearance of a person cannot prevail over identity documents, unless those documents are proven to be invalid.

In May, the President of **Chad** enacted **anti-terrorism legislation** that **abolished** the previous dispositions that allowed the **death penalty**. As an outcome of the country's third UPR cycle, the Government committed to abolishing the death penalty and ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR-OP2).

In **Mexico**, UN Human Rights provided legal advice to the Supreme Court, tribunals, prosecutors and the NHRI, contributing to the enhanced **use of international human rights law and jurisprudence in court** proceedings and decisions, including in relation to seven emblematic cases in 2020. For instance, in the case of Misael Zamora, an HRD working on environmental issues and the rights of indigenous peoples, the charges against him were withdrawn after UN Human Rights submitted a legal brief that outlined relevant international human rights standards.

M4 – DEVELOPMENT of INTERNATIONAL LAW

International human rights mechanisms contribute to the elaboration of international law and jurisprudence, in particular in the context of emerging human rights concerns (frontier issues).



On 4 November, the **Human Rights Committee** adopted a **landmark decision**, which found **Italy** responsible for the death of 200 **migrants** in the Mediterranean Sea in 2013. The events occurred in international waters and involved an Italian naval ship and a nearby sinking boat carrying more than 400 adults and children. The Committee found that Italy failed to **protect the life of the victims**. It also considered that although the victims were not on Italian territory, they had established a special relationship of dependency with Italy when the first distress calls were made by the victims to Italian authorities, due to their proximity to the Italian coast and because they were affected by the decisions of the Italian authorities that were reasonably foreseeable in light of Italy's relevant legal obligations. The Committee called for an independent and timely investigation.

In May, the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW) and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants published a **Joint Guidance Note on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the human rights of migrants**. The Guidance Note urges States to set up mechanisms to review the use of immigration detention in order to reduce the number of people being held to the lowest possible level and to secure the immediate transfer of families with children and unaccompanied or separated children from immigration detention facilities to non-custodial and community-based alternatives, with full access to rights and services. They are also urged to ensure the inclusion of migrants in economic recovery policies.

With support from UN Human Rights, the **human rights treaty bodies** issued **four new general comments and recommendations**: 1) General Recommendation No. 38 on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)); 2) General Comment No. 25 on science and economic, social and cultural rights (Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)); 3) General Recommendation No. 36 on preventing and combating racial profiling by law enforcement officials (Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)); and 4) General Comment No. 37 on article 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights – Right of peaceful assembly (Human Rights Committee).

M5 – EFFECTIVENESS of international human rights MECHANISMS

International human rights mechanisms are increasingly effective in promoting and protecting human rights.



In November, UN Human Rights supported the **first hybrid session** of the **UPR Working Group**, during which pre-recorded video statements and online connections with the capitals were introduced. Despite the challenging circumstances caused by COVID-19, including the implications of the digital adaptation, the thirty-sixth session of the UPR Working Group was a success. A total of 250 delegates from capitals participated in the session and interacted with an average of 100 States. The hybrid format enabled an enhanced participation of delegates from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). A **video** was produced to showcase this success.

Joint efforts and advocacy undertaken by the mandates on the sale and sexual exploitation of children and on the right to privacy contributed to the **European Parliament's** adoption of **legislation**, allowing a temporary derogation from certain provisions of the Privacy and Electronic Communications Directive 2002/58 with regard to the use of technologies for the processing of personal and other data to **combat child sexual abuse online**.

UN Human Rights facilitated the **virtual engagement of international human rights mechanisms in 65 interactive dialogues** that were held in the **Third Committee** at the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly. This resulted in the adoption of more than 37 human rights-related resolutions. Moreover, the Office supported the organization of virtual meetings between special procedures country mandates and Member States, CSOs, victims and other interlocutors.

Preventing enforced disappearances and locating victims during the COVID-19 pandemic

On 4 May, as part of the opening of the eighteenth session of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, Maria Nohemí Barbosa recounted the story of her son, John Alexander, who went missing in Mexico in 2014. Due to COVID-19-related restrictions, this was the first time that a human rights treaty body had opened a virtual session.

Committee Chair Mohammed Ayat noted that organizing a virtual session presented challenges. No simultaneous interpretation was available and the 10 Committee members were based in multiple time zones, from Peru to Japan. Nonetheless, “victims of enforced disappearance must know that, while the pandemic can make some situations more difficult, the Committee is still available to assist.”

At the end of the year, CED registered its 1,000th urgent action request. December also marked the tenth anniversary of

the Convention’s entry into force, which established the urgent actions procedure.

“Behind each urgent action request, there is a human tragedy. The family of the victim suffers from the absence of their loved one and from the uncertainty as to whether the victim is still alive. As time passes, the chance of finding the person alive reduces and the grief increases,” said the Committee.

Among registered cases, 49 per cent relate to disappearances in Iraq and 42 per cent relate to disappearances in Mexico. Families, relatives and representatives of disappeared persons can submit a request to CED after reporting the disappearance to relevant national authorities. The urgent action procedure provides support to people seeking justice at the international level and to States in the fight against enforced disappearances.

In the context of the pandemic, UN Human Rights undertook actions to prevent enforced disappearances. In Mexico, many state governments ordered the immediate cremation of bodies without guaranteeing the right to identity of the deceased. The Office collaborated with WHO and the ICRC and offered technical assistance to the Ministries of Health and the Interior, resulting in the adoption of national standards that prioritize the decisions of families on the safe and dignified disposal of human remains. “Now, there are guidelines so that no one is cremated without being identified or offering their families the possibility to claim the body,” noted Gabriela Gorjón, Public Information Officer at UN Human Rights in Mexico.

Through the urgent action procedure, 90 persons had been located by the end of 2020, including in Argentina, Bolivia, Cambodia, Cuba, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Sri Lanka and Togo. For instance, the procedure was successfully used to secure the swift release of three land defenders, from an indigenous community in Chiapas, Mexico, who were disappeared on 8 June.

“The Convention on Enforced Disappearances is clear: no exceptional circumstances can be invoked to justify enforced disappearances,” said Ibrahim Salama, Chief of the Human Rights Treaties Branch of UN Human Rights. “This principle also applies during the pandemic.”



UN Human Rights staff in Mexico accompanying the Missing Persons Search Brigade in Poza Rica, Veracruz, in February 2020. © OHCHR-Mexico

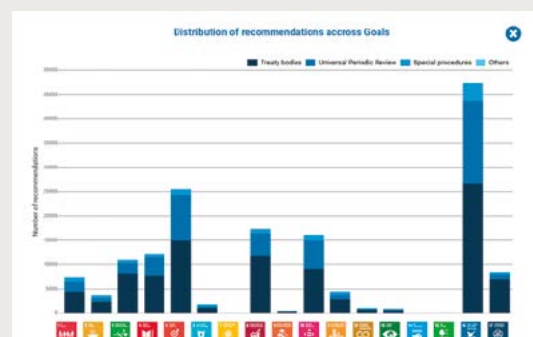
A revamped Universal Human Rights Index

With almost 50,000 unique visitors every year, the [Universal Human Rights Index \(UHRI\)](#) has long been a central gateway to the work of the international human rights mechanisms. In October, UN Human Rights launched a new version of the tool with a revamped interface and extended functionalities. More than 180,000 observations and recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures and the UPR, which are aligned with the SDGs, are now available online.

“The UHRI provides easy access to human rights recommendations and leverages synergies with the 2030 Agenda,” said Jonas Grimheden, Programme Manager at the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). “The database offers a new user-friendly design, making it easy to find [and export] data in just a few clicks,” he added, underlining that data-sharing is facilitated by the open source technology that supports the tool.

Hanae Hanzawa, a UN Human Rights staffer in Bangkok, Thailand, recognizes its huge potential. “As a human rights trainer, I use the UHRI often and with its various thematic filters, I can easily find the recommendations I am looking for,” she explained. By harnessing the power of machine learning, automatic text classification algorithms help to categorize content against themes and SDGs, which enables users to efficiently search the database. “[The UHRI] is respected among academics, human rights lawyers and practitioners as being a first-class database to find country-specific observations and recommendations of authority and reliability,” confirmed Anne Charbord, lecturer at the Paris School of International Affairs.

The experience gained and the partnerships built during the course of this innovation project will undoubtedly help to promote the digital shift in other areas of the work of UN Human Rights. It will also ensure the long-term sustainability of the UHRI as new documents and recommendations are issued each year.



UHRI home page (left) and SDGs chart (right). © OHCHR

Development (D)

Advancing sustainable development through human rights



2030 AGENDA



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

4 SDG indicators (for which UN Human Rights is responsible in terms of methodology, data compilation and dissemination)



High-level Political Forum

91 Voluntary National Review (VNR) processes supported (with guidance on integrating human rights data and analyses – 47 VNRs submitted in 2020 and 44 in 2021)



Right to development and SDGs

214 persons completed the UN Human Rights e-course (from 83 countries)

HUMAN RIGHTS INTEGRATION



UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks

1 UN system-wide guidance on Common Country Analysis (CCAs) and Cooperation Frameworks (that applies a human rights lens and integrates human rights content)

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



UN system at the global level

37 UN policies/programmes integrated a human rights approach



In the field, human rights mainstreaming support to

170 RCOs/UN Country Teams
400 other UN partners
1,100 government counterparts



Submissions for Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR) from

15 UN Country Teams (joint submissions)
53 UN entities

ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Climate change, environment, toxics and human rights

43 UPR recommendations issued (41 of which were supported by the State under review)

56 special procedures communications (sent and made publicly available)



Preventing business-related human rights abuses

Over **3,700** participants in the 9th Forum on Business and Human Rights (from 140 countries, including 200 speakers in 28 sessions)

A cornerstone in due diligence policies: The voice of human rights defenders

Just weeks after completing a two-week human rights training programme that was organized by UN Human Rights, in Bangkok, Panachai Chanta was employing the skills he had learned and making a concrete impact on the ground. Returning to the northern province of Mae Hong Son, where the local farming community was trying to halt a development project, Panachai led talks with local authorities to stop construction, which was allegedly planned without the consent of the community or any form of public hearing.

“The knowledge that I gained from the Human Rights Defenders School helped me to constructively negotiate with them,” he said. “I told local officials that indigenous peoples have the right to lands and territories that they have traditionally owned and occupied, according to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which was adopted by Thailand and 142 other Member States. I also cited the relevant Cabinet’s resolution on this issue.” Following these negotiations, all parties agreed to halt the project.

UN Human Rights first launched this training programme in 2014. Since then, the Office has equipped over 100 Thai human rights professionals and activists with skills and knowledge that can strengthen their work.

In order to pursue this objective across the region, UN Human Rights and the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises organized the first UN Pacific Forum on Business

and Human Rights. Held in a hybrid format in Suva, in December, the Forum featured sessions on various issues, including climate change and climate justice, the extractive industries, pollution, modern slavery, corruption, HRDs, entrepreneurship and the SDGs. Central to the discussion was a strong recommendation that companies consistently undertake human rights due diligence and consult with HRDs before initiating business activities.

“Human rights and human rights defenders need to be a priority for both States and businesses,” said Mary Lawlor, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders during the annual UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, held in November. To this end, she urged companies that are launching projects to engage with potentially affected communities and HRDs at the earliest possible stage and called on States to collaborate with HRDs during legislative processes.

“[Companies] have to keep the door open, even if objections of the defenders might render a project more costly, less profitable or even unviable. Free, prior and informed consent by the community is a must,” she emphasized.



Panachai Chanta, Coordinator of the Centre on Health Security and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, participating in an HRD training programme organized by UN Human Rights in Thailand. © OHCHR/Todd Pitman

Highlights of pillar results

Development (D)

UN Human Rights supports efforts to advance economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development. It helps to address human rights gaps in development and economic policies and

regulations. It takes steps to strengthen the accountability of duty-bearers in the public and private sectors and the participation of rights-holders, including those left furthest behind. The Office

promotes the achievement of rights-based Sustainable Development Goals and the overall integration of human rights into the work of the UN Development System.

PILLAR RESULTS / SHIFTS / SDGs

RESULTS / SPOTLIGHTS



D1 – BUSINESS and human rights

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

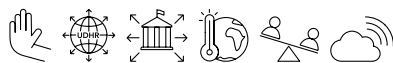


UN Human Rights provided mediation support to **indigenous communities and business actors in Cambodia**. In August, an agreement on communal land was reached between a rubber company and three Bunong indigenous communities in Mondulkiri Province and Socfin. Due to the Office’s intervention, over 500 hectares of land were returned to the indigenous communities, including sacred forests, spirit forests, cemeteries and reserve lands, which were located in the economic land concessions managed by the company. With the development of maps and the marking of the returned areas, the communities will be able to apply to have their land registered under the **communal land titling (CLT)** process, thus securing their land tenure.

UN Human Rights collaborated with the World Economic Forum Partnership for Global LGBTI Equality (PGLE) to disseminate the Standards of Conduct for Business on Tackling Discrimination against LGBTI people and to build tools to advance their implementation. The Office finalized a **guide for LGBTI HRDs on engaging with the private sector** and supported the development of a gap analysis tool to help businesses measure their performance in implementing the Standards of Conduct.

D2 – GUIDING PRINCIPLES on Business and Human Rights

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



In **Colombia**, the Presidential Council on Human Rights (PCHR) approved the **second National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights** in December. UN Human Rights provided technical assistance during the formulation process, including for the organization of dialogue spaces with unions, business associations and academia. A baseline on business and human rights was successfully included in the Action Plan, which UN Human Rights had developed with two universities in Bogotá (Universidad Javeriana and Universidad del Rosario). The Office also provided technical assistance to the Mining and Energy Planning Unit to design a tool for mapping human rights risks in the mining and energy sectors.

In the **Russian Federation**, UN Human Rights raised awareness on the risks of **business-related human rights abuses in the context of COVID-19**, particularly with regard to decent work and social protection. The Office strengthened its partnership with two major representatives of the business sector, namely, the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RUIE) and the UN Global Compact National Network. Together, they co-organized a videoconference to mark UN75 and Human Rights Day on the topic “Respect for human rights as a corporate responsibility indicator.” A total of 122 participants discussed challenges requiring better regulation and the effective enforcement of rules.

D3 – LAND and HOUSING laws/policies

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



In **Kenya**, UN Human Rights assisted the **Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples** to prepare for her appearance as an expert witness in the **reparation proceedings in the Ogiek rights to land and housing case** that was before the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights. The testimony of the Special Rapporteur focused on the issue of reparations for the Ogiek community, related international standards and good practices. The Government's Task Force that is mandated to implement the Court's judgment drafted its final report on the implementation of the decision.

UN Human Rights and the **Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia** undertook consistent advocacy with local authorities regarding the planned **evictions of ethnic Vietnamese communities** in Kampong Chhnang province. The Office successfully intervened to stop the demolition of homes belonging to families of ethnic Vietnamese, leading to a postponement of the relocation of almost 1,000 families. UN Human Rights called on the Government to complete the planned resettlement site before relocating the families and to ensure that the people were in agreement with the plan, as required by international human rights standards.

The UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for **South-West Asia and the Arab Region** reviewed the publications ***Land and human rights: Standards and application*** and ***Land and human rights: Annotated compilation of case law***. These publications provided the sector with short, user-friendly guides on applicable international human rights law, international humanitarian law and criminal law standards. Furthermore, in October, UN Human Rights and UN Women published the 2nd edition of ***Realizing women's rights to land and other productive resources***, which links the issue with the achievement of the SDGs and more systematically integrates the latest guidance from the international human rights mechanisms.

D4 – HEALTH POLICIES and human rights

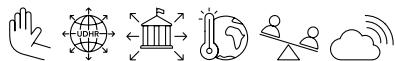
Public health approaches, including sexual and reproductive health policies, comply with international human rights standards and provide non-discriminatory access, especially to children, adolescents, women and migrants.



UN Human Rights expanded the global constituency for **sexual and reproductive health and rights** through awareness-raising on relevant international standards. For instance, the Office partnered with WHO and the Oxford University to launch the **Right to A Better World series** on 18 November, targeting practitioners and students. The series consists of four episodes, namely, comprehensive sexuality education, contraception, maternal mortality and morbidity and violence against women. In each episode, which is approximately 20 minutes long, human rights experts and advocates from around the world share stories on their professional struggles and successes. The Office also updated its **information series on sexual and reproductive health and rights** to reflect the latest standards.

D5 – ENVIRONMENT and CLIMATE policies

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



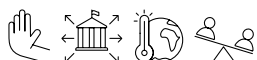
In **Mexico**, UN Human Rights promoted the establishment and functioning of a **Climate Justice Network** with more than 25 CSOs, which met regularly to share information on key issues like air quality, impact studies and the implementation of the **Escazú Agreement**. This work led to the submission of a joint proposal to the Ministry of Environment, with specific recommendations on the rights of indigenous peoples, rural people and people of African descent, the right to a healthy environment, due diligence and the integration of human rights and gender approaches into Mexico’s Nationally Determined Contribution, pursuant to the Paris Agreement.

In the **ASEAN region**, UN Human Rights, UNEP and UNICEF co-organized a virtual expert group meeting on **policy guidance** for promoting and protecting **children’s rights to a healthy environment**, with the participation of a CRC member and the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment. Moreover, the Office partnered with UNEP to produce a regional study on the impacts of COVID-19 on environmental rights.

With technical support from UN Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment issued 40 communications and 25 press releases concerning **environmental protection and human rights**. His report to the General Assembly focused on the need for urgent action to conserve, protect and restore the biosphere on which all species depend. It further illustrated the devastating impacts of COVID-19 and the crucial role of human rights in catalysing action to safeguard nature.

D6 – HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT assessment

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



UN Human Rights worked at the UN inter-agency level to **mainstream human rights into the new UN guidance on transformative economies**. This resulted in recommendations that the UN pay particular attention to the political economy and identify potential winners and losers in economic restructuring, with explicit references to the full respect for human rights, including ESCRs, and the duty to avoid retrogression in times of crisis.

The new safeguards of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and IDB Invest explicitly require human rights due diligence, and the IDB safeguards include a self-standing gender equality safeguard, the first of its kind for any **multilateral development bank (MDB)**. UN Human Rights continued to work in partnership with the MDBs and their Independent Accountability Mechanisms (IAMs) to strengthen banks’ operational **strategies and policies, reprisals and accountability procedures**. The Office’s submissions to the World Bank Group’s Strategy for Fragility, Conflict and Violence 2020-2021 led to the recognition that human rights abuses and violations are among the causes of conflict and opened entry points for operational engagement. UN Human Rights’ advocacy contributed to positive outcomes in operational and reprisals policies and procedures for the IDB, IDB Invest, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the European Investment Bank.

D7 – HUMAN RIGHTS INTEGRATION in implementing the SDGs

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



Through its **Surge Initiative**, UN Human Rights operationalized the Secretary-General's Call for a New Social Contract, building an understanding of opportunities and entry points related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the reform of the UN Development System, including through rights-based and Leave No One Behind (LNOB) analyses, research and advice on how to implement the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. This work enabled UN Human Rights field presences to enhance their **local engagement related to ESCRs** and the implementation of the SDGs. The Office provided technical advice on addressing inequalities and discrimination and integrating human rights analyses into UN development processes, including in 65 CCAs and/or UNSDCFs. For example, in **Cambodia**, UN Human Rights contributed to prevention efforts through the creation of a UNCT early warning dashboard, featuring an indicators framework that encompasses all rights, SDG indicators and risk factors. In **Kenya**, UN Human Rights provided support to the Human Rights Adviser (HRA) and a network of 24 Social Justice Centres to undertake a human rights assessment of inequality in access to water in 24 informal settlements and communities in Nairobi, Kisumu and the coastal regions. The assessment provided evidence to support the advocacy efforts of CSOs as the COVID-19 crisis began and informed the Government's response regarding the suspension of utility bills, the provision of water to informal settlements and a moratorium on evictions during the pandemic.

In the context of COVID-19, UN Human Rights provided **extensive advice to UN partners** to ensure the **integration of human rights into response and contingency plans**. For instance, in Zimbabwe, the Office prepared a checklist of international human rights standards to inform UN activities, which is available in accessible formats for persons with disabilities. In the **Bahamas** and **Jamaica**, UN Human Rights supported the design of a matrix that links the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms with the SDGs, facilitating their integration into the response plans of the UN and the respective governments.

The High Commissioner sent letters to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the 51 countries that underwent a **Voluntary National Review** in 2020 and to the 44 countries that will undertake a VNR in 2021. The letters encouraged countries to **integrate human rights considerations** into their VNR reports and were accompanied by a country-specific document providing guidance and hyperlinks to tools such as the UHRI and the NRTD. The UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs made reference to these tools in its annual *Knowledge Exchange Booklet on Approaches and Tools for the 2021 VNRs*.

With a view to ensuring the mutual reinforcement of the SDGs and CRPD, UN Human Rights concluded a four-year project to develop an **SDG-CRPD resource package** to ensure that all actions undertaken to implement the SDGs are inclusive of persons with disabilities. The package, which was jointly developed with organizations of persons with disabilities, with funding from the European Union (EU), includes policy guidelines, human rights indicators related to the Convention, data source guidance, training materials and videos.

D8 – DISAGGREGATED human rights DATA


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



UN Human Rights provided assistance in relation to the signature and implementation of Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) on a **Human Rights Approach to Data** in several countries. In **Uganda**, a MoU was signed, in 2019, to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by the Office of the Prime Minister, the Uganda Human Rights Commission, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics and the National Planning Authority. UN Human Rights provided technical support to develop a road map aimed at advancing the implementation of the MoU. The road map will serve as an important monitoring and accountability tool between the four institutions. In **Albania, Kosovo**⁵ and **Liberia**, new MoUs were signed in 2020. As a first step in Kosovo, the Ombudsperson Institution of Kosovo (OIK) incorporated the SDGs into its five-year strategy. In October, a joint working group, which included representatives of OIK and the Kosovo Agency of Statistics (KAS), met for the first time to discuss the indicators and modalities of cooperation between the two entities, with a focus on the planned 2021 census (see feature story on p. 381 of the online report).

To support the **compilation of data for SDG Indicator 10.3.1/16.b.1 on discrimination**, UN Human Rights collaborated with approximately 200 national statistics offices and developed a pioneering compendium of survey questions to support disaggregation by multiple characteristics (such as sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender identity, socio-economic status, disabilities) in international and national censuses and surveys. This set of sample questions and technical guidance are being implemented in partnership with UNDP and UNODC under the SDG 16 Household Survey Initiative. For the first time, UN Human Rights reported data on **SDG Indicator 16.1.2 on civilian deaths in armed conflict**, which was disaggregated by sex, age and cause of death.

In **Mexico**, the National Council on Social Policy Evaluation (CONEVAL) increased the **integration of human rights** into its **evaluation models**, referencing human rights norms and exploring how to strengthen statistical data on vulnerable groups. UN Human Rights collaborated with the Human Rights Programme of the National Autonomous University of Mexico to support this process, including by delivering an in-depth training course on human rights indicators and SDG measurement frameworks for 35 staff members of CONEVAL.

 UN Human Rights collaborated with UN Women, UNICEF and national institutions to undertake a **COVID-19 rapid gender assessment in West Africa**, ensuring the integration of HRBA and LNOB analyses. The reports provide evidence regarding the impacts of the pandemic on women and men across the region and aim to inform decision-making. The evidence will also ensure a better understanding of the socio-economic effects of the crisis on societies, at the individual level (violence, discrimination, loss of income, psychological health, time spent on household chores) and at the household level (coping strategies, expenses for children). This reflected solid inter-agency collaboration and provided UN Human Rights with the opportunity to generate the raw data that are needed to undertake quantitative and qualitative human rights assessments. The reports and the related database are now available for [Côte d'Ivoire](#), [Mali](#) and [Senegal](#).

⁵ All references to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

Calling for people-centred policies in Serbia, with a focus on ESCRs

In 2020, UN Human Rights increased its advice on the application of an HRBA to economic policies and practices through its Surge Initiative. Emphasis was placed on building back better in the context of COVID-19 and leveraging the human rights obligations of States to reduce inequalities and ensure inclusive social and economic systems.

Serbia was one of the countries that received the support of the Surge Initiative, a field-driven initiative composed of human rights and development specialists. Within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, the objective was to increase the realization of ESCRs through tailored research and advice on development, economic and fiscal policy options at the country level.

UN Human Rights and its national partners, including representatives of Roma communities, CSOs and government stakeholders, led a real-time mapping exercise of needs and risks in substandard Roma settlements. This provided the first compilation of cross-checked information on over 700 settlements with approximately 170,000 inhabitants, which identified health risks and assessed access to electricity, clean water and sewage infrastructure and gathered data on sustainable sources of income.

These activities offered detailed information on the human rights impacts of COVID-19 on select Roma communities and directly informed the UNCT's analysis of vulnerable groups, enabling their inclusion in the UN SERP. It also contributed to the enhanced delivery of



A Roma settlement near the industrial zone in the city of Novi Sad, Serbia. © Vojin Ivkov

support to Roma and other inhabitants, including through the timely allocation of government resources and emergency aid.

ESCRs can determine whether people will live or die or if societies will become more resilient or fall apart. Consequently, all human rights need to be integrated into all policies, programmes and processes. “It is important that we see ESCRs as essential rather than luxuries,” said Todd Howland, Chief of the Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch at UN Human Rights.

As noted by Françoise Jacobs, Resident Coordinator in Serbia, “The rippling effects of the pandemic” prevented many people from enjoying their essential rights, such as access to work, education, safe water and electricity, thereby threatening their “health, well-being and prosperity.”

By gaining a deeper understanding of the situation of vulnerable Roma persons, the Government, the UN and other partners are better able to provide assistance.

While this work is still in its early days, there are promising signs that the approach is working. In addition to the pandemic, the world is facing a panoply of risks, including economic upheaval, potential human rights violations, the dismantling of health care systems and the long-term disenfranchisement of groups that are being left behind. The Office's expertise in ensuring that ESCRs are central to development and humanitarian efforts can help pave the way for respecting, protecting and fulfilling key human rights, reducing inequalities and preserving the dignity of people left behind when a crisis hits.

We are all in the same storm: Making COVID-19 vaccines available to all

On 17 September, during the HRC’s biennial panel on the right to development, Dr. Maria Mercedes Rossi reminded participants, “We are all in the same storm, but travelling on different boats.” The discussion was focused on strengthening international cooperation in the fight against COVID-19.

As a representative of the CSO Association Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, Dr. Rossi noted that our capacity to face and overcome emergencies is linked to factors beyond our control and choice, such as our birthplace, our family income, our access to safe dwellings and caring neighbourhoods, the level of pollution around us, the preparedness of public health systems and our access to them and the integrity of our leaders and their interest in common goods.

In December, in the [Guidance Note on human rights and access to COVID-19 vaccines](#), UN Human Rights asserted that COVID-19 vaccines must be treated as global public goods, not as marketplace commodities that are only available to countries and individuals who can afford them. In its General Comment No. 25, CESCR argues that access to vaccines, medicines and health technologies is an essential dimension of the rights to health and development and that everyone is entitled to scientific progress to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health.

Dr. Rossi remembers a time when she worked as a doctor in Zambia and antiretroviral treatment was not yet available. “I had an eight-year-old patient, Martin, in the last stage of HIV infection. I [asked him at the hospital]

“What should I bring when I come back tomorrow? Some fruit? A drink?” He replied: “Dr. Maria, bring me the medicine!” Linking Martin’s story to the COVID-19 crisis, she urged countries to unlock international solidarity and the right to development for the benefit of all humanity, underlining that Martin’s story mirrors the situation for millions of people around the world, highlighting the urgent need for universal, just and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.

In November, a group of special procedures mandate holders issued a [joint statement](#) to emphasize that COVID-19 requires a concerted and principled response based on the fundamental human rights-based principles of international solidarity, cooperation and assistance. “There is no room for nationalism or profitability in decision-making about access to vaccines,” they said.

Dr. Rossi has been collaborating with UN Human Rights for more than 10 years, contributing to activities related to the right to development, including the UN Human Rights capacity-building module on the right to development and SDGs. She urges the international community to commit to making the vaccine widely available to prevent global threats and address inequalities, noting that the right to development should be legally binding and that international solidarity should be recognized as a right.



Maria Mercedes Rossi has championed the struggle to advance the right to development at the UN and reinforce international solidarity. © Photo courtesy of Maria Mercedes Rossi



In February, UN Human Rights staff conducted a mission to Lomas del Diamante, an irregular human settlement in the outskirts of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, in order to monitor and document the living conditions of residents and their access to economic, social and cultural rights. The 400 families living in the community face uncertainty about land tenure and fear mass evictions that would enable the State to construct a proposed large-scale housing project.
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Peace and Security (PS)

Preventing violations and strengthening protection of human rights, including in situations of conflict and insecurity



CONFLICT PREVENTION, EARLY WARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

 **Emergency deployments**
13 staff members deployed (in 8 countries with deteriorating human rights situations)


 **Emergency Response Teams**
3 teams established (to work on risk analysis, early warning and response coordination in Africa (West and Southern Africa) and the Asia-Pacific region)

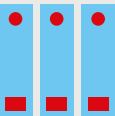
 **Humanitarian development nexus**
1 UN Regional Humanitarian Country Team supported (to integrate human rights into the Syria responses)

 **Independent investigations**
8 commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions supported (on situations in Burundi, the Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, Mali, South Sudan, Syria, Venezuela and Yemen)

 **Transitional justice**
 Over **30** processes and mechanisms supported (in more than 20 countries)

PEACE OPERATIONS

 **Role of human rights components**
1 comprehensive study (documenting the support they provide to the implementation of the mandates of UN peace operations)

 **Public reporting**
13 reports by human rights components (of 8 UN peace operations)

 **Human Rights Due Diligence Policy**
10 UN peace operations and **2** regional frameworks supported (AU-UN Partnership on Peace and Security and the G5 Sahel Compliance Framework)

One step forward in Sudan

Sudan is in the aftermath of a revolution. Although significant change has taken place since the 30-year regime of General Omar al-Bashir was ousted in April 2019, many challenges remain. UN Human Rights is strengthening the capacities of journalists, lawyers and government officials to face their country's new realities.

As journalist Hussein Saad walked off a plane from Kampala in July 2015, he reflected on what he had learned at a workshop on transparency and corruption and looked forward to applying this new knowledge in his writing about human rights and peace in Sudan.

He had just cleared customs when he was suddenly stopped and whisked off to Khartoum North's political security headquarters. He was charged and placed under house arrest for three months. "That would not happen today," Mr. Saad said. "Now, the security apparatus does not interfere and I am no longer arrested for my work. Press freedom is much improved."

The ability to write as a journalist without interference or fear is a strong indication of how things have changed since tens of thousands of Sudanese took to the streets at the end of 2018. This pressure was maintained for six months until they toppled the Government. Sudan is undeniably more open and tolerant.

Many are encouraged by the visible changes, others express frustration at the seemingly slow pace of progress.

Salih Mahmoud is the Deputy of the Darfur Bar Association and a recipient of the Sakharov Prize for his outstanding human rights work in Darfur defending victims of ethnic violence. "Too much force is used against demonstrators and detainees are dying in custody," he said. While Mr. Mahmoud notes that impunity still reigns, he is encouraged by the absence of war and believes the presence of UN Human Rights augurs well for the future of Sudan. In September 2019, UN Human Rights signed an historic agreement with the transitional government to establish offices across Sudan.

"So far, things are very positive but the keys to progress are a robust constitution that respects the universality of human rights and fair elections," said Mazen Shaqoura, Head of the UN Human Rights Office start-up team in Sudan. He continued, "Most aspects of law need to be revisited through legal reform and Sudan needs to come into line with international principles and legislation." A transitional justice process is also argued to be essential to secure accountability and reparations for victims of violence.

This requires political will and a robust civil society that is equipped with the tools to advocate for change. UN Human Rights is providing a series of training workshops for civil society groups and activists.

"We are learning about the importance of human rights terminology and how to monitor and document human rights issues," said Hussain Saad, who can continue reporting on inequalities and injustices without fear of arrest.



December 2020: UN Human Rights Sudan Country Office team (left); Hussein Saad (centre); and Salih Mahmoud (right). © OHCHR

Highlights of pillar results

Peace and Security (PS)

Maintaining international peace and security is one of the fundamental purposes of the UN Charter. Situations of conflict and insecurity invariably result in violations of human rights, which are often among the root causes of conflict and insecurity. UN Human Rights has a global mandate to promote and protect human rights and a specific responsibility

to mainstream human rights throughout the work of the UN. When violence and conflict occur, the promotion and protection of human rights is not only essential for the protection of rights-holders, especially civilians, it also holds the key to rebuilding peace under the rule of law and preventing reoccurrence. Human rights are a powerful tool for conflict

prevention. They provide a sound basis for addressing issues of concern, which, if left unaddressed, can lead to conflict. As a result, human rights mechanisms can support early warning and accountability and inform UN peace and security efforts.

PILLAR RESULTS / SHIFTS / SDGs

PS1 – PROTECTION of CIVILIANS, CONFLICT and PEACE

Parties to conflict and actors involved in peace operations increasingly comply with international human rights law and international humanitarian law and provide greater protection to civilians.



RESULTS / SPOTLIGHTS

Spotlights: Disabilities Women Youth

During 2020, the Office prepared 12 monthly updates and 24 biweekly reports on the **human rights situation in Yemen**. The findings of human rights monitoring activities were shared with key protection actors and contributed to the development of **14 advocacy initiatives**, including statements and press briefings that were issued by the High Commissioner and the special procedures.

UN Human Rights published two quarterly notes on **trends of human rights violations and abuses attributed to Malian Defence and Security Forces, G5 Sahel forces as well as armed groups**, documenting 1,230 human rights violations and abuses. The documented cases and recommendations on actions for addressing them were brought to the attention of relevant authorities. As a result, the Malian military authorities opened investigations in relation to 17 cases. Moreover, the implementation of six protection projects enabled the temporary and **safe relocation of 253 victims** and/or witnesses (35 women, 218 men) and the extension of support to Malian police investigators on interviewing complainants.

Through **methodological guidance** and support to commissions of inquiry, fact-finding missions and other **mandated investigative bodies**, UN Human Rights contributed to the enhanced cross-fertilization of investigative methods and peer learning of these mechanisms. For example, the Office facilitated start-up workshops for the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the UN Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts on Yemen.

PS2 – Counter-TERRORISM and preventing VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism comply with international law.



Through its report on terrorism and human rights (A/HRC/45/27), UN Human Rights provided detailed **guidance** to Member States on the international human rights parameters governing **criminal accountability processes for terrorism-related offences**. The guidance highlights that such processes should be victim-centred and comply with due process and fair trial guarantees as prerequisites to closing the impunity gap and respecting the rights of victims to an effective remedy and reparations.

In June, the **G5 Sahel Joint Force Commander** adopted the **standard operating procedures on the conduct of internal investigations**, representing an important step towards ensuring accountability as it provides for internal investigations when members of the Joint Force are suspected of violations of international human rights law and/or international humanitarian law. The SOPs also require that UN Human Rights be informed when a commission of inquiry is constituted. Furthermore, the Office and the Centre for Civilians in Conflict supported the Joint Force to establish its internal Civilian Casualty and Incidents Tracking and Analysis Cell, which will enable the Joint Force to ascertain the circumstances of and responsibility for casualties and violations.

In **Nigeria, 15 human rights monitors from the National Human Rights Commission** were **deployed**, in conjunction with human rights officers from UN Human Rights, to Benue state, which is one of the states that is most affected by clashes between herders and farmers. The monitors reported 8,131 human rights violations and referred 6,002 cases to relevant authorities. As a result, **3,691 cases were positively resolved** by government agencies.

PS3 – HUMAN RIGHTS protection in PREVENTION/RESPONSE

Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection.



In July, the **CEDAW Committee** adopted an emblematic decision on a **case against Bosnia and Herzegovina for conflict-related sexual violence** (CRSV). The victim was raped by a military officer, in 1995, during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in a village that was under the control of the Bosnian Serb forces. This case is of great importance as it is the first case adopted by CEDAW that addresses sexual violence during conflict and because it requires the State to recognize the plaintiff as a civilian victim of armed conflict and provide her with adequate reparations.

UN Human Rights supported the preparations for the **Security Council Open Debate on “Peace Operations and Human Rights,”** during which the High Commissioner delivered a statement stressing that peace operations are a powerful tool to promote and protect human rights, effectively highlighting human rights as a cross-cutting issue at the Security Council. She also called on States to provide strong political and financial support to these operations.

UN Human Rights reviewed the final draft of the **Ukraine National Strategy for the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflicts until 2030**, which it had been advocating for since 2018. The Strategy was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers at the end of the year and submitted to the President's Office for final endorsement.

With support from UN Human Rights, the **Network of National Human Rights Institutions in West Africa** undertook its first **electoral observation missions** to Burkina Faso, Ghana and Liberia. This contributed to increased collaboration among members of the Network and a positive outcome related to the protection of human rights in the context of elections for the countries concerned.

UN Human Rights participated in meetings of the **UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Ethiopia** and deployed a surge capacity team, in December, to respond to the conflict in the **Tigray region**.

UN Human Rights supported the integration of a human rights, victim-centred approach into the **UN Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)**. In addition, the Office supported the Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate (OVRA) in the mapping of services available to victims of SEA by UN entities and external parties in 13 countries. The public reports that were subsequently issued paved the way for new initiatives. In June, the Office, OVRA and UNICEF jointly conducted a technical consultation to identify ways to improve legal assistance for victims of SEA, leading to the development of a road map to enhance progress in this area. UN Human Rights also contributed to the finalization of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) [Learning Package on Protection from Sexual Misconduct for UN partner organizations](#) and the development of guidance on PSEA for Resident Coordinators. Throughout the year, the Office investigated and publicly reported on allegations of SEA against non-UN international forces operating under a UN Security Council mandate and followed up with Member States and the regional forces concerned.

PS4 – Transitional JUSTICE and ACCOUNTABILITY

Justice mechanisms, including for transitional justice, provide increased accountability for conflict-related violations.



In the **Central African Republic**, significant progress was achieved in the transitional justice process with the **adoption of Law No. 20-009**, which established the **Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission**. UN Human Rights collaborated with UNDP and experts from the International Center for Transitional Justice to help elaborate the draft law by providing technical support to relevant authorities and institutions, including the Steering Committee that was tasked with drafting the law.

In **Kenya**, in order to implement the recommendations of the report entitled **Breaking cycles of violence**, the Office developed the capacity of HRDs and members of the Survivors' Network to address instances of **gender-based violence**. This support led to the **assistance of 555 survivors** (477 women, 78 men) who accessed safe shelters and medical and psychosocial services.

Following the decision of the Government of **Tunisia** to publish the **final report of the Truth and Dignity Commission** in the Official Gazette, the Minister for Human Rights requested support from UN Human Rights to organize an information campaign in July. The campaign included key messages on the value of transitional justice, which were shared on social media platforms. The Office facilitated online discussions with CSOs regarding their role to support the Government in designing an action plan to implement the recommendations contained in the report.

UN Human Rights followed up on emblematic cases within the military justice system to enhance the protection of civilians and improve the **fight against impunity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**. In 2020, more than 20 meetings were organized with judicial authorities to discuss technical aspects of judicial cases. This included designing a proper prosecutorial strategy and developing and implementing judicial **protection measures** for the benefit of **victims and witnesses**. The Office also participated in the drafting of the Peace Accord Agreement between the Government and Forces de résistance patriotique de l'Ituri (FRPI) to ensure its alignment with international law standards, including the right to justice, truth and compensation for victims.

In **Sudan**, UN Human Rights advocated for the swift establishment of the **Transitional Justice Commission** (TJC). It provided the Ministry of Justice with technical advice to lead a participatory process to draft the **TJC Law**, including by facilitating consultations with representatives of CSOs, academia and national and international lawyers. In December, the Ministry adopted a final draft that addresses the concerns raised by civil society and incorporates the Office's recommendations on the independence and composition of the TJC.

PS5 – INFORMATION and EARLY WARNING

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



UN Human Rights **Emergency Response Teams** (ERTs) made good progress in strengthening **human rights risk analysis** in support of UNCTs, in line with the Human Rights up Front (HRuF) Initiative and the prevention agenda. In 2020, the ERT in the Regional Office for **South-East Asia** was closely involved with strengthening human rights risk analysis in the CCAs for a number of countries, including Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam. Through its ERT in **Southern Africa**, UN Human Rights provided human rights inputs and risk analysis to various CCAs and VNR processes in the region, with a focus on the most vulnerable groups. The Office provided human rights inputs regarding specific country situations in Madagascar, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The ERT in the Regional Office for **West Africa** played a key role in gathering and analysing information on potential human rights violations in the context of COVID-19 that informed the Office's regional reports and snapshots. The ERT also created an interactive dashboard to maintain an almost real-time overview of COVID-19-related developments in the region.

In February, during the regional round of the Oxford University moot court competition, which was held in Lebanon, UN Human Rights rolled out components of the **#Faith4Rights toolkit**, with a focus on ethnic and religious minorities and human rights. Participants, including youth and university students, discussed the **Rabat Plan of Action** and the human rights duties of religious leaders. During the discussions, the Office identified youth participants who could further engage with these initiatives.

PS6 – HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE POLICY

United Nations' support to national and regional security forces, law enforcement agencies and non-State actors integrates human rights and complies with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.



UN Human Rights continued to provide support and guidance for the implementation of the **Human Rights Due Diligence Policy** (HRDDP). Enhanced advocacy and guidance from the Office resulted in an increased application of the Policy in non-mission settings and a more consistent application in mission settings. UN Human Rights engaged with a greater number of UNCTs, notably in relation to the development of **SOPs, risk assessments and mitigation measures**, including in Bangladesh, Belarus, the Gambia, Jamaica, Jordan, Maldives, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. UNCTs in Burkina Faso and Malawi requested technical advice from the Office, which led to an improved application of the HRDDP. In Burkina Faso, for example, UN Human Rights assisted the UNCT with drafting standard operating procedures on the HRDDP and establishing a Task Force. Support was also provided for the creation of a regional HRDDP coordination structure in the Sahel region, which is planned to begin operating in 2021. In Mali, UN Human Rights conducted 68 risk assessments on MINUSMA's support to non-UN security forces and established a mechanism to follow up on the mitigation measures recommended for cases that were reviewed between October 2019 and December 2020.

UN Human Rights established an online **community of practice among HRDDP practitioners in UN peace operations** to promote and share lessons learned and good practices. Six virtual meetings were held to discuss issues such as HRDDP implementation during COVID-19, working with UNCTs in UN peace operations and HRDDP mitigation measures.

Non-discrimination (ND)

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination



LAWS, POLICIES AND PRACTICES



Combating discrimination in all its forms
400 participants in the 13th session of the Forum on Minority Issues (with a focus on hate speech, social media and minorities)



Acting upon complaints:
Women
72 communications (sent by the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls)

People of African descent
11 communications (sent by the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent)

CAPACITY-BUILDING



Fellowship Programmes: Training provided to
27 persons of African descent (21 women and 6 men from 12 countries)
20 indigenous persons (13 women and 7 men from 17 countries)

14 persons from minority groups (5 women and 9 men from 14 countries)

1 transgender person

CALL FOR EQUALITY AND TOLERANCE



Public campaigns: Actions taken by people in response to UN Human Rights social media posts

Racism #FightRacism
900 engagements (with 65,000 views)

Gender equality #ChangeTheStory
7,900 engagements (with 274,000 views)

Albinism #Madetoshine
1,600 engagements (with 64,000 views)

Migrants #Standup4Migrants
18,000 engagements (with 1,500,000 views)



International Decade for People of African Descent
 Over **1,500** persons and organizations engaged (in activities to address the root causes of racial discrimination)

#StandUp4Migrants: Changing the narrative on migration

How we perceive and speak about migrants and migration – the narrative – plays a fundamental role in guaranteeing equality and the human rights of migrants. In 2020, UN Human Rights launched a campaign with a toolbox, urgently calling for the transformation of stories of hate and division into stories of hope and inclusion.

UN Human Rights has taken steps to understand the impacts of harmful narratives and find available solutions by working with a broad range of partners, including migrants and migrant rights defenders as well as representatives from the media, creative arts, business, advertising, academia, civil society, international organizations and Member States. In addition, the Office convened expert meetings, facilitated the exchange of experiences and raised public awareness through animated video stories.

Throughout this process, partners called for UN Human Rights to provide tools and inspiring examples that could benefit others. Building on the publication *Seven Key Elements on Building Human Rights-Based Narratives on Migrants and Migration*, UN Human Rights and its global partners developed an interactive online toolbox that provides ideas, downloadable activities and inspiration for shifting narratives on migration.

“We need stories that show that the values we hold in common are stronger than what divides us,” said the High Commissioner during the launch of the toolbox, on the occasion of International Migrants Day. “Stories that inspire and

connect us, rather than tear us further apart; stories that paint a hopeful picture of the future we share; and stories told by migrants themselves.”

The **toolbox** is a seven-step guide to rethink and change the stories being told about migration. It helps to: 1) define a positive and hope-based **vision**; 2) identify **shared values** to engage target audiences; 3) use the power of **storytelling** to humanize migrants; 4) bring the stories and vision to life in the **local context**; 5) **find common ground** to move forward on intractable issues; 6) find new **allies**; and 7) uphold the “**Do No Harm**” principle.

In December, UN Human Rights launched the **#StandUp4Migrants campaign** to illustrate the toolbox in action. The campaign emphasizes what we have in common as human beings, one story

at a time. Leo Johnson, for example, fled war at the age of 15 and arrived in Canada after spending eight years in refugee camps. “I just didn’t think I could fit within that society, because people assumed that I was a certain way. Over time, I told myself that I had two options. I could either choose to be a victim of my circumstances or I could choose to be a champion of possibilities.” He decided to call both Canada and Liberia home. Leo participated in the UN Human Rights Fellowship for People of African Descent and now leads an organization which helps refugees, migrants and marginalized people in Canada and in Liberia.

In 2021, UN Human Rights will work with local partners to further implement the toolbox and contextualize the campaign.



Visual created for the interactive online toolbox developed by UN Human Rights and partners. © OHCHR

Highlights of pillar results

Non-discrimination (ND)

Enhancing equality and non-discrimination for all is at the core of international human rights law. With a call to Leave No One Behind, the 2030 Agenda has created an ‘equality’ momentum. Taking advantage of this opportunity, UN Human Rights seeks to remove the

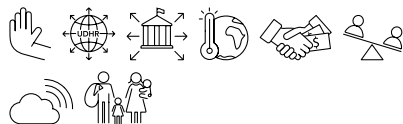
structural barriers that exacerbate and perpetuate discrimination, exclusion and inequalities. The Office supports efforts aimed at strengthening the laws, policies, institutions, practices and attitudes that are conducive to equality and non-discrimination. It strives to increase

public support for diverse and inclusive societies and enhance coherent and rights-based UN responses to exclusion and discrimination. The SDGs provide a common reference for this work, including through linkages with economic, social and cultural rights.

PILLAR RESULTS / SHIFTS / SDGs


ND1 – NORMATIVE FRAMEWORKS to combat DISCRIMINATION

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




RESULTS / SPOTLIGHTS




 In **Georgia**, the **Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, which is largely in line with international standards, was approved on 14 July. UN Human Rights provided assistance and guidance during the drafting process, conducted a study on the extent to which existing legislation protected the rights of persons with disabilities and developed recommendations for the Government and the Parliament. In **Timor-Leste**, various ministries made efforts to better integrate disability, such as the **Ministry of Public Works**, which issued a **regulation** stipulating that all public and private buildings must accommodate persons with disabilities. In **Serbia**, UN Human Rights facilitated the consultative process that led to the adoption of the **new National Strategy for the Improvement of the Position of Persons with Disabilities** and its action plan. The Office also supported the work of the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations in **Peru**, which drafted **legislation** on the protection of persons with disabilities in **COVID-19 responses**, adopted as Legislative Decree No. 1468.

UN Human Rights continued to **combat racism and discrimination against people of African descent**. On 13 March, the Human Rights Council held a debate on the mid-term review of the International Decade for People of African Descent. In the **European Union**, the Office advocated for the adoption by the European Commission of the 2020-2025 Anti-Racism Action Plan and promoted the International Decade, including through the organization of a series of four webinars on the rights of girls and women of African descent in the EU. On 2 December, the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery was commemorated at the European level for the first time and the High Commissioner for Human Rights delivered a keynote address at the European Parliament. In the **Americas**, under the auspices of the Vice-President of Costa Rica, UN Human Rights and UNFPA organized a dialogue among Afrodescendant leaders, experts and governments on the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on people of African descent. In Peru, UN Human Rights supported the development of a national policy on Afro-Peruvian persons by the Ministry of Culture, including by analysing their access to work.

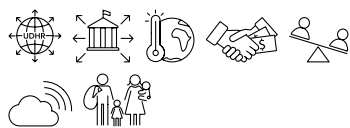
 With support from the Office, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences collected 270 submissions on the increase in **violence against women in the context of COVID-19**. The Special Rapporteur encouraged Member States to maintain services and adopt specific protection measures during the pandemic.

The Office engaged in advocacy during the drafting of the **European Commission’s “Roma Strategic Framework** for Equality, Inclusion and Participation for 2020-2030.” The new EU Framework makes linkages with the SDGs and incorporates a monitoring framework that is based on human rights indicators.

 UN Human Rights strengthened legal, political and institutional frameworks for the **protection of the rights of youth and children**. In **West Africa**, UN Human Rights advocated for an integrated system for the protection of child victims of abuse and exploitation. Two national steering committees, established in Mali and Senegal, elaborated national action plans for the removal of children from the streets.

ND2 – JUSTICE SYSTEMS investigate DISCRIMINATION

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



 With the support of UN Human Rights, **CEDAW** adopted **General Recommendation No. 38 (2020) on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration**. The text incorporated inputs from 120 contributions, regional consultations and three expert group meetings. This guidance will enhance the capacity of justice systems to monitor and investigate human rights violations and provide redress to victims of trafficking.

Following the adoption of Human Rights Council resolution 43/1 on systemic **racism in law enforcement against Africans and people of African descent**, UN Human Rights provided support to the mandated work, including through research and analysis, and by laying the foundation for four regional consultations that took place in early 2021.

In **Somalia**, UN Human Rights, the Somali Women and Child Care Association and the Somali Women and Child Cluster, with the support of the United Nations Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, carried out advocacy to urge the Federal Parliament to withdraw the Sexual Intercourse-Related Crimes Bill and instead table the 2018 Sexual Offences Bill. They co-organized a high-level meeting with representatives from the Office of the President, key ministries, the Office of the Attorney General, women and youth groups, religious leaders, traditional elders, academia, media and others. As a result, the adoption of the **Sexual Intercourse-Related Crimes Bill** was **put on hold**.

In **Georgia**, UN Human Rights advocated for better **protection of the rights of religious minorities**. The Office monitored the case of three high school graduates who were scheduled by the Ministry of Education to take the National Graduation Exam on a day that their religion prohibits work. The Office carried out targeted advocacy with State authorities and worked closely with defence lawyers who filed an urgent case in the local court. In a groundbreaking decision, the court compelled the Ministry of Education to administer the test to the students on an alternative date.

ND3 – WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION and PROTECTION

Legal and social frameworks increasingly promote the autonomy and choices of women and girls and protect them from violence, including in the digital space.



UN Human Rights engaged in the **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign** in various locations. In the **State of Palestine**⁶, the Office partnered with the Ministry of Women’s Affairs and the UNCT to organize the largest campaign to date. In addition, the Office enhanced its monitoring of gender-related killings by undertaking a mapping of key actors and issues and training women human rights defenders (WHRDs) in both Gaza and the West Bank, which resulted in the creation of a core group of activists in Gaza. A total of 47 representatives from State institutions, NHRIs and CSOs from 13 **Arab countries** also participated in a virtual panel discussion on “The role of national bodies and mechanisms concerned with combating violence against women in the Arab region.” In **East Africa**, the Office organized a virtual policy dialogue under the theme “Ending violence against women and girls: Action to guarantee women’s safety in Africa,” which resulted in commitments from African Union (AU) member states to integrate gender equality and women’s rights into COVID-19 recovery efforts.

In **Liberia**, UN Human Rights provided support to the Human Rights and Protection Department of the Ministry of Justice and CSOs to organize broad public discussions about SGBV, which were followed by three days of anti-rape protests. The Government convened a conference entitled “National call to action: Inclusive involvement to fight rape and sexual and gender-based violence in Liberia” to validate the **National Road Map on Rape and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence**. The President declared rape and all forms of SGBV as a national emergency. The Office supported the **review of customary law** to identify discriminatory regulations that fail to take gender into account. It also engaged with the Law Reform Commission and the Legislative Drafting Bureau to integrate an HRBA into revisions of the Rape Law, the Domestic Violence Act and the Inheritance Law.

In **Iraq**, UN Human Rights highlighted challenges faced by children and young adults who lived under ISIL occupation between 2014 and 2017, including in relation to gender norms, poverty, protection and trauma. The Office called for an **enabling environment for girl’s education** in two public reports that focus on the legacy of ISIL territorial control on access to education by adolescents. The reports were issued in February 2020 and January 2021, respectively.

ND4 – ERADICATING HARMFUL NORMS

Judicial institutions, media and other sectors increasingly recognize and challenge harmful gender stereotypes and gender norms with a view to their eradication.



UN Human Rights strengthened the capacity of the judiciary to address and dismantle harmful stereotypes and protect **women’s human rights** to ensure that decisions are based on facts, rather than beliefs about the roles of women and men. In **Uruguay**, the Office has been working to eradicate **judicial gender stereotyping** since 2018. As a result, two guides were published for the judiciary and the Office of the Prosecutor on gender stereotypes and international standards relating to women’s access to justice. In June, UN Human Rights developed the capacities of 80 judges and prosecutors to use the guides and the Supreme Court issued an internal resolution that requests judges to use the guide for the judiciary as a key resource when ruling on cases related to GBV.

Under the **UN Free & Equal campaign**, UN Human Rights sought to **advance the human rights of LGBTI persons** through activities in 13 countries. In **Brazil**, for example, the Office disseminated three videos on LGBTI persons in the workplace and other web articles on social inclusion, reaching more than one million people. On the occasion of the International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (17 May), two thematic campaigns were launched at the global level in all UN languages and in Portuguese on **LGBTIQ+ youth homelessness** and breaking the silence around discrimination and violence against LGBTI persons. The Office developed social media toolkits on

⁶ All references to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with General Assembly resolution 67/19.

LGBTIQ+ inclusion in COVID-19 prevention and recovery efforts and organized two high-level UN events with the UN LGBTI Core Group, in New York. At the European level, the Office contributed to meetings of the European Governmental LGBTI Focal Points Network and advocated for the inclusion of international human rights standards in the European Commission's first LGBTI Equality Strategy, which was adopted in November.

On the occasion of **International Women's Day**, UN Human Rights partnered with WikiMedia to address **stereotypes about WHRDs** and **create content on less well-known defenders** who have made important contributions to their societies. A total of 72 competitors made edits in 36 languages and 3,224 articles were created or improved.

ND5 – DIGITAL SPACE

Principles and practices effectively counter discrimination and hate speech in the digital space.



ND6 – MIGRATION

The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.



In **Myanmar**, UN Human Rights partnered with CSOs and the company KoKoTech to create **standards for monitoring** instances of **online discrimination and hate speech against minority communities**, in particular Rohingya people, in the context of COVID-19.

UN Human Rights raised awareness about, monitored and reported on the **human rights protection gaps faced by migrants** and monitored the situation at borders. It also assisted States and other stakeholders with the implementation of human rights-based migration governance measures, including in relation to **COVID-19 and the human rights of migrants**. The Office monitored the situation of **refugees and other migrants from Venezuela in host countries** and provided technical assistance to national actors. In Peru, for instance, the Office and UNIC issued communication materials to prevent the illegal evictions of Venezuelan migrants and refugees. Moreover, UN Human Rights provided support to the Ombudsperson's Office to discuss the situation with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. The Office also issued public statements on the detention and deportation of Venezuelan migrants from Trinidad and Tobago, including persons registered as asylum seekers, some of whom were children.

In the EU, UN Human Rights consistently advocated for the creation of an **independent human rights monitoring mechanism at EU borders**. The new EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, which was tabled by the European Commission, in September, contains several provisions that are relevant to human rights and proposes the establishment of such a mechanism. In January, the Office joined the Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights of Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, and provided advice on human rights-compliant policies.

Through advocacy efforts, UN Human Rights contributed to **ending the detention of migrant children** in Immigration Detention Centres in **Thailand**. In the **Pacific**, UN Human Rights contributed to informing the Regional Policy Dialogue on **climate change-related migration, displacement and planned relocation**, including by outlining policy and identifying legal gaps.

ND7 – PUBLIC MOBILIZATION for INCLUSION

Public support increases for equal, inclusive and diverse societies, without discrimination.



With support from UN Human Rights, the Independent Expert on **albinism** built a campaign around International Albinism Awareness Day on 13 June. This culminated in an online concert and the launch of a social media campaign on the theme #MadetoShine. The Office issued approximately 25 social media posts in English, French and Spanish and an Instagram story that generated 1,600 engagements.

In **Malawi**, UN Human Rights sought to prevent conflict by promoting equality, diversity and inclusiveness. In the south of the country, a number of Christian-managed schools refused to educate girls who were wearing a hijab, which resulted in tension and violence between Muslim and Christian communities. Five schools were closed, leaving 10,000 children out of school. UN Human Rights collaborated with the Public Advisory Committee (PAC), a CSO of religious leaders, to organize a series of workshops with Muslim and Christian leaders on international human rights standards relating to **education, non-discrimination and freedom of religion or belief**. Following a request from the Government, PAC organized a dialogue to negotiate an agreed dress code for schools. Four of the five schools that were closed re-opened.

In the Republic of **Moldova**, the Office conducted an assessment of the human rights situation of Roma people in the region, which served as a basis for initiating a dialogue between Roma CSOs and de facto authorities on access to education, work and social protection. The assessment was used to develop a road map and action plan for **establishing the first institution of Roma community mediators**.


ND8 – UN response to INEQUALITY and DISCRIMINATION

The UN system implements a coherent and human rights-based response to inequality and discrimination, including intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination.



UN Human Rights reactivated the **UN Network on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities**, which issued a range of guidance for UNCTs on combating racial discrimination and protecting minorities. In November, the Network convened its first senior-level meeting, involving Assistant Secretaries-General from 10 UN entities. This resulted in the Network's adoption of its first workplan since 2014. Further, UN Human Rights issued a **Guidance Note on interlinkages between COVID-19 and racial discrimination**.

UN Human Rights advocated for the implementation of the UN System-wide Action Plan on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and contributed to the development of a **policy statement on indigenous peoples**, which was endorsed by the **UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB)**. UN Human Rights also produced a targeted **Guidance Note on the impacts of COVID-19 on minorities and indigenous peoples**.

 In various locations, UN Human Rights contributed to the efforts of **UNCTs** to increasingly **include disability** in their processes and programmes. For instance, in the Republic of North Macedonia, the Office prepared a UNCT-wide Disability Inclusion Action Plan for 2020-2021. UN Human Rights also led inter-agency efforts to draft the **Secretary-General's policy brief on the impact of COVID-19 on older persons**, which was issued in May.

Within the context of the UNSDG Task Team on Leaving No One Behind, Human Rights and the Normative Agenda, UN Human Rights coordinated a **review** of the extent to which **human rights** are **integrated into 109 COVID-19 SERPs** prepared by the UNCTs. The review was a true inter-agency effort and a good example of advancing the implementation of the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights. The review pointed to a number of gaps but also some good practices, including the use of human rights indicators as well as the identification of at-risk groups and the drivers of exclusion, inequality and discrimination.

Advancing the rights of LGBTI persons in Bolivia: The civil union of David and Guido

In recent years, important legal advances have been made in Bolivia to recognize the rights of populations with diverse sexual orientation and gender identity. Yet, discriminatory legislation and attitudes of homophobia persist. Against this background, the recognition of the free union between David Aruquipa and Guido Montaña in the civic registry (SERECI) marks a new chapter in the fight for equality and non-discrimination of LGBTI persons.

The registry of David and Guido's union, on 10 December, signals the end of a long bureaucratic and legal battle that they initiated as a couple 11 years ago, first as activists for the rights of the LGBTI community and later when dealing with a myriad of public entities, courts and constitutional chambers. "It was a torturous experience, but we decided not to give up," said David.

The road to recognition was paved with many obstacles due to discriminatory provisions in legislation, including the Constitution, which only recognizes unions between a woman and a man. The Constitutional Court ruled that their civil union had to be registered by the SERECI since international human rights treaties ratified by Bolivia have supremacy over the Constitution. Despite this ruling, it took another two years for their union to be registered due to refusals by public authorities.

Nevertheless, David and Guido had considerable support on their side. Two prominent human rights lawyers with significant experience in the promotion

and protection of human rights in Bolivia advised and assisted David and Guido during their struggle. In addition, advocacy undertaken by UN Human Rights with national authorities contributed to the eventual registration of their union. For instance, the Office consistently encouraged authorities to take this landmark step through private and public messages. On 30 July, it submitted a memorandum outlining relevant legal international and regional human rights standards to the SERECI and the Plurinational Constitutional Court. On 6 December, UN Human Rights posted a tweet urging the advancement of LGBTI rights in Bolivia and referring to David and Guido's case as an "historic opportunity." Furthermore, an advisory opinion issued in 2017 by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on gender identity and equality and non-discrimination

of same-sex couples, to which the Office submitted an *amicus curiae* brief, served as a key precedent that enabled David and Guido to begin this process.

On Human Rights Day, the SERECI finally ordered the free union to be registered. The decision was welcomed by UN Human Rights⁷ and many HRDs in the country and abroad. As noted by Alán García Campos, Head of UN Human Rights in Bolivia, "The perseverance of David and Guido and their indefatigable battle for their rights is an inspiration to us all. Their achievement should motivate structural changes in order to fully recognize existing legal unions in Bolivia between same-sex couples and eradicate any kind of discrimination against LGBTI persons."

⁷ See the UN Human Rights tweet at https://twitter.com/Oacnudh_BO/status/1335571718430220288?s=20



David and Guido entered into the first same-sex "free union" in Bolivia.
© Magdalena Tola Paño

Mixing it up for a more diverse Kyrgyzstan

In 2010, deadly inter-ethnic clashes killed hundreds of people in southern Kyrgyzstan. While peace has returned, tensions remain. In response, UN Human Rights has pioneered an internship programme that is helping the national civil service to engage more minorities and increase the diversity of its ranks.

A decade ago, the bustling streets of Osh, in southern Kyrgyzstan, experienced tragic events. Due to an inter-ethnic conflict between Uzbeks and Kyrgyz, at least 426 people were killed, 2,500 homes were burned down and thousands were forced to flee. Despite people's desire to move on, social media keep tensions simmering, especially among more extreme youth, and authorities are concerned that violence could unexpectedly erupt.

In 2020, nearly 28 per cent of the country's population was composed of ethnic minorities – Uzbek, Russian, Dungan

Chinese, Kazakh and other smaller groups – but less than 5 per cent of civil servants come from minority groups. Another factor that can influence hiring in the civil service is language. While Russian is an official language and widely spoken, the State language is Kyrgyz, which not everyone speaks fluently.

The UN Human Rights internship programme addresses this underrepresentation by expanding opportunities for ethnic minorities, women and persons with disabilities. Each intern is assigned a mentor, enrolls in training on human rights and public administration and receives a stipend.

“Some qualified specialists cannot find work, but through this project they [can] get a job, including ethnic minorities,” said Anara Temiraliyeva, one of the programme's mentors and Head of the Family and Child Protection Unit in

the Department of Labour and Social Development. Anara would like to see the programme expanded across the country to ensure a more egalitarian and diverse workforce.

Maftuna Mavlyanova, an accountant from Osh, applied for one of the coveted civil service internships. “I was a new bride,” she said, “and there is this stereotype that I needed to tend to the household, so I had many doors slammed in my face. I never dreamed I would be accepted.” Maftuna proved herself and once her internship was complete, she was hired by the civil service.

From Osh, the UN Human Rights internship programme was extended to the country's northern Issyk-Kul region where many minorities live. In 2020, 23 interns completed the programme (14 women, nine men), including nine representatives of ethnic minorities and six persons with disabilities.

In November, the State Personnel Service (SPS), which handles all civil service hiring, proposed establishing a legislative basis to institutionalize the programme. Oleg Tarbinskii, Deputy Head of the SPS, believes the internship programme surpasses its initial goal. “It helps to attract and promote qualified young people into public service, evens out the rural-urban divide by providing equal access to all and measures the commitment of Kyrgyzstan to the democratic and liberal values of the State.”



Maftuna Mavlyanova and other interns at the awards ceremony upon completion of their internship in the south of Kyrgyzstan. © Abdikaimov Nurgazy



UN Human Rights staff from the West Africa Regional Office visit a refugee camp in the Tillabéry region, Niger. © OHCHR

Accountability (A)

Strengthening the rule of law and accountability for human rights violations



JUSTICE SYSTEMS, TRIALS AND PRISON CONDITIONS



Trials
708 court cases monitored



Places of detention
2,274 visits undertaken



Detainees
4,312 persons released (upon action from UN Human Rights, including 211 women, 4,008 men and 93 children)



Monitoring missions
11,929 human rights situations documented (41% in-person and 59% remotely)

NON-JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS



Human rights mechanisms
92 opinions adopted by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (55 urgent appeals, 139 allegation letters and 11 other letters initiated or joined)

313 cases clarified by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (698 new cases transmitted to States, including 78 under the urgent action procedure)

88 communications sent by the Working Group on business and human rights (including 79 joint allegation letters, 6 joint urgent appeals and 3 other joint letters)



Paris Principles-compliant national human rights institutions (NHRIs)
61 countries with established/enhanced NHRIs (3 new institutions accredited as NHRIs in Côte d'Ivoire, Estonia and Uzbekistan)

Court ruling in Kenya: A milestone in environmental justice

In a positive development for environmental justice, the Owino Uhuru settlement in Kenya won the equivalent of US\$13 million in compensation for the devastating impacts on the environment and the health of a community caused by lead poisoning from a nearby smelter that recycled batteries.

On 16 July, the Land and Environment Court in Mombasa awarded compensation to the residents and ruled that the community's rights to life, a healthy environment, the highest attainable standard of health and clean and safe water had been contravened and ordered the Government of Kenya and two companies to pay compensation.

The ruling came four years after the Centre for Justice, Governance and Environmental Action (CJGEA) filed a class action lawsuit on behalf of the 3,000 residents living in Owino Uhuru. It also came ahead of the tenth anniversary of the landmark Kenyan Constitution and Bill of Rights, which specifically uphold the right to a clean and healthy environment and provide for the legal enforcement of environmental rights.

“We were very excited,” said Phyllis Omido, founder and Head of the CJGEA. “Because we were suing the Government and corporations, we were not sure...if the judge would be bold and fearless enough to pronounce justice.”

A DECADE OF CAMPAIGNING FOR JUSTICE

When her baby son fell seriously ill with lead poisoning, Phyllis Omido, a former employee of the smelter, began a campaign to close the plant. She founded the CJGEA, an environmental grassroots group that advocates for the rights of communities poisoned by toxic chemicals from Kenya's extractive industries. For nearly a decade, Phyllis and other community activists have fought against the presence and effects of lead in the community.

UN Human Rights heard of her fight and offered to help as part of its mandate to support implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and protect civic space. In addition, UN Human Rights worked with Kenyan authorities to ensure the protection of members of the CJGEA and the settlement when they were threatened.

“UN Human Rights is the only international partner that directly funded the litigation,” said Phyllis. “They also assisted us in monitoring and documenting the case. They stood with us when witnesses were harassed, intimidated and afraid, even sending a team into the community. Without UN Human Rights, we would have given up, many times.”

Moreover, Phyllis' work on environmental justice led her to create the Land and Environment Defenders Network, which is also supported by UN Human Rights. Its advocacy has led the Government to close 10 toxic waste smelters over the last five years.

“Environmental human rights issues are on the rise, and as long as that is the case, I have work to do,” Phyllis said. “We still have an unjust society, especially regarding environmental governance and human rights.”



Phyllis Omido has been the driving force behind the quest for justice for the people of the Owino Uhuru community. © OHCHR/A. Fassio

Highlights of pillar results

Accountability (A)

The legal protection of all human rights requires various actors to fully assume their obligations to respect, protect and fulfil human rights. This includes States as the primary duty-bearers as well as private actors, armed groups, other non-State actors and individuals who, under certain circumstances, can be held criminally accountable for their actions. To

enhance accountability and promote peaceful, prosperous and inclusive societies, UN Human Rights helps to build human rights-compliant institutional frameworks. It supports the adoption of regulations that domesticate international human rights law and it promotes policies and practices that guard against transgressions (i.e., misuse of criminal law,

arbitrary detention, torture, gender-based violence and censorship). UN Human Rights also supports the establishment of independent, impartial and fair courts and non-judicial mechanisms that address claims and grant remedies, including commissions of inquiry, fact-finding missions and other investigations.

PILLAR RESULTS / SHIFTS / SDGs

AI – ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE and LAW ENFORCEMENT

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




RESULTS / SPOTLIGHTS

Spotlights: Disabilities Women Youth

Persistent and coordinated advocacy efforts undertaken by the Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) resulted in progress made in enhancing **accountability for serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law**. For instance, the Constitutional Court of Ukraine repealed article 375 of the Criminal Code, which infringed on the independence of judges. The Cassation Criminal Court of the Supreme Court modified its practices to help ascertain that plea bargains are voluntary. The Office of the Prosecutor General made a commitment to tackle warrantless arrests in relation to ‘continuous crimes’ and to cease pressing terrorism charges against individuals who are linked with armed groups of the self-proclaimed ‘republics’ in eastern Ukraine. At the same time, a draft law was developed to amend the in absentia prosecution procedure, which is expected to facilitate prosecution of those responsible for serious human rights and international humanitarian law violations. Furthermore, the State judicial administration annulled requirements linked to digital signatures, improving access to online court hearings in the context of COVID-19. In its emblematic judgment on the right to liberty pending trial, the European Court of Human Rights referred to the HRMMU’s findings. It is anticipated that the judgment will change national practices on arrests and pretrial detention.

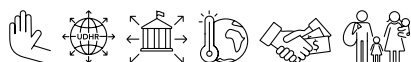
Sustained advocacy efforts undertaken by UN Human Rights in **Libya** contributed to the establishment, in Benghazi and Tripoli, of **specialized courts to address violence against women and children**. Another major development was the appointment, on 11 October, of five women judges (out of a total of six judges) to the newly established courts.

In partnership with the Ministry of Justice, UN Human Rights carried out an assessment of the **free legal aid** system in **Belarus**, identifying gaps and formulating recommendations, which informed the development of a road map to improve legal aid provision. During the year, the HRA, in close coordination with the Resident Coordinator, worked with bar associations, lawyers and two CSOs to provide legal consultation services to 1,543 persons (1,054 women, 489 men), including persons with disabilities and survivors of domestic violence.

 In **El Salvador**, UN Human Rights supported a network of national and international CSOs working on **sexual and reproductive rights** to present a habeas corpus before the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice in favour of 14 women imprisoned for obstetric emergencies. In this context, the Office also provided technical advice to the Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (PDDH, the NHRI), which submitted an amicus curiae brief in relation to these women to support the adoption of precautionary measures in their favour, including in relation to health and hygiene conditions in the context of COVID-19. As a result, the Constitutional Chamber ordered a review of these cases and an improvement of sanitary conditions in the prisons. Following this decision, one of the women was granted early parole and another woman's sentence was commuted.

A2 – ACCESS TO JUSTICE and REMEDIES


Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.



UN Human Rights engaged with Member States, UN partners and CSOs to promote accountability for human rights violations. For instance, with support from the Permanent Mission of Libya, the Office and UNSMIL co-organized briefings and consultations on Libya for Member States of the Human Rights Council on the need to ensure accountability for violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including war crimes. This contributed to the **establishment**, in June, of a **Fact-Finding Mission on Libya**.

UN Human Rights made significant progress towards ensuring accountability for human rights violations in the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)**, including through the upgrade of the **central information and evidence repository** to the latest e-discovery software. Approximately 3,830 distinct files were added to the repository, such as interviews, reports, petition letters, satellite imagery, maps, court documents, videos and audio recordings. Related open source materials from the media, governments and academia were also uploaded. All relevant staff received online training on the use of the repository.

Throughout 2020, UN Human Rights engaged extensively with EU institutions to promote the application of an HRBA to the **new EU rule of law mechanism**. The Office advocated for making linkages between human rights, democracy and the rule of law, with a focus on defending civil society space. In December, an agreement was reached on rule of law budget conditionality, linking respect for the rule of law and disbursements of EU funds to member states.


 In **Honduras**, UN Human Rights increased its support to the strategic litigation efforts of CSOs in cases related to the **rights of women** and **LGBTI** persons. The restrictive legislation on sexual and reproductive rights represents a major gap in the State's fulfilment of its international obligations. For instance, in a case where a voluntary termination of pregnancy was criminalized, the Office's intervention was key to ensuring the integration of international human rights norms and standards into the sentence, which set a precedent for future jurisprudence in this area.

In **Kenya**, UN Human Rights provided technical and financial support to the Tripartite Task Force (TTF), composed of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Independent Policing Oversight Authority and the National Police Service. The TTF developed **SOPs** regarding the **investigation and prosecution of serious human rights violations committed by police officers**. Investigators and prosecutors worked together to investigate allegations of serious human rights violations, such as killings, shootings, robbery, harassment, sexual assault and inhuman treatment, during the enforcement of COVID-19 curfew regulations. As a result, a number of officers were charged with committing serious human rights violations.


A3 – Investigation of GENDER-related CRIMES

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



 As a co-lead entity of the **United Nations Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict** (TOE), UN Human Rights supported national authorities in the investigation and prosecution of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict settings. In the Central African Republic, the TOE collaborated with MINUSCA and UNDP. As a result, the Joint Rapid Response Unit to Prevent Sexual Violence against Women and Children (UMIRR) finalized the judicial investigation into the crimes that occurred in Kaga Bandoro, in August 2019, including CRSV, which involved 264 victims. In January 2021, the judicial file was sent for review to the Office of the Prosecutor of the Kaga Bandoro High Court. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the TOE collaborated with the Joint Human Rights Office of MONUSCO, the UNCT and CSOs and worked with Congolese counterparts to implement a case prioritization strategy for serious international crimes, including sexual violence. The TOE also provided technical assistance in relation to the investigation, prosecution and trial of Ntabo Ntaberi Sheka and his co-conspirators for crimes committed between 2010 and 2017, including the mass rape of 387 civilians. These efforts contributed to the **groundbreaking decision of the Cour Militaire Opérationnelle of North Kivu**, on 23 November, to sentence Ntabo Ntaberi Sheka to life imprisonment after he was convicted of rape, sexual slavery and the recruitment of children. In Guinea, UN Human Rights and the TOE collaborated to support awareness-raising efforts regarding the importance of accountability for the events of 28 September 2009, during which at least 109 women and girls were victims of sexual violence. This resulted in a renewed commitment by senior officials to ensure accountability and elaborate draft guidelines to convene trials for these events.

 In **South Sudan**, UN Human Rights reported and verified 146 incidents of CRSV affecting 218 survivors. The Office and its partners regularly raised cases of CRSV with parties to the conflict. Advocacy undertaken with the Chief of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (SSPDF) and the Minister of Defence, in May, regarding concerns over the continued use of sexual violence by the SSPDF in the Yei-Lasu area, was instrumental in the deployment of the District Court Martial to the area. In September, the **District Court Martial** handed down a **landmark ruling** in which 26 suspects were convicted and received sentences ranging from seven to 14 years in prison for the rape of six women and five girls. UN Human Rights monitored the two-month long trial and worked with CSOs to support and accompany the victims and their families before, during and after the trial.

 In **Chad**, UN Human Rights conducted six field monitoring missions in the provinces of Ouaddai; Lake Chad, Moyen-Chari, Mandoul, Logone Occidental and Logone Oriental. The missions monitored specific **violations related to intercommunity conflicts, gender-based violence and child exploitation** and the conditions in prisons and other places of detention. During the missions, UN Human Rights gathered information that formed the basis for its subsequent advocacy with authorities. As a result, five human rights violations were redressed related to the arbitrary arrest of journalists, HRDs, CSO leaders and alleged members of Boko Haram and the ill-treatment of detainees.

A5 – UN ACTION on RULE of LAW

UN efforts with regard to the rule of law, justice, counter-terrorism and accountability put human rights at the core.



Through its participation in the meetings of the Human Rights, Rule of Law and Victims of Terrorism Working Group and the Global Compact Human Rights Working Group, UN Human Rights highlighted the importance of integrating human rights into **counter-terrorism responses and responses to terrorist incidents and crisis situations**. The Office provided comments on the national counter-terrorism strategies of **Iraq** and **Tajikistan**, the Watchlisting Guidance Manual Initiative and the human rights aspects of the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems. The Global Compact Human Rights Working Group finalized the **Basic Human Rights Reference Guide (BHRRG): Proscription of Organizations in the Context of Countering Terrorism**. The BHRRG provides guidance to States on the parameters and human rights implications of identifying organizations as terrorist organizations. In cooperation with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, UN Human Rights delivered training of trainers sessions to law enforcement officers on counter-terrorism and human rights in Cameroon, Iraq, Mali and Nigeria.

UN Human Rights provided technical advice to ensure that human rights are mainstreamed into the **Global Framework for United Nations Support on Syria, Iraq and Third Country National Returnees** (Global Framework). This resulted in the integration of human rights into Global Framework processes (i.e., joint scoping exercises, risk management, technical guidance and advice related to programme design and implementation, monitoring and fund allocations from the Global Framework pooled funds). The support from UN Human Rights also included the provision of human rights and gender expertise to facilitate the implementation of the Global Framework.

In **Myanmar**, UN Human Rights supported the UNCT in enhancing its strategic approach to prevention, which resulted in the development and adoption of a **UNCT Human Rights Strategy** and implementation plan, with a focus on Leaving No One Behind and ensuring the holistic implementation of the UNCT's human rights agenda.

UN Human Rights developed and adapted a **digital image verification tool**, which was initiated in 2019, and deployed it as an internal service within the organization. This enabled staff and accountability mechanisms to test confidential digital artefacts for evidence of tampering and have a higher degree of confidence in the digital evidence used to support casework, human rights analysis and reporting.

Enhancing accountability through the participation of civil society in Uzbekistan

Shukhrat Ganiev, a lawyer by training, became a human rights activist because he wanted to help vulnerable persons in his neighborhood of Bukhara. Many people around him could not understand why he would leave a stable job and tranquil life to assist complete strangers. Shukhrat felt that it was important to bridge the gap between law and law enforcement.

For this reason, he became the Head of the Humanitarian Legal Center, a non-registered CSO in Uzbekistan. “The majority of people perceive your actions as a human rights defender as their last hope. And sometimes it is important for them when you are just beside them during the night searches,” explained Shukhrat.

“During the last few years, a lot has changed for the better for human rights defenders in Uzbekistan.” Until recently, Shukhrat could not have imagined being able to visit places of detention. At the end of 2019, UN Human Rights selected him to participate in a training programme that was co-organized with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Penal

Reform International and the Office of the Ombudsperson. Together with a group of civil society members and staff from the Ombudsperson’s Office, Shukhrat enhanced his capacities to monitor the human rights situation in detention facilities, including penitentiary institutions.

In the summer of 2020, joint advocacy efforts by UN Human Rights and the Resident Coordinator’s Office began to yield results. The Ombudsperson’s Office agreed to include independent civil society experts in its torture prevention monitoring activities.

Three national experts were trained and supported by UN Human Rights, including Shukhrat, and participated in monitoring visits to places of detention and mandatory COVID-19 quarantine facilities. “I could interview prisoners of my own choice, regardless of whether they were convicted on the basis of political or religious charges,” noted Shukhrat.

The work of the monitors was facilitated by the use of sample questionnaires that were developed by UN Human Rights to

support the monitoring activities. The Office also organized debriefing sessions with the Ombudsperson’s Office and civil society experts to discuss their findings, agree on follow-up activities and jointly formulate recommendations, some of which were included in the reports of the Ombudsperson’s Office to the Parliament. The debriefings provided forward-looking recommendations, including on the institutionalization of the participation of civic activists in the work of Uzbekistan’s National Preventive Mechanism.

In addition, Shukhrat and his colleagues provided legal assistance to vulnerable individuals. By the end of 2020, they had won the cases of five young men who had been fully exonerated by the court during the appeals process. Shukhrat then realized how much confidence he had gained during the previous year that “Recent changes are irreversible in my country,” he said. “There is the political will, the strategy and the team. The main thing is not to stop and to move forward.”

Shukhrat Ganiev at a training (left) and during a monitoring visit to the medical unit of a penal colony (right). © Photo courtesy of Shukhrat Ganiev (left) and OHCHR (right)



The future of digital evidence: Fostering accountability for human rights violations

The Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigations was launched at a special event to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Nuremberg trials. Several years in the making, the Protocol is a new tool that was jointly produced by UN Human Rights and the Human Rights Center at the University of California, Berkeley, to strengthen the use of video and other digital information as evidence in human rights, war crimes and international criminal cases.

The event, which took place on 1 December, recalled the first use of film as evidence in an international trial and discussed the future of digital evidence and visual imagery in court cases to foster accountability. “Technology can help us see the distant, the obscured and the unimaginable – and serve as concrete proof of violations of human rights and international law,” said Michelle Bachelet, High Commissioner for Human Rights, in her opening remarks during the event.

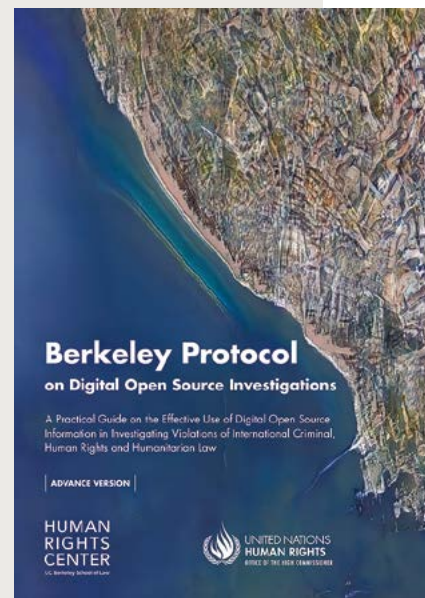
The Berkeley Protocol was developed by a group of experts with diverse professional perspectives, legal and cultural backgrounds and was subjected to a rigorous process of review and validation. It establishes common global standards for using public, digital content, including photographs and film, as evidence and for conducting online research regarding alleged violations of international criminal, international human rights law and international humanitarian law, thereby contributing to a new era in accountability for such violations.

The Protocol provides guidance on methodologies and procedures for gathering, analysing and preserving digital information in a professional, legal and ethical manner. It outlines measures that online investigators can and should take to protect their digital, physical and psychosocial safety and that of others who risk their well-being to document war crimes and human rights violations, including witnesses, victims and first responders, as well as citizens, activists and journalists.

In an era of widespread misinformation and disinformation, the Protocol has gained more importance as it sets out principles and methods behind verification and authentication analyses that practitioners and laypersons can comprehend.

First and foremost, the Protocol requires investigators to be bound by fundamental ethical, professional, methodological and legal principles to ensure that information is collected in line with human rights standards. That information can then be employed for accountability purposes when conditions allow.

In an increasingly digitalized world, UN Human Rights and the Human Rights Center hope that the Berkeley Protocol will help online investigators, whether they are legal professionals, human rights defenders, journalists or others, to develop and implement effective procedures for documenting and verifying violations of international law and to make the best use of digital open source information so that those who are responsible for such violations can be brought to justice.



Cover page of the Berkeley Protocol. © OHCHR

Participation (P)

Enhancing participation and protecting civic space



PUBLIC MOBILIZATION



Global campaigns

9.7 million followers on social media (across all UN Human Rights platforms, 27% more than in 2019)

376,000 mentions of #StandUp4HumanRights

548 video stories (including 138 video messages from the High Commissioner)

120 feature stories (UN Human Rights website and social media)



In the field

700 advocacy campaigns

6,000 press releases/statements

INFORMATION AND OUTREACH MATERIALS



Universal Human Rights Index

48,594 unique visitors to the website (a 32% increase from 2019)



Publications

6.19 million visits to online publications (a 27% increase from 2019)

Over **42,875** printed materials dispatched (to 30 countries)

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS



With CSOs

950 women's rights organizations

450 youth-led organizations

370 organizations of persons with disabilities



Human Rights Day

Almost **600 million** views of GIFs (created with GIPHY)

32.4 million persons reached through a photo challenge ("The World Is In Our Hands," with photographer Justin Wu)

ENGAGEMENT WITH UN HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS



HRC and UPR Voluntary Trust Funds

10 delegates of States supported to attend UPR reviews (out of a total of 28 States reviewed)

108 requests processed by the HRC Help Desk for Small States (during regular sessions of the HRC)



Intimidation and reprisals against those cooperating with the UN

New cases/developments from **45** countries



Social Forum

1,000 participants (from 100 countries, with a focus on "Combating poverty and inequalities")

Empowering young people to participate in the promotion of their rights

The right to participation is one of the most important principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Yet, a “[Global survey on youth and COVID-19](#)” conducted by UN Human Rights, ILO and other partners demonstrated that young people have been hit hard by the pandemic. In particular, respondents from 112 countries, 18-34 years of age, observed the impacts of COVID-19 on their right to participation in public affairs and peaceful protests.

Consequently, many young people channelled their creativity into countering the spread of the virus and raising awareness in their communities. Respondent Nikhat Akhtar, from India, wrote, “I am fighting against the spread of misinformation and fake news about COVID-19.”

As noted by a report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on youth and human rights, “Investing in young people’s rights and empowering youth can lead to more equal societies and positive social change” (A/HRC/39/33). To participate effectively, young people must be given the proper tools. During the year, UN Human Rights worked to ensure that human rights were more relevant, accessible and useful to young people in the Asia-Pacific region, enabling them to play a vital role in their own development and that of their communities.

In the Pacific, the Office built the capacity of 25 youth representatives to use the international human rights mechanisms and fight for stronger climate action. Sunishma Singh, of the Fiji Youth Council, participated in this initiative: “Knowing

there are human rights mechanisms out there that can be used to hold States and private sector actors accountable for the climate crisis strengthens my resolve to fight for climate action,” he said. Singh and his peers are leading movements to participate in and guide the political debate on climate change.

In Cambodia, UN Human Rights and six youth rights associations organized the Youth Human Rights Champion Competition. Six youth groups, with participants aged 15-23 years, were selected to produce two-minute videos on human rights that are relevant to them, including the right to vote, the right to education of sex workers’ children, the right of vulnerable groups to participate in public affairs, the rights of migrant workers and equality between women and men. The videos can be accessed on the [UN Human Rights-Cambodia Facebook page](#).

In Papua New Guinea, UN Human Rights and the HRA partnered with a CSO to launch an innovative initiative in selected schools entitled “Human Rights Games,” enabling students to learn about and promote their rights.

The voices, creativity and engagement of young people can help shape more inclusive, equal and resilient societies. UN Human Rights is taking steps to make their fundamental right to participate and be heard a reality, including in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.



Launch of the Kedar Human Rights Cup in selected schools of Papua New Guinea. The event commemorates the role of UN Human Rights Adviser Kedar Poudyal. © OHCHR

Highlights of pillar results

Participation (P)

Participation of rights-holders and their representative organizations, reflecting the diversity of society and ensuring those most underrepresented are involved, is key to realizing the promise of human rights for all people. When civil society engages freely and actively in policy development and implementation, policies are more informed, effective, efficient and sustainable. Furthermore, civil society is

generally the closest point of assistance for victims of human rights violations and provide legal, medical, social and financial support. Major obstacles to civil society participation exist at all levels, including within UN forums, and shrinking civic space creates a major gap in the promotion and protection of human rights. While new technologies facilitate the expansion of civil society networks, they also create

new avenues for control of civil society movements and speech, often under the pretext of security. UN Human Rights is uniquely placed to monitor and protect civil society space and the international human rights mechanisms rely heavily on civil society to collect information and support the implementation of their recommendations.

PILLAR RESULTS / SHIFTS / SDGs

P1 – ENABLING NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK for civil society

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





RESULTS / SPOTLIGHTS




UN Human Rights served as a bridge between **civil society and social media platforms**. In February, the Office helped bring together NHRIs, journalists, human rights defenders and social media platforms, with a view to identifying key obstacles to online civic space and new avenues through which they can be addressed. These efforts led to more regular engagement between tech companies and human rights organizations. It also established **channels of communication with social media platforms**, enabling UN Human Rights to engage in advocacy regarding content moderation and communicate its concerns about incitement cases.

As a result of advocacy undertaken by UN Human Rights, the Government of **Bolivia** published Decree 4236, on 14 May, which **derogated provisions of Decree 4231 that limited freedom of expression in the context of COVID-19**. The previous Decree allowed authorities to file criminal complaints against those who failed to comply with quarantine orders or disseminated information that allegedly had the potential to put public health at risk or provoke uncertainty among the population. The Office issued public messages, conducted advocacy meetings and sent a technical document to authorities that highlighted the incompatibility of Decree 4231 with the right to freedom of expression, provided in article 19 of ICCPR, due to its violation of the principles of necessity, proportionality and legality.

 In **Mauritania**, a decree was adopted, in July, on the **establishment of an observatory on the rights of women and girls**. UN Human Rights advocated for this result through consistent engagement with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Children and Family Welfare. In addition, UN Human Rights undertook a study and organized a technical workshop on the subject.

 UN Human Rights collaborated with the co-chairs of the International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Working Group to organize **consultative dialogues with civil society** actors to gather their views and ensure the **Libya Peace Dialogue Forum (LPDF)** proceedings were **inclusive and rights-**

based. A number of principles were incorporated into the LPDF road map, including the importance of achieving equality between women and men and pursuing comprehensive national reconciliation based on the principles of transitional justice. Firm commitments were undertaken to secure the increased engagement of women in these processes. For instance, a quota was established to ensure that women are selected for a minimum of 30 per cent of ministerial and deputy appointments. The LPDF road map was unanimously accepted by participants and annexed to the outcome document of the Forum.

 In **Kyrgyzstan**, as part of an ongoing programme supported by UN Human Rights to increase the **participation of underrepresented groups in public life**, 23 persons (14 women, nine men, including nine persons from ethnic minorities and six persons with disabilities) completed a three-month internship programme in a number of State and municipal bodies of the Issyk-Kul region. The State Personnel Service proposed that the programme be formally established.

P2 – PROTECTION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS

The UN system and international, regional and national mechanisms provide increased, timely and effective protection to civil society organizations and individuals, including from reprisals.



UN Human Rights finalized a **guidance document for the UN system on preventing and addressing reprisals**. In June, the Office organized a consultation with UN partners and distributed the guidance for further refinement and use by UN actors in various contexts, such as peace operations, work on counter-terrorism, development and international finance. The Office also mapped the engagement of Member States and civil society with the Security Council and its subsidiary bodies to provide guidance and enhance the protection measures of Member States.

In a landmark development that was spearheaded by UN Human Rights, with support from the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the UN adopted a **Guidance Note on the promotion and protection of civic space**. The Guidance Note recognizes civic space as a threshold issue for the successful implementation of all three pillars of the United Nations and commits all parts of the system to taking steps to promote and protect civic space. The launch of the Guidance Note, in December, was attended by more than 800 civil society representatives from around the world.

With support from UN Human Rights, the **Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of assembly and association** raised awareness about 164 situations, including 24 cases related to **laws or draft laws that could have a negative impact on the right to association** and on trade unions, including in Bulgaria, Guatemala, Honduras, Ireland, Kyrgyzstan, Tanzania and Ukraine. The Government of Ireland acknowledged the legitimate concerns regarding the 1997 Electoral Act and committed to the establishment, by the end of 2021, of an independent Electoral Commission, which will review the Act in its totality.

Throughout the year, UN Human Rights in **Colombia** coordinated its work with the Office of the Ombudsperson, resulting in the issuance of **50 early warnings concerning attacks against human rights defenders**. Furthermore, the enhanced collaboration between State entities, including the Office of the Procurator General and the Office of the Ombudsperson, resulted in enhanced analysis of early warning responses and the promotion of **coordinated actions by authorities**. UN Human Rights provided technical assistance to ensure the compliance of these processes with international human rights standards.

P3 – PUBLIC SUPPORT for CIVIC SPACE

Business, policymakers and the public at large increasingly value and support civic space.



A particularly relevant issue in 2020 was the crucial **role of civil society in the context of COVID-19**. The High Commissioner and other senior UN Human Rights officials regularly advocated for enhanced access to reliable information and space for the expression of critical views as key elements of an effective response to the pandemic and efforts for building back better.

In May, UN Human Rights developed a **Guidance Note on civic space and COVID-19**, which was translated into four languages and widely disseminated (it was downloaded approximately 5,000 times by visitors from over 80 countries).

P4 – ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS

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



In **Azerbaijan**, UN Human Rights supported the provision of **free legal assistance to members of vulnerable groups**, in cooperation with the Ombudsperson and the Bar Association. As a result, 982 individuals (486 women, 496 men), including unemployed persons, persons with disabilities, older persons, pensioners and internally displaced persons (IDPs), received legal assistance during the year. The services primarily focused on social and economic rights, including social security, labour and property rights and the rights to health and education.

 UN Human Rights provided support to the **“WE” Women Human Rights Defenders Network**, which was established with the support of the Office in 2019 and unites 40 WHRDs from 14 countries in the **Middle East and North Africa region**. In 2020, the Network organized a regional online symposium on inequalities between the rights of women and men under nationality legislation. The Network also disseminated recommendations to the media, religious and community leaders and legislative bodies.

P5 – CIVIC SPACE MONITORING

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



Advocacy undertaken by UN Human Rights contributed to more effective **actions from EU regional institutions in response to threats to civic space**. The European Democracy Action Plan, the EU Strategy for the Effective Implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the EU Digital Strategy, all of which were adopted in 2020, recognize the need to protect civic space in Europe, both offline and online.

In **Costa Rica**, the Office worked closely with the judiciary to move forward with a **protocol for investigating human rights violations against human rights defenders**. UN Human Rights supported the adoption of a comprehensive protection policy that includes opportunities for participation, early warning, the provision of training to State agents and overall guidelines on crimes committed against HRDs. In **El Salvador**, the Office supported the development of **legislation** that provides a definition of HRDs and establishes relevant **protection mechanisms**, in line with recommendations issued by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders. In November, the Legislative Assembly discussed a draft version of the legislation with CSOs.

P6 – PEOPLE HAVE a VOICE

The voices of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, are more clearly heard.



In the **Republic of Moldova**, UN Human Rights supported the creation and functioning of an **NGO Task Force on COVID-19 and Human Rights**, which included 56 national and local CSOs, including from the Transnistria region. The work of the Task Force resulted in **contributions to policy and programme design and implementation** and was conducive to a better understanding of the needs of vulnerable groups during the pandemic.

Somalia's 2019 ratification of CRPD opened the avenue for the **increased engagement of persons with disabilities in public processes** that are related to the protection of their rights. In Somaliland, UN Human Rights supported civil society to conduct consultations aimed at revising the Somaliland Disability Policy as a contribution to the drafting of disability legislation that is in compliance with CRPD. The Office supported the Federal Ministry of Women and Human Rights in Mogadishu to conduct consultations on the Persons with Disabilities Bill, which is ready to be tabled before the Cabinet.

The Office contributed to the **protection of the rights of indigenous peoples in Colombia** by supporting the use of **human rights-based protocols**, which were developed with indigenous authorities and the Ministry of the Interior, to facilitate the implementation of the peace agreements in the territories of indigenous peoples and communities of people of African descent, such as the Nasa people, the Renacer Negro Community Council, the Greater Community Council of the Comprehensive Farmers' Association of Atrato and the Bari people.

In **Guatemala**, UN Human Rights supported youth-led organizations to promote positive human rights change. It organized a regional meeting with youth leaders from 11 organizations in the eastern part of Guatemala, resulting in the establishment of the Connected Youth Initiative. Similarly, the Office supported the creation of the **Youth Human Rights Defenders Network**, which unites 26 organizations and offers a space for dialogue and technical assistance on the human rights of youth, with a focus on participation and the right to education and work.

P7 – Human rights RESPONSE to VIOLENCE

Public recognition increases that human rights and accountability make important contributions to effective responses to violence, including terrorism and violent extremism.



UN Human Rights released a series of animated videos entitled "Human Rights Explained" as part of a **campaign to raise awareness of and support for human rights among Cambodian youth**. The campaign reached 744,800 Facebook users and the videos were shared with youth organizations, some of which used them in training activities. The Office also worked with six youth organizations on a Young Human Rights Champion Competition to recognize youth support for human rights issues. Participants aged 15-23 years produced six videos on a variety of topics, including the right to vote, the participation of persons with disabilities, the equal right to work for women and men, migrant workers and discrimination against the children of sex workers and former prisoners. The videos were posted on the UN Human Rights - Cambodia Facebook page, resulting in approximately 2.1 million reaches and 101,000 engagements.

Under the MoU between UN Human Rights and the Ministry of Religious Affairs in **Tunisia**, the Office supported the **creation of a Monitoring Unit** within the Ministry to receive, analyse and report on **complaints about alleged human rights violations committed by or against imams and professional worship staff**. While the Unit originally focused on Muslim clerics, additional advocacy by the Office resulted in the extension of its mandate to cover Christian and Jewish clerics. Moreover, a hotline was created to enable clerics who are victims of violations to contact the Unit. In 2020, the Monitoring Unit issued its first quarterly report, which provided quantitative and qualitative data that are disaggregated by gender.

Supporting Syrian civil society actors in their struggle to claim and defend their rights



Jalal Al Hamad, Syrian lawyer and activist. © Photo courtesy of Jalal Al Hamad

“I had to leave because there was an execution order against me,” said Jalal Al Hamad, a Syrian lawyer. Jalal was 25 in 2011 and the war in Syria was in its early stages.

The young man left government-controlled Damascus to reach Deir Ezzor, an area in north-eastern Syria that was an opposition stronghold at the time. When ISIL took control of the zone, he began to fear for his life. Forced to flee again, he arrived in Gaziantep, in neighbouring Turkey.

Nearly 10 years later, Jalal’s country has been ripped apart by a war that shows no sign of ending. Countless women, men and children have been killed or injured and millions have fled. Last year, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, noted, “During the early years of this murderous conflict, when the casualties were in the tens, then hundreds, then thousands, the world showed considerable concern about what was happening. Now, airstrikes kill and maim significant numbers of civilians several times a week and the response seems to be a collective shrug.”

While the war in Syria fades away from the spotlight, people like Jalal continue to work tirelessly to raise awareness about the ongoing severe human rights violations in the country.

Jalal is now the Director of Justice for Life, an organization established in 2015 with teams inside and outside Syria that monitor events and human rights violations in the Deir Ezzor region. As a result of

interviews with victims and witnesses, the CSO documented hundreds of violations, including killings under torture, extrajudicial killings and disease and malnutrition as a consequence of besiegement.

Jalal’s desire to speak out against such atrocities stemmed from a need to provide a balanced voice. “I wanted to address these violations objectively and neutrally and to be the voice of victims.”

Justice for Life engages with the international human rights mechanisms to report its findings, including the Human Rights Council. The organization recently signed an MoU with the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes Under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since 2011. UN Human Rights has interacted extensively with Jalal and his colleagues to monitor the human rights situation in north-east Syria and promote human rights-based approaches to their programming and advocacy efforts.

“We have become a hub for victims,” said Jalal. “Men, women and children are coming to us without fear. This building of trust in the community has been a major success factor, which we hope will help us achieve the ultimate goal: justice.”



At an event to celebrate International Youth Day, Zaira Begg from the Fiji Youth Council presents a mural that was designed and painted by young leaders from across the region, highlighting what climate action and resilience during the pandemic means to Pacific youth. © OHCHR



United Nations
Human Rights

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Management



UN Human Rights staff in the State of Palestine⁸ during a monitoring mission in Kafr Malik, West Bank, site of weekly demonstrations against new settlement outposts.
© OHCHR

⁸ All references to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with General Assembly resolution 67/19.

This chapter provides an overview of the efforts of UN Human Rights to ensure its decision-making, planning, management and evaluation processes operate at the highest possible standard. It includes highlights of results achieved under the 10 UN Human Rights Organizational Effectiveness Action Plans (OEAPs).

Accountability and governance framework

Mandate

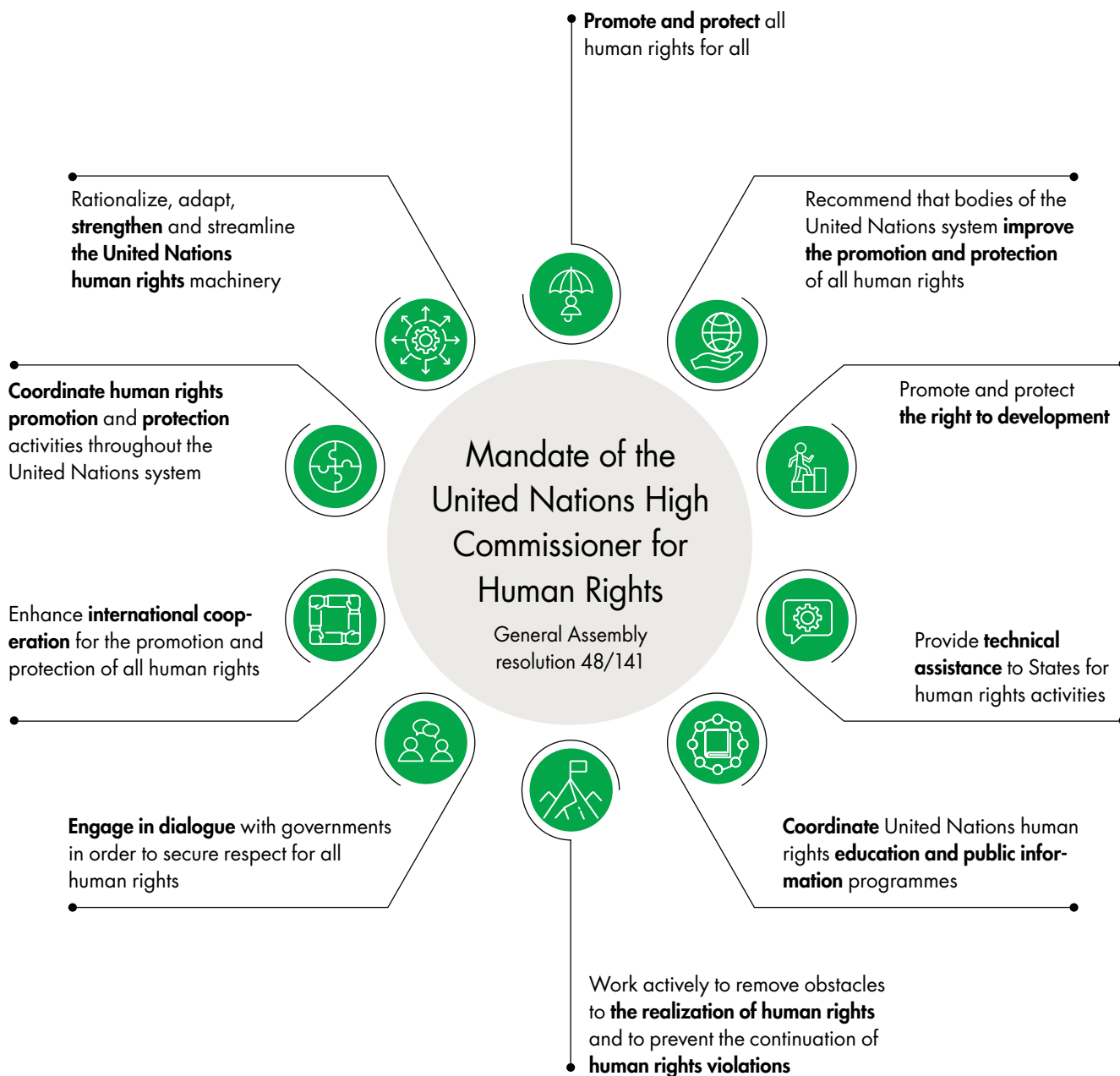
Mandated by General Assembly resolution 48/141, UN Human Rights is a department of the United Nations Secretariat. It does not have its own executive board, but it is directly accountable to the Secretary-General and the General Assembly.

The mandate of UN Human Rights is derived from multiple sources, including General Assembly resolution 48/141, the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and subsequent human rights instruments, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights and the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document.

UN Human Rights is mandated to prevent human rights violations, secure respect for all human rights, promote international cooperation to protect human rights, coordinate related activities throughout the United Nations and strengthen and streamline the UN system in the field of human rights. In addition to these

responsibilities, the Office leads efforts to integrate a human rights-based approach (HRBA) into all work that is carried out by UN entities.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights is the principal human rights official of the United Nations who is appointed by the General Assembly for a fixed term of four years, with the possibility of one renewal for a second term. UN Human Rights is led by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, with the support of the Deputy High Commissioner, Nada Al-Nashif, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Ilze Brands Kehris, who heads the New York Office.



Internal decision-making

Office-wide decision-making takes place through the Senior Management Team, which is chaired by the High Commissioner and the Programme and Budget Review Board, which is chaired by the Deputy High Commissioner. These two bodies meet regularly to make recommendations to the High Commissioner on policies, operating procedures and programme and resource allocations. The Policy Advisory Group and the extended Policy Advisory Group, chaired by the Deputy High Commissioner, provide additional forums for senior managers to exchange views and recommendations related to policy and management issues.

In 2020, the **Senior Management Team (SMT)** met on six occasions to make decisions on policy-related matters. The SMT endorsed the OHCHR Return to Workplace Plan; the workplan for the Working Group on Sustainable Environmental Management; the OHCHR Disability Rights Policy and Strategy and the OHCHR Risk Register. The SMT also discussed the review of the peacebuilding architecture; the OHCHR response to global protests; the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights; the OHCHR response to COVID-19 and its messaging; the office-wide Surge Initiative work on economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs), the

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and inequalities; the UN Prevention Strategy; and the International Decade for People of African Descent.

In 2020, the **Programme and Budget Review Board (PBRB)** held 11 regular meetings and one extraordinary meeting, contributing to ongoing improvements in the internal governance of the office-wide programming, budget and finances. The PBRB proved its continuing relevance in the course of the pandemic and the regular budget cash-flow crisis, particularly in the context of the Mid-Year Review, which enabled the Office to adjust its programmes to the financial context. During the year, the PBRB reviewed approximately 45 fundraising and fund allocation proposals from headquarters and the field. The proposals were processed by the PBRB Secretariat as electronic reviews to optimize the use of the PBRB's meeting time and enable timely decisions between meetings.

Two **Policy Advisory Group (PAG)** meetings were held in 2020 to address: 1) policy issues relating to the COVID-19 response; and 2) the UN Human Rights Policy and Strategy on hate speech. The recommendations emanating from these meetings were taken up at the SMT level. The 2020 Leadership Dialogue on acknowledging dignity through civility

was held at the PAG level with all members of the Leadership Team, before being delivered to the rest of the Office.

Three **extended PAG (ePAG)** meetings with managers were organized to share and discuss various management issues, such as COVID-19 operational implications, IT systems, staff survey results, inclusion, mental health, the financial situation, the data strategy and annual work and cost plans of the Office. One ePAG meeting was dedicated to human resources processes.

The pandemic offered UN Human Rights unexpected opportunities to become more innovative and inclusive in its working modalities. In the generalized teleworking context, all governance body meetings switched to a virtual format. This led to a boost in participation, particularly among field colleagues. For instance, while previous ePAG meetings included 30-40 colleagues, the last ePAG meeting had 107 participants.

Results-based management

Monitoring

Comprehensive and substantive programmatic analyses were conducted in 2020 to inform senior management on how to make progress towards achieving the targets of the OHCHR Management Plan (OMP), including in the context of COVID-19 reprogramming. An initial stocktaking exercise looked at how the Office could and should respond to the COVID-19 crisis, which was followed by a thorough Mid-Year Review. Lessons learned were captured in the End-of-Year Reporting and integrated into the 2021 annual workplans.

Monitoring the performance of UN Human Rights against the targets set by the OMP takes place through the Performance Monitoring System (PMS), a tailor-made online tool that facilitates planning, monitoring and reporting on a common set of office-wide results, in line with the principles and standards of results-based management (RBM). In order to improve the operation of the PMS in 2020, the Office refined its existing modules and introduced new functionalities, particularly those relating to learning, through the integration of the Evaluation Module, in accordance with the 2019 recommendations of the independent evaluation of the implementation of RBM at UN Human Rights.

Evaluation

In 2020, four evaluations were finalized on: the transitions of human rights components in peace operations; the El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras country programmes; the Cambodia country programme; and the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Programme. Gender and disability issues were mainstreamed into the evaluations conducted in the Office.

During the reporting period, internal assessments were concluded for various programmes, including the Doha Centre, the Regional Office for Europe in Brussels, the Country Office in Liberia, the G5 Sahel project and the Gender Focal Points Network. An evaluation of the Indigenous and Minorities Fellowship Programmes was also conducted at the end of 2020 (see box on p. 84). Support was provided for the desk review process, the interviews of the stakeholders and the revision of the reports in relation to the evaluation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group Human Rights Mainstreaming (UNSDG-HRM) Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) (managed by the Trust Fund's Secretariat), the OIOS evaluation of the accountability system in the UN Secretariat, the OIOS biennial study of the evaluation function

and the Belgium voluntary core funding evaluation (managed by the Belgian development cooperation).

In 2020, UN Human Rights began implementing the recommendations emanating from the RBM evaluation. For instance, the preparation of the Office's Programming Manual was initiated and the RBM training package was revised.

Assessing the results and impacts of the Indigenous and Minorities Fellowship Programmes

The Indigenous and Minorities Fellowship Programmes are designed to support indigenous and minority representatives by strengthening their knowledge about the UN system and the international human rights instruments and mechanisms. At the end of 2020, an independent consultant conducted an evaluation to assess the results and impacts achieved by the Programmes since 2014; the period of the last two OMPs.

The fundamental finding of this evaluation is that the Fellowship Programmes are filling an extremely important gap in global efforts to address human rights issues. The Programmes provide relevant training and access to the international human rights mechanisms for two of the most vulnerable segments of the global population, namely, indigenous peoples and minorities. These groups continue to be subject to some of the most severe and systematic human rights abuses in the world today. They are also among the most marginalized and impoverished sections of the global population, with overall extremely low levels of access to national and international decision-making processes and much lower than average access to institutions that facilitate such access.

The evaluation noted that the overwhelming majority of fellows who had completed the Programmes continue to work towards the promotion and protection of human rights in their communities after returning to their home countries. Their abilities to effectively undertake this work is greatly enhanced by their participation in the Programmes, which clearly develop their capacities and empower them to then build those capacities within their respective countries. The Programmes also help fellows to create extensive networks at the regional and global level that they can draw upon for support.

The evaluation concludes that there are no other programmes that provide the type and extent of training that these Fellowships offer to indigenous peoples and minorities and that they have the potential to make a substantial long-term contribution to advancing the enjoyment of human rights by these target groups.

Risk management

As part of the overall risk management initiative of the UN Secretariat, and as part of a wider effort to improve the organizational governance and accountability framework, a UN Human Rights Risk Management Plan was developed in 2020, which included a UN Human Rights Risk Register. This was a timely exercise in light of the COVID-19 pandemic – a crisis that underscored the importance of being able to anticipate, assess and evaluate our risks as we initiate a corporate process to put in place the required controls and systems to avoid and mitigate those risks.

An office-wide risk assessment process was organized to identify potential risks, root causes, drivers, existing internal controls and additional risk response measures. Based on the results of this risk assessment, a two-day risk validation workshop was held with senior management, during which 16 primary risks were identified for the organization: four very high risks, four high risks and eight medium risks.

Information on these 16 risks, including their mitigation measures, was compiled in a Risk Register. The Register will be regularly reviewed in order to monitor changes in risk profiles and identify emerging risks. With the establishment of the Risk Register, UN Human Rights complied with the requirement of the UN Secretariat, implemented the recommendations issued by the MOPAN evaluation and heeded calls from Member States to establish a risk management plan. Most importantly, this will enable UN Human Rights to better anticipate and mitigate new risks and challenges and therefore be more effective in fulfilling its mandate.

While working on its organization-wide Risk Management Plan, UN Human Rights provided inputs to the UN Secretariat Risk Register on the Secretary-General's Strategic Focus Areas and Critical Risks regarding the risk analysis related to priority 3 (the continued protection of human rights), which is one of the Secretary-General's six priorities.

Furthermore, UN Human Rights prepared an Organizational Governance Improvement Framework to review potential decisions and actions in relation to the roles of senior leadership, accountability, direction, resources and performance, ethical governance culture and stakeholder engagement, risks and internal control, counter-fraud and corruption, independent audits and inspections and appropriate information and support.

Human rights risk management in the context of COVID-19

The pandemic triggered and exacerbated various human rights challenges, including:

- Threats to multilateralism as countries imposed unprecedented executive measures.
- Challenges for multilateral cooperation.
- Exposure to the damaging impacts of inequalities in every society, with significant risks to the enjoyment of economic and social rights, such as health, adequate housing, livelihoods, education, food and water.
- Incidents of racism and xenophobia that exacerbated inequalities.
- Immense risks to vulnerable persons/groups and their right to life as well as adverse impacts on women and girls, including in relation to their access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and protection from domestic and other forms of gender-based violence (GBV).
- Risks to the full enjoyment of civil and political rights, such as measures restricting freedom of expression, arrests for COVID-19-related social media posts and new forms of surveillance and data collection.

UN Human Rights worked with a broad range of UN partners to address these concerns and issues, including WHO, DCO, UN Women, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, ILO, UN Habitat, UN Water, UNODC and others. The Office supported the inclusion of human rights standards and principles in their guidance and actions and contributed to resolving challenging human rights issues that proliferated during the pandemic, for example through the provision of an indicators framework to help monitor the human rights impacts of COVID-19 in various sectors and by supporting Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) in their work on National Response Plans. UN Human Rights staff also participated in and sometimes led Protection Clusters and gender networks.

Organizational development

Organizational effectiveness results

UN Human Rights defined nine interrelated Organizational Effectiveness Action Plans under the OMP 2018-2021. At the end of 2020, it adopted a new OEAP on Sustainable Environmental Management (SEM) (see figure below). In addition, a

working group was established, in 2020, to put in place a new set of institutional arrangements to foster an inclusive culture and respectful workplace. This will result in the adoption of a new OEAP on Inclusion in 2021, replacing the OEAP

on Diversity and Gender, with a focus on addressing racial discrimination and promoting intersectional approaches in order to achieve gender equality and respect for diversity.

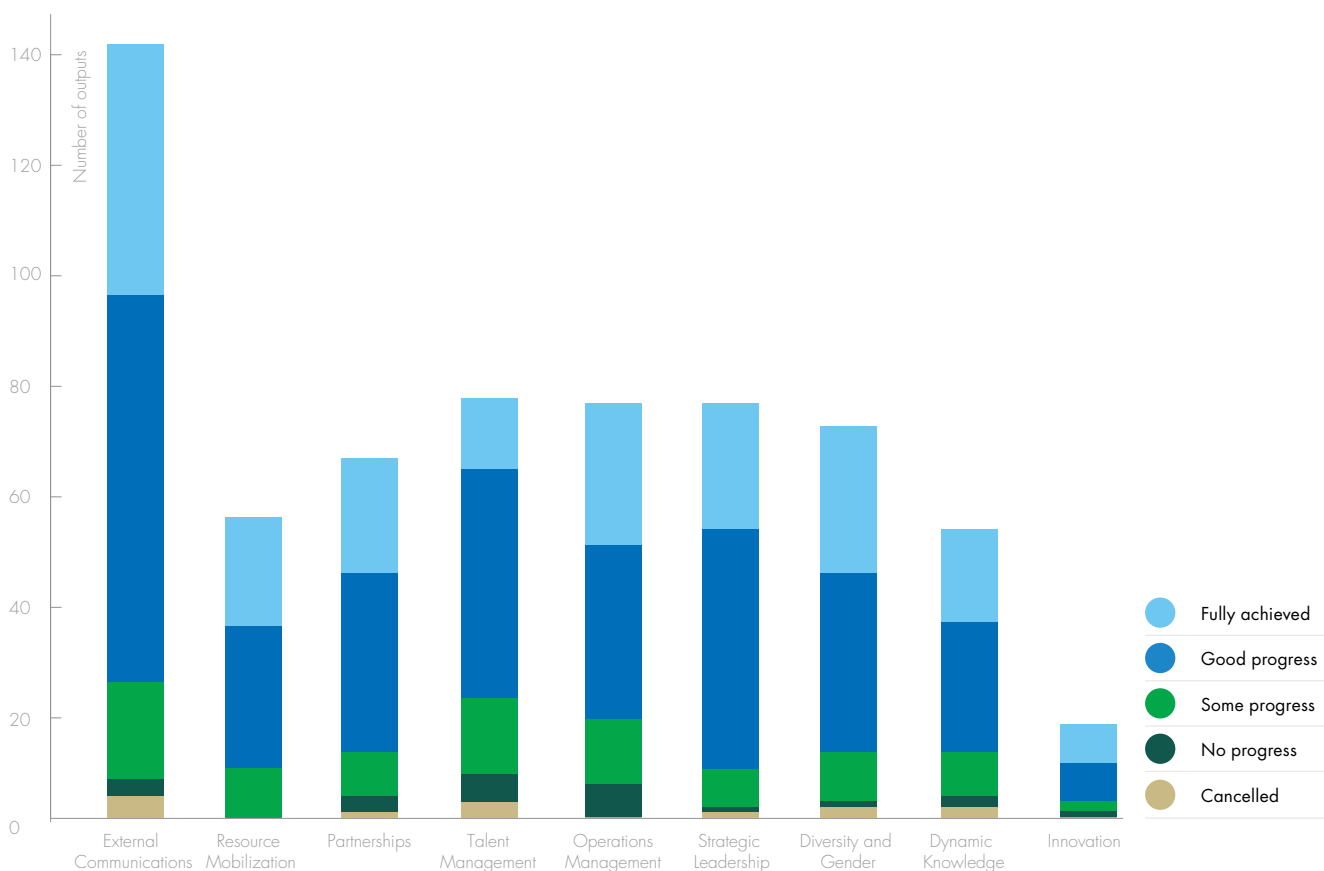
Organizational Effectiveness Action Plans (OEAPs)



Organizational effectiveness results are the changes that UN Human Rights commits to achieving in order to improve its programme delivery and operational relevance and efficiency. The results were defined at the output level in the 2020 annual workplans. Approximately 92 per cent of programming entities reported on organizational effectiveness results at the end of the year, demonstrating a high level of office-wide engagement, both in the field and at headquarters.

In the following pages, we summarize progress made in the implementation of the 10 OEAPs and highlight key achievements from headquarters and the field during the year. More details and examples can be found on pp. 502-511 of the online report.

Progress reported under each OEAP in 2020



Strategic Leadership and Direction

UN Human Rights leadership bodies are making timely, evidence-based strategic decisions in line with results-based management principles.

Despite the significant challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the regular budget cash-flow crisis, steady progress was made in achieving established results, in particular with regard to people-centred, inclusive and inspirational leadership and internal communication and accountability frameworks. Concerted efforts were made to provide clear leadership and operational direction to guarantee a safe working environment for staff. Regular all staff messages and general guidance kept staff members abreast of the evolving situation and individual concerns were addressed in a timely manner. Programmatic guidance was issued to mainstream the COVID-19 response into existing priority areas and work streams. Through ongoing analyses of programme implementation and heightened attention to lessons learned, UN Human Rights made necessary adjustments in a timely manner to ensure that human rights remained at the heart of the UN response to the pandemic. COVID-19 also prompted UN Human Rights to accelerate its work on mitigating risks, resulting in the finalization of the OHCHR Risk Register. UN Human Rights' policymaking, programming and evaluation functions continued to be supported through a rapid adjustment to virtual working methods.

HIGHLIGHTS OF RESULTS IN 2020

- Guidance was provided to staff on operational matters through the UN Human Rights COVID-19 Crisis Response Team.
 - Support was provided to managers through the LeadingNet community of practice, which was established to facilitate the collaboration of UN Human Rights managers in all duty stations.
 - The Leadership Dialogue on acknowledging dignity through civility was completed by 93 per cent of UN Human Rights staff.
 - Internal information was shared through the Weekly Updates and Weekly News podcast.
 - The continuous functioning of internal governance bodies through virtual meetings led to increased participation.
 - A decision-tracking system was completed, aimed at tracking the implementation of all decisions made by the governance bodies.
 - Programme analysis was undertaken to inform strategic and programmatic decision-making, including on COVID-19 reprogramming.
 - Engagement with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) was strengthened, with 65 Common Country Analysis (CCA) and Cooperation Framework processes supported to integrate human rights analysis and recommendations.
- The OHCHR Risk Register and Organizational Governance Improvement Framework were completed and the human rights section of the UN Risk Register was developed.
 - Four evaluations and five internal assessments/strategic visioning exercises were completed.
 - The preparation of the Programming Manual was initiated and almost completed and the RBM training package was revised.

Placing human rights at the heart of UN response to the COVID-19 pandemic

From the outset of the crisis, the leadership of UN Human Rights was proactive in mobilizing the entire Office to shift its attention and adapt its interventions to ensure that human rights were situated at the heart of the UN system response. This was achieved through the establishment of an internal crisis response structure that fostered organizational effectiveness in the face of the crisis; the reprogramming and realignment of existing programmes; and system-wide contributions. The rapid creation of this internal infrastructure prepared the Office for an in-depth reprogramming exercise. Based on a comprehensive and substantive programmatic analysis, staff time and focus were redirected through a COVID-19 volunteer scheme to take full advantage of the Office's in-house thematic capacities. The voice of the High Commissioner was amplified to draw global attention to the human rights implications of the crisis and to the work of the special procedures and independent experts and bodies. The SMT discussed strategic issues and ensured an effective and coherent UN Human Rights response. Monitoring of human rights violations continued through the increased use of remote monitoring tools that ensured the security of sources, witnesses and victims. Through sustained high-level participation in the Principal-Level Crisis Management Team, UN Human Rights facilitated the full integration of human rights into the UN COVID-19 response, in particular the Secretary-General's socio-economic response and recovery efforts framework, to ensure that No One is Left Behind.

Dynamic Knowledge

UN Human Rights' knowledge base is used strategically to actively shape its programming, capacity, culture and structure.

For UN Human Rights, dynamic knowledge is about connecting our human rights work with people, their experiences and knowledge to achieve a greater impact and outcome. In the context of COVID-19, this meant adopting new ways of working, sharing knowledge and practices on an ongoing basis, identifying and documenting promising practices and building institutional memory regarding the implementation of human rights-based responses to the pandemic. In 2020, priority was given to the development of new tools for ensuring the continued availability of support for and engagement with partners.

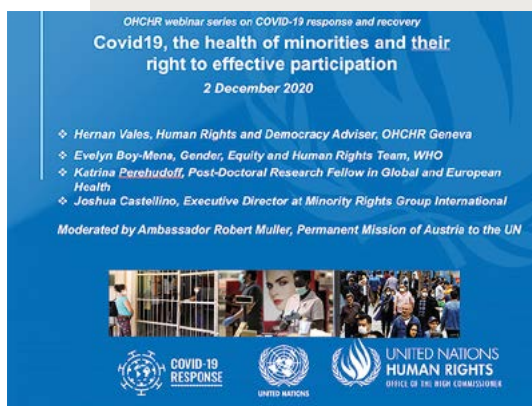
The Office developed and adopted new methodological guidance and a template to document promising practices of human rights-based responses to COVID-19, which were reported to Member States and others. As a result of UN Human Rights' capacity to quickly shift from in-person to online working methods, the Office was able to provide immediate, practical contributions to dealing with the crisis. Various technological platforms were used to host virtual consultations, discussion groups and exchanges on tailor-made responses, guidance documents, methodologies and tools and to facilitate the sharing of knowledge management and capacities.

HIGHLIGHTS OF RESULTS IN 2020

- New human rights-centred tools, templates and methods were developed to enhance collaboration, document good practices and enable a swift response to the crisis. This led to the deployment of crowdsourcing (a form of collective intelligence) to collect examples of good practices of ESCR-based responses to COVID-19 and the design of the COVID-19 Tracker as a repository of good practices (see p. 23).
- A UN Human Rights e-learning strategy was developed and adopted on the basis of an office-wide study about staff learning practices and preferences, which was conducted in partnership with the University of Geneva.
- A global webinar series was organized on COVID-19 human rights-based responses. This enabled knowledge-sharing and discussions with partners on policy guidance and good practices.
- The second phase of a new onboarding process to welcome new staff in the organization, “Welcome Mat,” was initiated.

A global webinar series on COVID-19 and human rights-based responses and recovery

Between March and December, UN Human Rights organized a series of 19 global webinars to facilitate internal discussions and knowledge-sharing opportunities on a variety of topics, including the rights to health, housing and food, the role of security forces and attacks against civic space in the context of COVID-19. More than 1,500 staff members from headquarters and the field participated in the discussions with experts and practitioners. The webinars offered an opportunity to reflect on policy, guidance and promising/good practices within the framework of the pandemic and to discuss the contributions of UN Human Rights to the COVID-19 response efforts of States, the UN and other partners. Colleagues from field presences around the world shared their experiences, priorities and needs. They identified and exchanged available and emerging guidance and resources to support the work of the Office across geographic and thematic areas. In addition, the webinars enabled staff to reflect on lessons learned from the past involvement of UN Human Rights in public health emergencies and other crises and to discuss possibilities for cross-fertilization. Similar efforts will continue in 2021 as part of the Office’s new modalities of working.



Global webinar organized by OHCHR and the Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations, with a focus on COVID-19, the health of minorities and their right to effective participation. Over 140 representatives of UN entities, Member States and CSOs participated in the discussion. © OHCHR



Across UN Human Rights, innovation is encouraged, supported and its results are implemented accordingly.

UN Human Rights is actively promoting innovation within the organization through an action plan and internal systems of incentives, which include the annual Innovation Challenge and Innovation Engine.

The Innovation Challenge provides staff members with a platform to propose innovative projects for improving the way we work. Successful projects receive seed funds for implementation. Over the past two years, the enthusiastic engagement of candidates and positive feedback from external experts reflected a growing interest in innovation at UN Human Rights. The Challenge also attracted interest from other UN entities that are now replicating and adapting the concept within their organizations.

During the first half of the current OMP cycle, a “Light Up! Innovation Engine” was established with the participation of approximately 25 colleagues from across UN Human Rights, including field presences. The Innovation Engine deployed crowdsourcing to collect examples of good practices of COVID-19 ESCR-based responses. The Innovation Engine also partnered with the University of Geneva to deliver and prepare several projects.

Following the second annual Innovation Challenge in 2019, four winning projects received seed funds. This enabled two projects to be successfully implemented

in 2020, namely, the “Ditch UNfair Internships” project and the “Technology as a Source for Good: Automatizing the Universal Human Rights Index.”

In November, the 2020 Innovation Challenge was launched under the theme of “Building Back Better.”

HIGHLIGHTS OF RESULTS IN 2020

- The “Light Up! Innovation Engine” partnered with the University of Geneva to deliver projects related to e-learning, gaming for rights, data visualization for human rights and the onboarding of new colleagues.
- The 2020-2021 Technology Education Strategy was developed to enable colleagues to increasingly use technology in human rights training and support impactful learning. A unified UN Human Rights learning management system was established using Moodle.
- A web-based module was developed and used to automatically tag and cluster Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations and produce the reports of the UPR Working Groups in order to enable States under review to take a position on the recommendations.
- Several projects were developed with the University of Geneva and will be implemented in 2021, including tracking astroturfing campaigns, web scraping for indicator production, digitizing the gender accreditation programme and visioning sustainable environmental management and human rights.

Ditch UNfair Internships

Most interns at UN Human Rights headquarters come from high-income countries as students from these countries are more likely to be able to afford the cost of living in Geneva for several months without a stipend. One of the four winning projects in the 2019 Innovation Challenge was a project aimed at changing that situation. The “Ditch UNfair Internships” proposal, which received the highest number of votes, proposed the extension of financial support to qualified students from the Global South to enable them to intern at the Office in Geneva. The project received US\$25,000 in seed funding that helped to create, for the first time, United Nations Volunteers (UNV) positions at headquarters for university students. This enabled the Office to offer financial support to university students while respecting the administrative rules of not remunerating interns.

Out of a total of 1,664 applicants from 137 countries, two law students were selected to take part in the 2020 pilot programme. One of the students is a child

rights advocate from Côte d’Ivoire and the other is a former national human rights institution (NHRI) intern from Nepal. They will join the Office in 2021 and receive a monthly living allowance of CHF1,700 for six and four months, respectively. They will also receive a settling-in grant of CHF1,100, health insurance and coverage of their travel costs to and from Geneva.

The pilot will become a full programme in 2021. This will allow at least five university students who are UNVs to work with UN Human Rights in Geneva each year and will serve as a concrete contribution to diversity, equality and Dignity@Work in the Office. This is the first time that such a programme has been implemented at the UN in Geneva. Other parts of the UN Secretariat have expressed interest in replicating this initiative.



Habib and Mona discovering Palais des Nations.
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Sustainable Environmental Management

UN Human Rights is set on a path to global leadership in sustainable environmental management, catalysing efforts to build back better and strengthening partnerships and global standard-setting, especially with respect to the right to a healthy environment and climate change.

In July, the Office established an internal Working Group on Sustainable Environmental Management in order to better integrate environmental sustainability into its existing workplans and build a new and ambitious sustainability policy as an important pillar in its own right. A new OEAP on SEM was developed and adopted at the end of 2020. It will support the institutionalization of good practices at UN Human Rights and draw upon learning from other entities to strengthen this work. The objective is to positively change the culture of the Office by mainstreaming SEM into its substantive and operational work and encouraging staff to apply this knowledge in their personal lives.

On the basis of a recommendation from the Working Group on Sustainable Environmental Management, new travel targets were introduced for 2021. The Office also began working to make its procurement more sustainable by taking into account the commitments of vendors to human rights and sustainability principles and practices. An internal survey was prepared with the intention of gathering good practices from staff across various entities and locations.

HIGHLIGHTS OF RESULTS IN 2020

- A Working Group on Sustainable Environmental Management was created, with four sub-groups on the OEAP and Solutions; Good Practices; Vision; and Internal Communications.
- A new OEAP on SEM was adopted.
- A SEM Focal Points Network was created, with focal points in each UN Human Rights planning entity.

Initial efforts to improve environmental sustainability across UN Human Rights



Logo designed for the new OEAP on SEM. © OHCHR

To begin implementing its new OEAP on Sustainable Environmental Management and following the recommendations issued by the SEM Working Group, the Deputy High Commissioner set a target for all entities across the Office to reduce their 2019 level of travel by 50 per cent in 2021. Senior managers were individually contacted to make sure that their 2021 travel budgets would comply with this instruction and that significant cuts would be made to bring about this result.

The travel budget was used as an intermediate indicator to reduce travel due to the absence of carbon footprint data for planning purposes. As the travel budget does not always directly correlate with the carbon footprint, steps were taken to develop the Office's capacity to use carbon footprint data to promote further reductions beyond 2021. Baseline carbon emission data has been annually used for headquarters since 2010, however, this will need to be expanded to the field and included and disaggregated in the equations used by all planning units. Carbon emissions are calculated in accordance with UNEP protocol and include travel and facilities data, such as energy and water consumption. Preliminary discussions were held with the Swiss Government and CSOs regarding the potential for making headquarters buildings more sustainable.

External Communications

UN Human Rights' human rights impact and messages are effectively communicated, helping to position it as a partner of choice for its key stakeholders.

Through its OEAP on External Communications, UN Human Rights seeks to effectively communicate across all channels, with messages and a clear identity that are conveyed in a compelling way, to support the organization's efforts to expand its reach and meet its institutional objectives.

In 2020, one of the key challenges for UN Human Rights was finding a balance between communicating about the human rights dimensions of the COVID-19 crisis and working towards the achievement of the targets set in the OMP. The crisis created an extra demand for digital communication, which in turn provided the Office with an opportunity to capitalize on the investments made in this area in recent years and to tell the story of our response to the pandemic. During the peak of the crisis, the media showed a strong interest in the messages of UN Human Rights, especially those with a COVID-19 angle. The Office also leveraged several partnership opportunities to engage a larger audience in the promotion of the human rights agenda.

HIGHLIGHTS OF RESULTS IN 2020

- Interest in UN Human Rights' social media channels increased, as illustrated by a combined number of 9.7m followers of the headquarters and field presence channels (compared to 7.6 m in 2019).
- A web transformation project was pursued, with a focus on content revision, governance, procurement and taxonomy.
- Campaigns were launched on standing up for migrants ([#StandUp4Migrants](#)) and COVID-19 international solidarity.
- Audiovisual storytelling was developed and 548 video stories were produced, including a record number of 138 video messages from the High Commissioner (compared to 476 video stories in 2019).
- Innovative partnerships were established to reach new audiences, such as with photographer Justin Wu, GIPHY (the world's largest GIF platform), Kahoot (the education platform) and the Wikimedia Foundation.
- Media outreach was sustained (38,922 articles were generated in 2020, the third highest number on record, after a record high of 61,015 in 2019 and 41,629 in 2018, marking a 62 per cent increase over the 2017 annual total).

Salesforce and UN Human Rights cooperate to promote human rights

The collaboration initiated between UN Human Rights and Salesforce demonstrates how UN partnerships with tech companies can effectively promote human rights.

Salesforce is a cloud-based software company that is headquartered in San Francisco, California (United States of America). A trailhead is an online learning experience platform that helps its customers to hone their existing skills and gain new ones. It facilitates assessments that demonstrate the user's skills and assigns badges and points that illustrate their progress.

With the support of UN Human Rights, Salesforce developed a new trailhead that focuses on the UDHR. It seeks to make human rights knowledge more accessible by explaining the importance of the UDHR and showing how everyone, including individuals, businesses and States, can work together to protect human rights.

The trailhead is divided into three modules. Specifically, it explores why the UDHR is a milestone document, explains what human rights are and outlines the obligations of States in relation to human rights. It also gives an overview of the national and international systems that protect human rights.

A second trailhead, focusing on the business community's responsibility to respect human rights and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), is under consideration for development in 2021.

Partnerships

UN Human Rights has broadened and diversified its institutional partnerships and maximized the mutually reinforcing human rights benefits of the exchange of expertise, reach and resources.

Through the OEAP on Partnerships, UN Human Rights strives to strategically engage with a wide range of external actors and increase the number of its strategic reciprocal partnerships.

Although the pandemic created some practical challenges, there were also significant opportunities to develop new partnerships. The Office provided guidance to the entire UN system on how to integrate a human rights dimension into its COVID-19 response. In parallel, as a result of the MOPAN evaluation, UN Human Rights undertook commitments to strengthen its capacity to establish strategic collaborations, including the development of a long-term vision for its partnership ambition and the mapping of existing relationships. In addition, through various campaigns, in particular on the occasion of Human Rights Day, the Office engaged a wide range of non-traditional actors in the promotion of human rights, thereby contributing to the shift objective of “building a global constituency for human rights.”

Joining forces against COVID-19

Spearheaded through its 92 field presences worldwide, UN Human Rights stepped up its cooperation with Member States, RCs and UNCTs, national human rights institutions and civil society to provide advice on human rights-based responses to COVID-19 and offer evidence and policy options to support recovery processes. The Office provided advice and messaging on various human rights dimensions of the crisis as well as detailed guidance notes on matters relating to civic space, detention, indigenous peoples, migrants, minorities, women, racial discrimination, LGBTI persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, business and human rights, access to vaccines and states of emergency.

A UN Human Rights COVID-19 strategy was adopted, which identified engagement with stakeholders as a key element. Much of UN Human Rights' COVID-19 work was carried out in close collaboration with partners. For instance, through the Surge Initiative, a team of human rights and development experts worked closely with grassroots actors, NHRIs and disadvantaged groups to analyse the human rights impacts of economic and social policies and measures, particularly on those left furthest behind.

In cooperation with UNDP and DCO, UN Human Rights developed a Checklist for a Human Rights-Based Approach to Socio-Economic Country Responses to COVID-19. Furthermore, the Office led the development of indicators to assess and mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on human rights through a highly collaborative process involving a range of UN entities. As a member of the UNSDG Task Team on Leaving No One Behind, Human Rights and the Normative Agenda, the Office coordinated a human rights review of the COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response Plans (SERPs) of 109 UNCTs in October.

HIGHLIGHTS OF RESULTS IN 2020

- Tripartite efforts were undertaken with l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to enhance the participation of Members of Parliaments in the UPR process.
- B-Tech Project was launched, signalling a new approach to engaging with the digital technology industry, and leading to the adoption of a series of short authoritative “foundational papers” that outline the relevance and practical implications of key UNGPs for accelerating the uptake of human rights in tech company business models.
- A joint regional UN Human Rights/ Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) mechanism for the protection of human rights defenders (HRDs) was enhanced in the Americas region, leading to an improved exchange of information between HRDs and strengthened capacity-building opportunities.
- Enhanced support was provided to the African Union on international human rights law and international humanitarian law.



Diversity and Gender

Respect for diversity, gender equality and inclusion is at the centre of the organizational culture of UN Human Rights and is fully supported by appropriate organizational arrangements.

The OMP 2018-2021 includes a strong commitment towards promoting gender equality and respect for diversity. The plan has four gender-specific results and women are identified as one of three spotlight populations deserving particular attention in the results framework.

The OEAP on Diversity and Gender aims to ensure that respect for diversity, gender equality and inclusion is at the centre of the organizational culture of UN Human Rights. The OHCHR Gender Accreditation Programme, an innovative result of this work, was successfully piloted and rolled out in 2020. This initiative was showcased in the annual report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security as a good practice to strengthen accountability by reinforcing monitoring frameworks.

In 2021, the OEAP will be converted into the OEAP on Inclusion: Race, Gender and Diversity. It will include additional indicators on race and revised indicators on gender and other forms of diversity.

HIGHLIGHTS OF RESULTS IN 2020

- The OHCHR Gender Accreditation Programme was rolled out in the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) and the OHCHR Country Office in Colombia.
- The first fellow under the new Fellowship for LGBTI / Human Rights Defenders joined the Office.
- An introductory electronic course was launched on the human rights of LGBTI persons.
- UN Human Rights' first Disability Rights Strategy was developed.
- UN Human Rights is approaching gender parity for regular staff appointments at the professional and higher categories.
- A Working Group on Inclusion was established and tasked with drafting the revised OEAP on Inclusion.

Rolling out the UN Human Rights Gender Accreditation Programme

In 2020, UN Human Rights rolled out its Gender Accreditation Programme in the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) and in its Country Office in Colombia. The impact of the implementation of the Programme is visible in participating and accredited offices, with an improvement of staff capacities to integrate gender and diversity into their work, an increase of activities and funds allocated to women's rights and gender and a deepened gender analysis in reports, planning and communication products.

The Programme was piloted in 2019 in Cambodia and in the State of Palestine.⁹ In January, both countries received their accreditation. The implemented changes guided the gender work of the Office throughout the year.



The award ceremony, held in Geneva, in January, marked the successful end of the pilot stage of the Gender Accreditation Programme in Cambodia and in the State of Palestine. © OHCHR



Extract of infographics created by the Country Office in the State of Palestine to raise public awareness about women's rights and issues related to gender-based violence. © OHCHR

In the **State of Palestine**, OHCHR and the Palestinian Ministry of Women Affairs organized the country's most wide-reaching campaign to date to mark the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. Messages were communicated through social media, electronic LED screens and on television and radio. It contributed to raising public awareness about women's rights and gender equality, the availability of referral services and accountability mechanisms and the Government's obligations to end gender-based violence.



Awareness-raising material created by the Country Office in Cambodia on the impacts of COVID-19 on human rights, with a focus on domestic violence, discrimination and hate speech. © OHCHR

In **Cambodia**, the Office and UN Women developed a joint communication campaign on the impacts of COVID-19 on human rights, with a particular focus on domestic violence, discrimination and hate speech. Two radio spots on domestic violence were aired for three months in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Battambang, the three most populated cities of the country. On the occasion of Human Rights Day, under the global theme of "Placing human rights at the heart of the COVID-19 recovery," a "Right to Create" campaign was co-organized with the UNCT, the Delegation of the European Union, the Embassy of Sweden, artists and representatives of CSOs and vulnerable groups. An original music video was composed and written by young female artists, which centred on the music of Cambodia's first all-female drum troupe.

⁹ All references to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with General Assembly resolution 67/19.

Managing our Talent

UN Human Rights is actively unleashing the full potential of its staff with focused talent and career management that is accessible to all.

In 2020, the Office continued to invest in and realize the full potential of its staff alongside the challenges of COVID-19 alternate working arrangements and restrictions placed on the selections and appointments for regular budget posts.

Reviews examining and aligning conditions of employment advanced with the regularization of national staff in field offices. A comparative review of the roles and responsibilities of General Service staff was completed and steps were taken to begin the reclassification and realignment of identified posts.

Workforce planning activities benefited from increased transparency and greater granularity of information on geographical diversity and the representation of women in regular staff positions at Professional and higher categories at headquarters and in field locations.

Staff well-being and performance was enhanced through the promotion of new and existing strategies and measures aimed at supporting staff, such as the Dignity Contacts Network. The immediate introduction of dedicated psychological support strengthened mental health for staff from the outset of periods of confinement and alternate working arrangements.

Targeted support and access to learning opportunities was established for field-based staff through the promotion of the

Bringing colleagues together during COVID-19 through virtual Coffee Briefings

During the pandemic, UN Human Rights Coffee Briefings continued to generate interest among staff members. Coffee Briefings were organized on diverse topics ranging from eradicating judicial gender stereotyping and dynamic knowledge to UN Human Rights' response to COVID-19 and the impacts of the pandemic on human rights around the world. The Coffee Briefings provided a platform for colleagues to exchange ideas, ask questions and interact, albeit only virtually.

Although there were statistically fewer Coffee Briefings during the year (15 in 2020 compared to 23 in 2019), 813 participants from both headquarters and the field participated in the sessions, compared to 703 in 2019. Coffee Briefings with internal and external speakers attracted record participation. All Coffee Briefings were recorded and the podcasts were made available on the UN Human Rights Intranet for colleagues who were unable to attend.

PEER LEARNING

813

staff members from HQ and the field participated in

15
COFFEE
BRIEFINGS 

new LinkedIn learning platform. Online peer learning formats facilitated remote working and provided a platform for colleagues to experience some level of normality through interactions and the exchange of ideas.

HIGHLIGHTS OF RESULTS IN 2020

- Regularization of national staff in field presences.
- Expanded Dignity Contacts Network to include coverage in the field.
- A new health and well-being action plan was implemented.
- LinkedIn and the Inspira e-Learning platforms were made accessible to UN Human Rights staff members, independent of their contract, thereby enabling all staff to take advantage of learning offerings worldwide.
- 813 staff members participated in 15 online thematic Coffee Briefings.
- 266 performance management online coaching sessions were held.

Resource Mobilization

Investment in and support for UN Human Rights has expanded and donors are expressing confidence in the value delivered by these investments.

Through the OEAP on Resource Mobilization, UN Human Rights invests in and supports the resource mobilization functions across the Office, resulting in increased donor confidence in the value delivered by these investments. As resource mobilization is about connecting and engaging with partners, the pandemic and the imposed restrictions created particular challenges for UN Human Rights to carry out its work under this OEAP. It nonetheless managed to successfully meet its extrabudgetary target. In fact, in 2020, a record was set as total voluntary contributions reached an all-time high of US\$224.3 million. Despite the COVID-19-related economic crisis, UN Human Rights continued to engage with donors and most of them maintained their support to the Office. In a number of cases, donors substantially increased that support.

Notwithstanding the healthy increase in voluntary contributions over the past five years, the ambitions and plans of UN Human Rights continue to be underfunded. Only 60 per cent of the financial requirements outlined in the Human Rights Annual Appeal for 2020 were covered. Consequently, an intensification of resource mobilization efforts is imperative to ensure that UN Human Rights is able to positively respond to the increasing number of requests that it receives for support. In addition, the Office needs to strengthen

its communication regarding the impact of those contributions. In 2020, UN Human Rights published a *Case for Support*, highlighting its unique selling points. This publication will be used for fundraising purposes, together with a set of compelling stories, country and thematic fact sheets as well as other communication materials that showcase the results of the work of UN Human Rights.

Resource mobilization capacity-building was initiated in 2020 to equip staff with tools and guidance to enable them to take full advantage of resource mobilization opportunities. Resource mobilization continues to operate with less staff capacity than required, which hinders its ability to explore untapped funding sources and diversify its donor base. Investing in staff capacity and competencies at the global, regional and country levels therefore remains critical to maximizing UN Human Rights' resource mobilization efforts. This will constitute a core element of an Office-wide strategy moving forward.

HIGHLIGHTS OF RESULTS IN 2020

- UN Human Rights' 2020 extrabudgetary income increased by more than US\$45 million (25.3 per cent) compared to 2019.
- US\$16.1 million was received from UN pooled funds.
- 119 results-based fundraising proposals, including on specific spotlight populations (youth, women and persons with disabilities), and 167 reports were submitted to donors.
- US\$5.8 million was raised as a direct result of the COVID-19 compendium of nine targeted fundraising proposals.
- Five human rights stories, the Annual Report and the Annual Appeal were produced.
- The UN Human Rights *Case for Support* was produced and uploaded to the website.
- Dialogue with donor countries was enhanced through nine consultations and 13 briefings.
- The first phase of the development of the collaboration with Salesforce was fully implemented.

Making the case for the added value of Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) in UN Human Rights regional offices

In 2020, UN Human Rights continued to strengthen its communication regarding the impact of its work through the development of an increased number of donor-driven materials. One example was the compendium of COVID-19-related proposals, which included specific content on the key role played by ERTs in the context of the pandemic.

Building on concrete outputs, the case was made for strengthening UN Human Rights regional offices by developing their capacity to identify, engage with and respond to emerging crises at country and regional levels and therefore help absorb the COVID-19 shock. The proposal was prepared with inputs from headquarters, Surge Initiative teams and regional offices and demonstrated that ERTs, complemented by operational capacity related to ESCRs, could contribute to socio-economic responses to the pandemic.

Through this proposal that highlighted the value-added of the Office, an additional US\$4.2 million was raised for ERTs, which will facilitate the establishment of new teams, in 2021, in the UN Human Rights Regional Offices for Central Africa, Central America and South America.

Operations Management

UN Human Rights managers are enabling the most efficient and responsible use of all available resources, supported by the effective deployment of relevant technologies.

The UN Human Rights OEAP on Operations Management aims to facilitate and expedite the implementation of mandates through the effective and efficient use of financial, human and physical resources, aided by the use of pertinent IT tools.

Results to date demonstrate that the Office has undertaken significant efforts

to manage its operations in accordance with modern principles. For instance, the Office completed its first comprehensive Risk Assessment during the reporting period. Moreover, in response to the pandemic, UN Human Rights successfully streamlined its work and implemented distance working. This showed how flexible and responsive the Office can be in a crisis, in accordance with the principles of Business Continuity that it has promoted for several years. With a renewed focus on field presences to ensure their full compliance with relevant regulations, rules and instructions and to enhance accountability, the Field Administrative Manual was

updated. A meeting of field administrative staff was organized and a community of practice, called AdminNet, was created to enable colleagues from around the world to share their knowledge about administration. Human Resources worked diligently to ensure that the Office is more people-centred and culturally diverse and that human talent is nurtured. Relevant IT tools were purchased and updated, within budgetary limits, and the OICT rules on the use of non-standard software and hardware were implemented.

HIGHLIGHTS OF RESULTS IN 2020

- The Field Administrative Manual was updated.
- A Human Resources Dashboard was created to consolidate and present relevant information for use by senior management.
- The UN Human Rights Intranet was updated with improved access for all staff globally.
- An AdminNet community of practice was established to enable UN Human Rights administrative staff from around the world to share issues and topics of interest.
- A LeadingNet community of practice was established to enable UN Human Rights managers in all duty stations to collaborate and support one another in relation to management issues and advice.
- An electronic correspondence application was developed and piloted.
- Business continuity was ensured throughout the COVID-19 period.
- UN Human Rights joined the COVID-19 Aviation Service to secure seats for staff on World Food Programme/United Nations Humanitarian Air Service flights in the absence of commercial flight availability.
- IT arrangements enabled all staff to work remotely, with uninterrupted access to virtual meeting platforms. Significant efforts were exerted to ensure that the Human Rights Council, treaty body and special procedures experts were able to function effectively, despite considerable logistical challenges.

Updating the UN Human Rights Field Administrative Manual

In 2020, UN Human Rights revised and finalized the Field Administrative Manual. The updated Manual, which was launched in March 2021, will serve as a useful tool for UN Human Rights staff in the field. More specifically, it sets out the information that is relevant to carrying out administrative functions in field presences, thereby providing easily accessible and improved guidance for staff and ensuring enhanced accountability for managers, in accordance with recommendations made by internal and external auditors. The Manual illustrates the organization's emphasis on supporting field presences, which was highlighted as an important aspect in the Operations Management Action Plan.



Funding

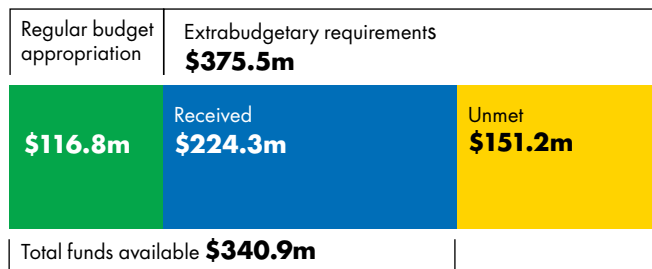


Indigenous Karen community members welcome Human Rights and Biodiversity workshop participants, including from OHCHR, to Pa Pae village in Northern Thailand where they actively exchange about traditional agricultural practices, conservation of biodiversity and fulfilment of human rights, including rights to lands, resources and territories. Pa Pae, Thailand, February 2020. ©AIPP

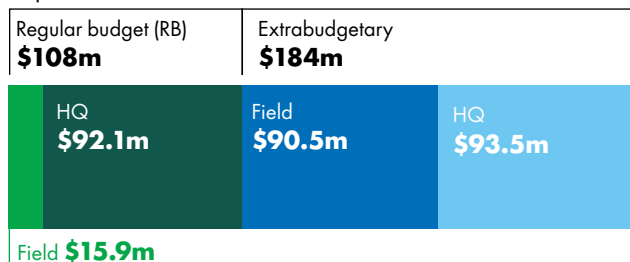
Funding overview in 2020

Income and expenditure

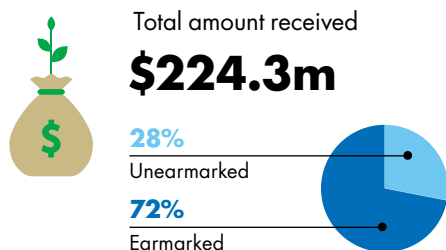
Income



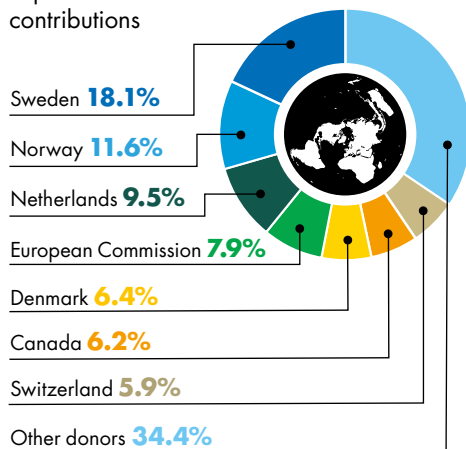
Expenditure



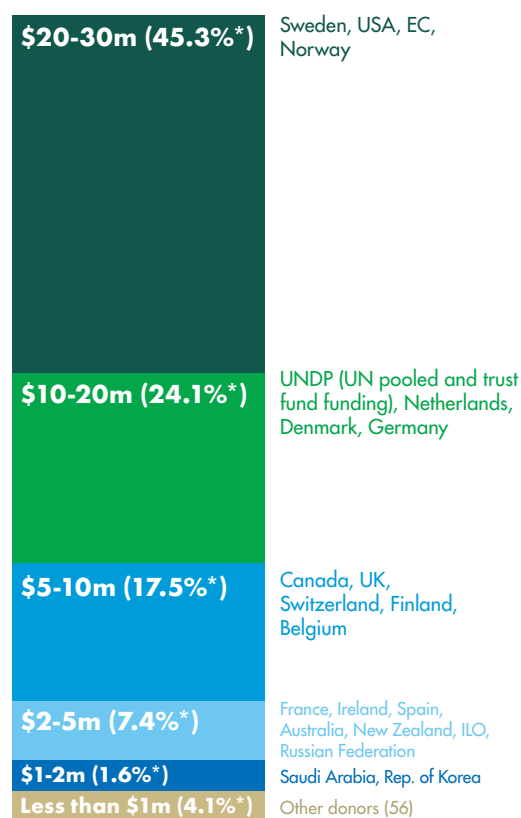
Voluntary contributions



Top sources of unearmarked contributions



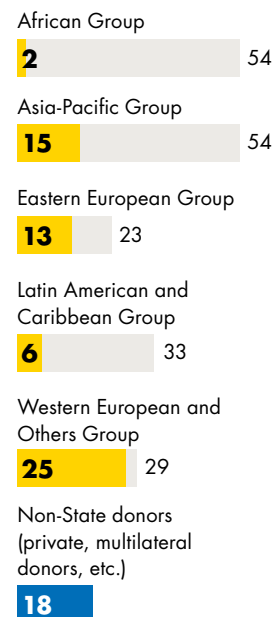
Breakdown of donors by brackets of contributions



Donors



Breakdown of donors by geographic group



* Of total amount of voluntary contributions.

This chapter presents an overview of UN Human Rights funding in 2020 and of funding trends since 2012.

Continuous improvements in the level, flexibility, timeliness and predictability of voluntary contributions and the diversification of the donor base are essential to ensuring that UN Human Rights has the resources it needs to achieve the goals set out in the OHCHR Management Plan (OMP) 2018-2021.

Income

UN Human Rights is partially funded through assessed contributions from Member States to the United Nations regular budget and partially through voluntary contributions (extrabudgetary funding) from donors, the majority of which are Member States.

In 2020, the third year of the OMP 2018-2021, UN Human Rights' total income was US\$340.9 million. Of this total, 65.8 per cent came from voluntary contributions and 34.2 per cent came from the United Nations regular budget.

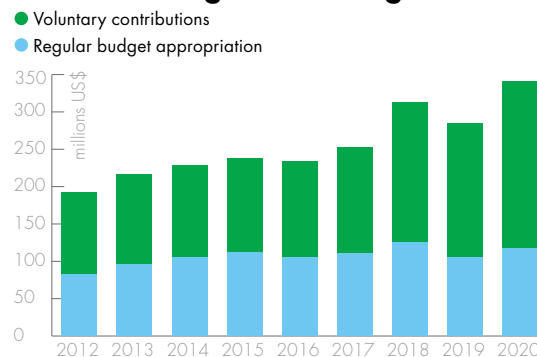
REGULAR BUDGET APPROPRIATION

In 2020, the approved regular budget appropriation for UN Human Rights, as a department of the United Nations Secretariat, was US\$116.8 million, which is approximately 3.7 per cent of the total UN regular budget. More specifically, excluding funds it apportions to the human rights components of peacekeeping operations, out of 52.3 per cent of the total regular budget resources directed to the three UN system pillars, the UN regular budget allocates 7.6 per cent to the human rights pillar; the other two pillars being development and peace and security.

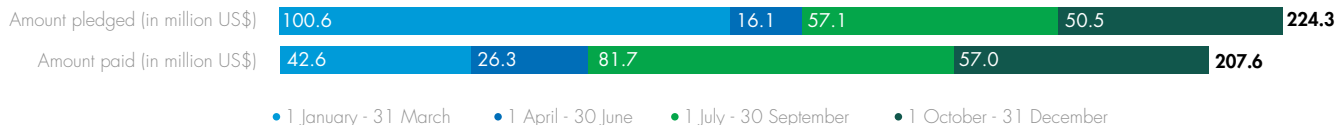
As a matter of principle, the UN regular budget should finance all activities that are mandated by the General Assembly and its subsidiary organs, including the Human Rights Council. The regular budget allocation, however, does not keep pace with the ongoing growth in the number and scope of the General Assembly human rights mandates.

In addition, during 2020, the Human Rights Council adopted 85 resolutions with programme budget implications. These new mandates were presented to the General Assembly at the end of the year in the summary of all resolutions adopted by the Council. While most of the resources required for new mandates were approved, their late-in-the-year presentation to the

UN Human Rights - Funding overview



2020 - Trend in pledges and payments



General Assembly meant that UN Human Rights had to draw from its voluntary resources to fund new activities with a more immediate timeline.

Furthermore, due to cash flow issues, regular budget allotments in 2020 were issued on a quarterly basis and the actual amount received capped at 90 per cent of the amount that was expected for activities.

Therefore, in 2020, to cover the funding gap caused by the combined effect of the regular budget cuts, delays in payments and cash flow issues, UN Human Rights had to rely on voluntary contributions to finance approximately 24.8 per cent of its officially mandated activities that should be financed by the regular budget. Payment of extrabudgetary contributions continued to be received predominately in the latter half of the year, further aggravating the cash flow situation of the Office.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

In terms of extrabudgetary support, a total of US\$224.3 million was raised in voluntary contributions during the reporting period. This represents an increase of 25.3 per cent compared to the 2019 total of US\$179 million and is the highest annual amount that UN Human Rights has received to date. The total amount of extrabudgetary contributions still falls far short of the US\$375.5 million in extrabudgetary requirements that was sought in the 2020 Annual Appeal. These

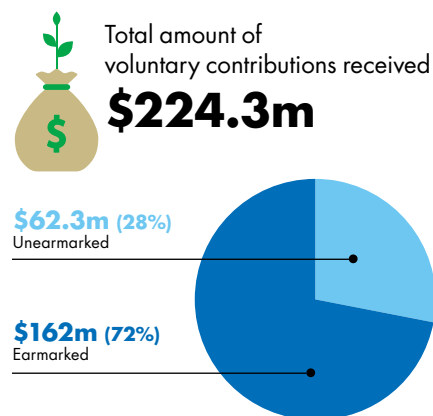
extrabudgetary requirements are the funds that UN Human Rights requires, in addition to its regular budget allocation, if it is to respond to all of the requests for assistance that it receives in a given year.

Earmarking makes it more difficult for the Office to efficiently implement the OMP. It means reduced flexibility, higher transactional costs and constraints on the effective response to emerging needs. In 2020, UN Human Rights only received 28 per cent of unearmarked funds, corresponding to an amount of US\$62.3 million. This is the lowest percentage of unearmarked voluntary contributions received since 2006.

DONOR BASE

The diversification of the donor base remains a challenge. In 2020, UN Human Rights received funding from a total of 79 donors. As in previous years, despite efforts to broaden the donor base, including by increasing the number of contributing Member States and bringing in non-traditional donors, the overwhelming majority of voluntary contributions came from 61 Member States donors, which provided a total of US\$179.6 million, representing 80 per cent of all contributions received. Of the 61 Member States that contributed in 2020, only one was a first-time contributor, while 54 were contributors in 2019. In addition, 29 out of 61 contributing Member States increased

Earmarked versus unearmarked funding 2020



their support compared to 2019 and 45 provided some unearmarked funding.

Multilateral organizations, including the European Commission and UN partners, contributed an additional US\$43.3 million, or 19.3 per cent, of all contributions.

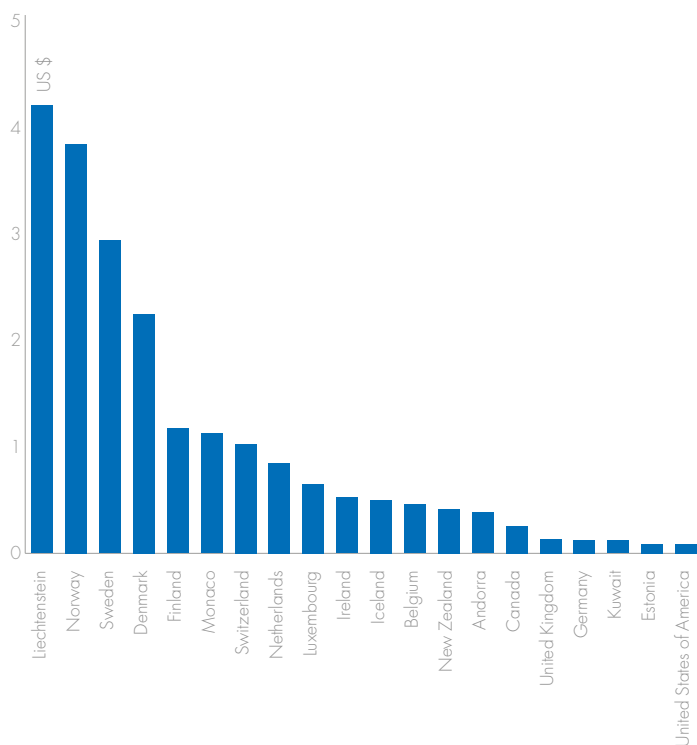
In line with the Funding Compact that was established in 2019 between Member States and members of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG), including UN Human Rights, to better align funding with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the contributions received by UN Human Rights through the inter-agency pooled funds and trust funds reached a record

US\$16.1 million in 2020. This result reflected the enhanced engagement with the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office, through the Peacebuilding Fund, and the growing demand for human rights advisers in the UN Country Teams (UNCTs), which are funded through the UNSDG Human Rights Mainstreaming (UNSDG-HRM) Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF).

UN Human Rights began 2020 with only US\$62.7 million of predictable and sustainable income in pledged contributions that were annual instalments of multi-year funding agreements. The Funding Compact calls for Member States to

increase their multi-year commitments. In 2020, UN Human Rights had such agreements with 18 donors, including 10 Member States (Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom), the European Commission and six other donors (ILO, the MacArthur Foundation, Microsoft, the Open Society Foundations, the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund and the World Bank). Furthermore, only eight donors pledged through new multi-year agreements. As of the beginning of January 2021, only US\$52.6 million from 14 donors had been registered as part of multi-year agreements.

Voluntary contributions from top 20 donors to UN Human Rights per capita in 2020



Source: Based on 2020 voluntary contributions from UN Human Rights' donors (Member States) and 2019 population figures from the World Bank Data Profiles.

UN POOLED AND TRUST FUND FUNDING RECEIVED BY UN HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH UNDP

DONOR	US\$
Conflict-Related Sexual Violence	338,156
Joint Programmes (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala)	658,638
Joint SDGs Fund (Georgia)	101,222
Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (South Africa)	315,000
Moldova 2030 SDGs Partnership	187,826
Peacebuilding Fund (Bolivia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Honduras, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Uganda, Ukraine)	5,469,278
Spotlight Initiative Fund (Liberia, Mexico)	815,018
Tanzania One UN Fund	175,676
UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery	89,131
UNSDG - Human Rights Mainstreaming Trust Fund	7,298,790
UNDP (Georgia, Uganda)	320,187
UNPRPD - Disability Fund	326,638
Total	16,095,560

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS IN 2020

DONOR	TOTAL IN US\$	% UNEARMARKED	DONOR	TOTAL IN US\$	% UNEARMARKED
1 Sweden	30,268,739	37%	25 Microsoft	880,000	0%
2 United States of America	27,937,650	0%	26 China	800,000	0%
3 European Commission	22,848,273	22%	27 Kuwait	510,000	98%
4 Norway	20,599,006	35%	28 Morocco	500,000	70%
5 UNDP (UN pooled and trust fund funding)	16,095,560	0%	- OCHA	500,000	0%
6 Netherlands	14,697,143	40%	30 Luxembourg	404,716	58%
7 Denmark	13,099,272	30%	31 India	400,000	0%
8 Germany	10,254,726	33%	32 UN EOSG	320,000	0%
9 Canada ¹	9,619,194	40%	33 World Bank	261,290	0%
10 United Kingdom	9,151,148	35%	34 UN Women	217,153	0%
11 Switzerland	8,807,643	42%	35 Iceland	180,950	100%
12 Finland	6,481,073	51%	36 Liechtenstein	160,124	16%
13 Belgium	5,262,171	43%	37 UNTF for Human Security	154,786	0%
14 France	3,316,011	58%	38 11th Hour Project/The Schmidt Family Found.	150,000	0%
15 Ireland	2,601,133	78%	39 MacArthur Foundation	140,000	0%
16 Spain ²	2,452,177	24%	40 Czech Republic	136,811	63%
17 Australia	2,073,096	0%	41 Mexico	124,118	81%
18 New Zealand	2,051,984	100%	42 Austria	122,212	0%
19 ILO	2,009,455	0%	43 Estonia	118,468	30%
20 Russian Federation	2,000,000	0%	44 Open Society Foundation	107,000	0%
21 Saudi Arabia	1,949,867	0%	45 Algeria	100,000	100%
22 Republic of Korea	1,601,416	33%	- Portugal	100,000	100%
23 Italy	917,556	0%	- Wellspring Philanthropic Fund	100,000	0%
24 UNODC	878,462	0%			

DONOR	TOTAL IN US\$	% UNEARMARKED	DONOR	TOTAL IN US\$	% UNEARMARKED
48 Poland	79,805	67%	73 Counterpart International	5,703	0%
49 Japan	65,000	0%	74 Montenegro	5,501	100%
50 Cyprus	59,737	0%	75 Maldives	5,000	100%
51 Pakistan	50,000	70%	- Sri Lanka	5,000	100%
52 UNESCO	49,317	0%	- Vodafone Group	5,000	0%
53 Romania	47,790	0%	78 Nicaragua	4,700	100%
54 Monaco	43,956	75%	79 Bahamas	2,000	0%
55 Lithuania	36,335	60%	Individual donors/ miscellaneous	35,718	67%
56 Ukraine	35,000	0%	Total	224,331,556	28%
57 Bulgaria	30,000	100%			
- Malaysia	30,000	100%			
- Uruguay	30,000	100%			
60 Andorra	29,658	0%			
61 Peru	28,187	86%			
62 Armenia	26,285	100%			
63 Kazakhstan	25,000	60%			
64 Indonesia	20,000	100%			
- Thailand	20,000	100%			
66 Latvia	17,921	100%			
67 Malta	17,815	0%			
68 Azerbaijan	15,000	100%			
- Singapore	15,000	0%			
70 Costa Rica	13,938	100%			
71 Slovakia	10,309	100%			
72 Holy See	6,500	0%			

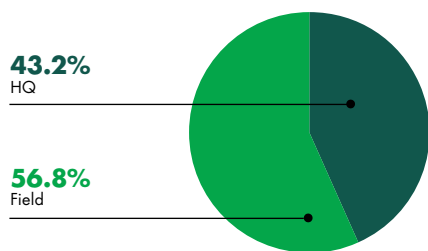
¹ Includes a contribution of CAD 30,000 from the provincial Government of Québec.

² Includes a contribution of EUR 20,000 from the Basque Government and contributions of EUR 250,000 and EUR 100,000 from the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation.

Expenditure

On the expenditure side, approximately 56.8 per cent of all extrabudgetary funding was used to support work in the field, which receives minimal support from the regular budget. The remainder of the voluntary funding was distributed between other areas of UN Human Rights’ work and supplemented the limited resources made available from the regular budget.

Extrabudgetary expenditure



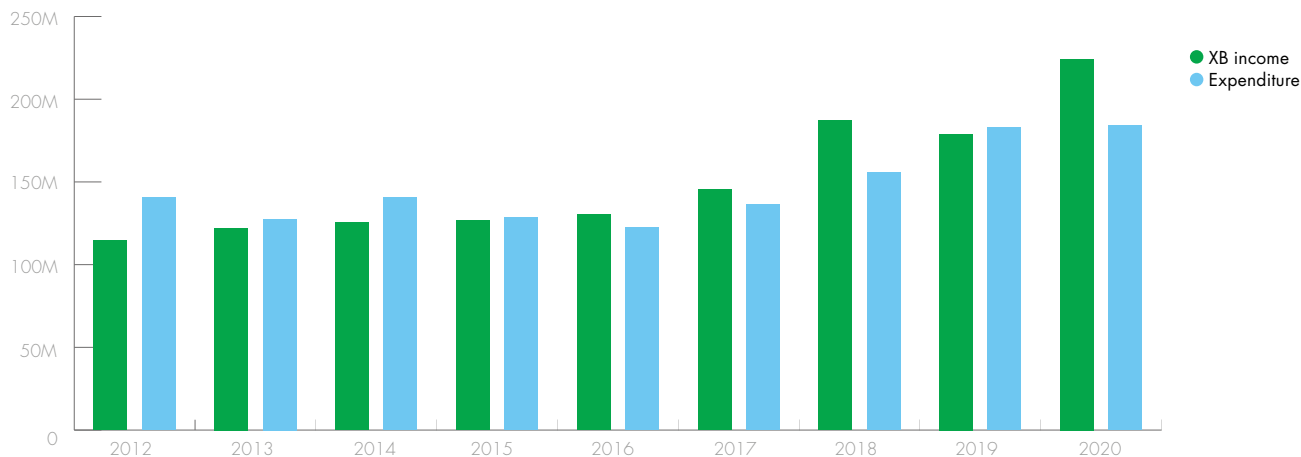
In 2020, 51 per cent of total expenditures (US\$292m), including both regular budget and voluntary contributions, were devoted to fieldwork and HQ support for the field, particularly for capacity-strengthening projects and human rights monitoring, which were predominantly financed through voluntary contributions. Approximately 11.2 per cent of total expenditures were spent on thematic research, human rights mainstreaming, the development of policy and the provision of guidance and tools; 7.5 per cent were spent supporting the human rights treaty bodies, including policymaking organs; and 11.2 per cent were spent in support of the Human Rights Council (HRC) and its special procedures. The remainder was devoted to programme support (5.5 per cent), executive direction and management, resource mobilization and outreach activities (10.1 per cent) and the trust funds and miscellaneous activities (3.5 per cent).

EXPENDITURE COMPARED TO INCOME

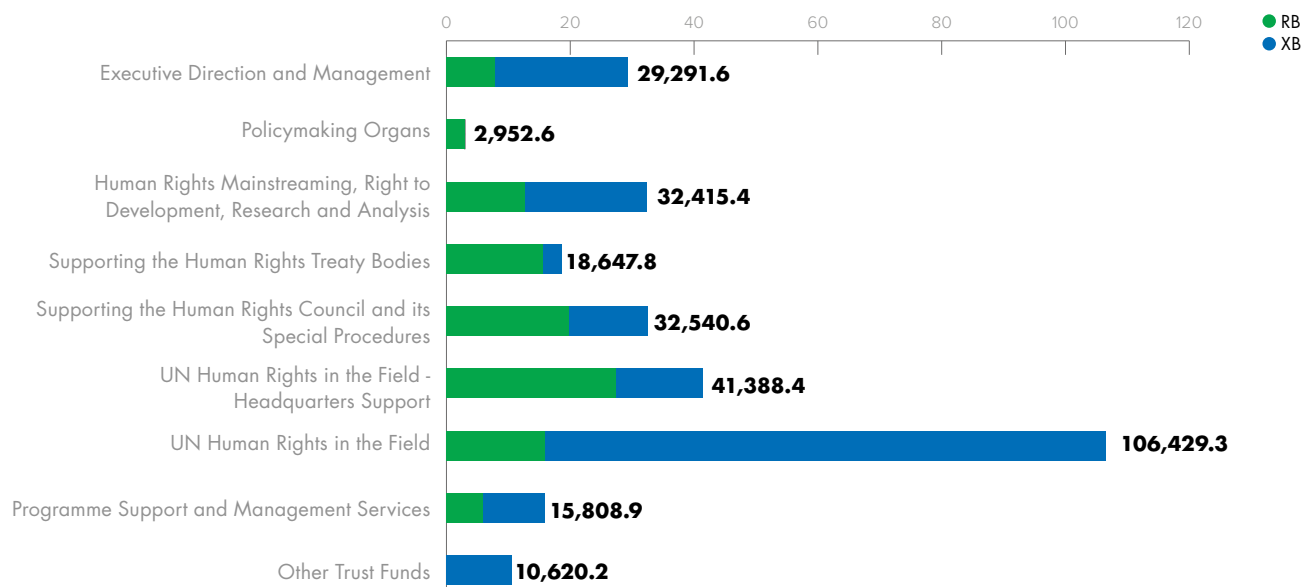
Total expenditures in 2020, including both regular budget and voluntary contributions, reached US\$292 million (compared to US\$293.8 million in 2019, US\$274.1 million in 2018, US\$246.7 million in 2017, US\$223.3 million in 2016 and US\$225.9 million in 2015).

Looking exclusively at extrabudgetary income and expenditure, loss on exchange from contributions brought the total available income in 2020 down to US\$223.7 million.

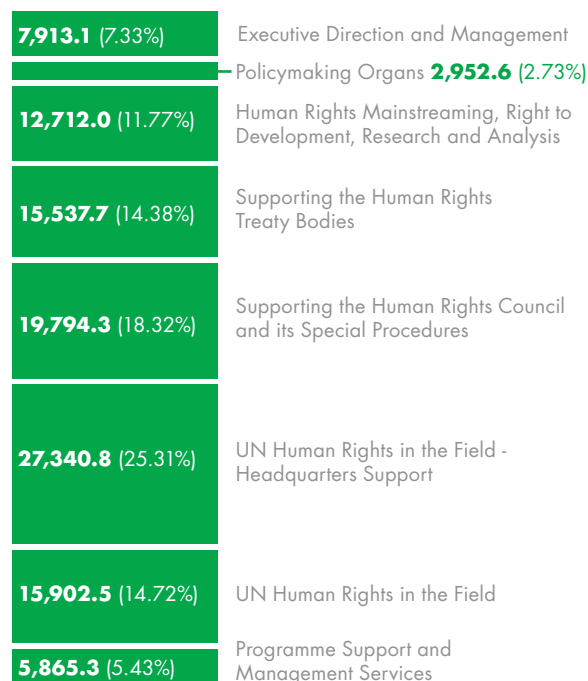
Extrabudgetary income versus expenditure 2012-2020 (in millions US\$)



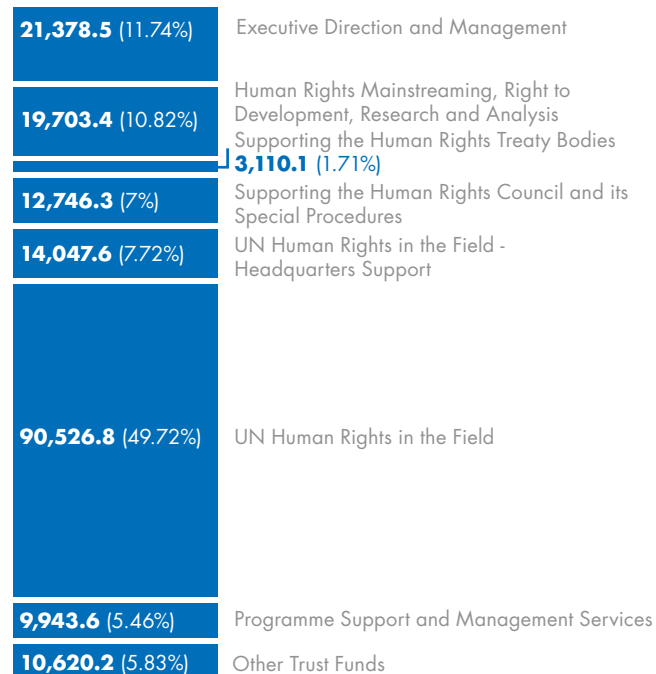
Combined RB & XB expenditure by main activity in 2020 (in thousands US\$)



RB expenditure in 2020 (in thousands US\$)



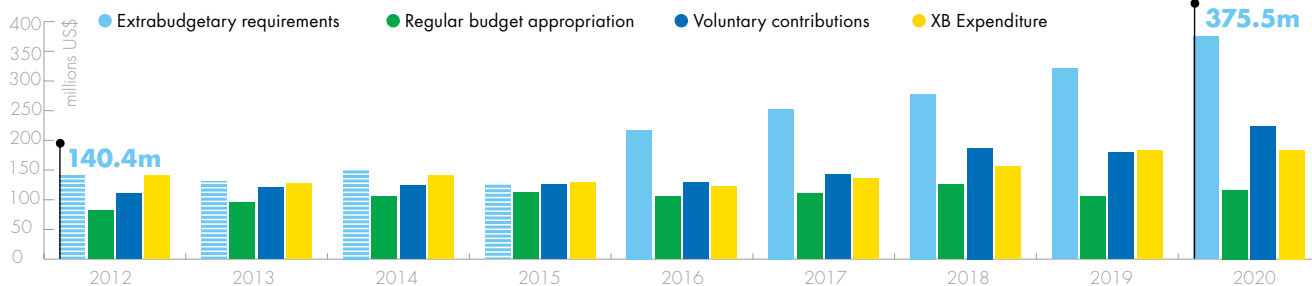
XB expenditure in 2020 (in thousands US\$)



Funding trends 2012-2020

Funding needs, income and expenditure

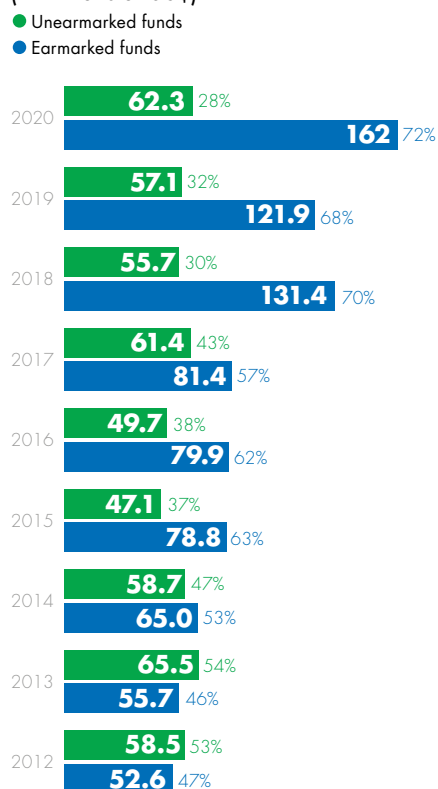
Extrabudgetary requirements, RB, XB income and expenditure evolution 2012-2020 (in millions of US\$)



Until 2015, the extrabudgetary requirements (Annual Appeal) consisted of mere cost plans based on projected income. In 2016, UN Human Rights introduced a new approach to demonstrate the Office's true requirements, i.e., a needs-based budget of all the funds that the Office would need, in a single year, if it was to respond to and implement all requests of assistance it received.

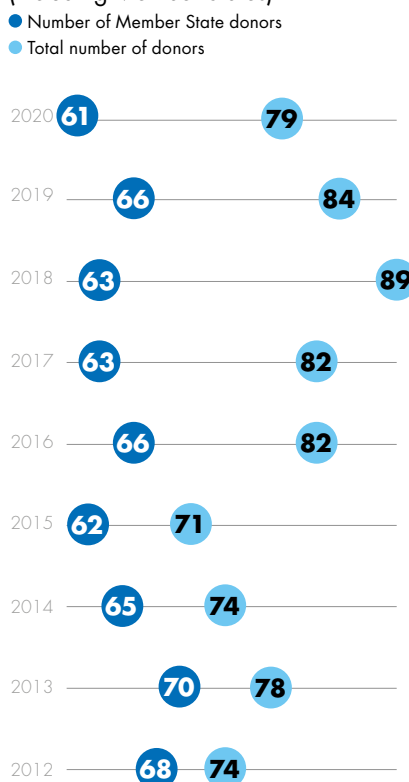
Flexibility of funding

Earmarked versus unearmarked funding (in millions of US\$)

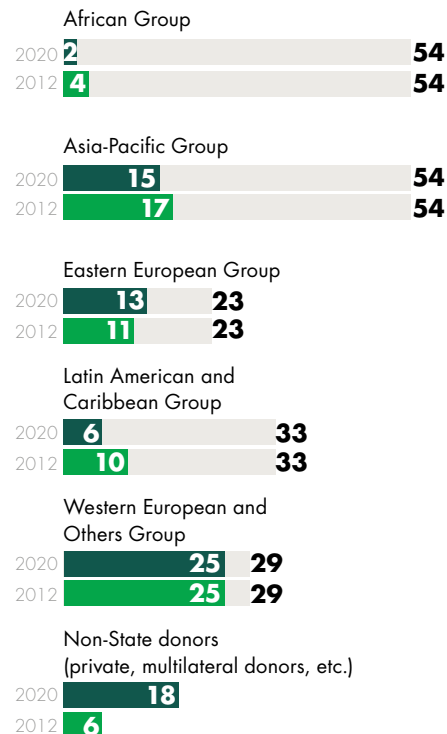


Donors

Number of donors (including Member States)



Breakdown of donors by geographic group



REGULAR BUDGET ALLOCATIONS AND VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

In 2020, 34.2 per cent of the UN Human Rights income was derived from the United Nations regular budget. The cash amount of the regular budget funding that is allocated to UN Human Rights has gradually increased since 2005, when the World Summit committed to a doubling of the regular resources available for UN Human Rights over a period of five years. It was also at that time that the World Summit established the Human Rights Council, which has been active in creating new human rights mandates with regular budget implications since its inception.

In 2020, the Office received US\$116.8 million in regular budget allocations compared to US\$105.6 million in 2019, representing an increase of 10.4 per cent. The approved regular budget appropriation for UN Human Rights was US\$201.6 million in 2018-2019, US\$215.5 million in 2016-2017, US\$206.9 million in 2014-2015 and US\$177.3 million in 2012-2013.

The level of voluntary contributions to UN Human Rights has increased substantially since 2012, with a total of US\$224.3 million raised in 2020, representing the highest amount ever received by the Office. In 2019, UN Human Rights received US\$179 million, followed by the second highest amount of US\$187.1 million received in 2018. In 2017, US\$142.8 million was received in voluntary contributions, followed by US\$129.6 million in 2016, US\$125.9 million in 2015, US\$123.7 million in 2014, US\$121.2 million in 2013 and US\$111.1 million in 2012.

Over the last years, approximately 40 per cent of the funding for UN Human Rights came from the United Nations

regular budget (34.2 per cent in 2020, 37.1 per cent in 2019, 40.2 per cent in 2018, 44 per cent in 2017, 45 per cent in 2016, 46 per cent in 2015 and 2014, 44 per cent in 2013 and 42.5 per cent in 2012). Consequently, approximately 60 per cent came from voluntary contributions (65.8 per cent in 2020, 62.9 per cent in 2019, 59.8 per cent in 2018, 56 per cent in 2017, 55 per cent in 2016, 54 per cent in 2015 and 2014, 56 per cent in 2013 and 57.5 per cent in 2012).

Over the past few years, the increase in the share of the United Nations regular budget for UN Human Rights activities came from additional resources that were allocated to cover the treaty body strengthening process and additional mandates, including commissions of inquiry established by the Human Rights Council.

NUMBER AND TYPOLOGY OF DONORS

In 2020, the number of Member States that contributed to UN Human Rights decreased by five, down to 61. The overall number of donors decreased by six, amounting to a total of 79 donors compared to 84 donors in 2019. From 2012-2020, the number of contributing Member States fluctuated between its lowest (62) in 2015 and its highest (70) in 2013. The total number of donors that contributed to UN Human Rights was lowest in 2015 (71) and highest (89) in 2018.

Among the 61 Member States who contributed in 2020, six renewed their support after at least one year of financial inactivity. Another 12 Member States left the list of donors, despite the High Commissioner's repeated appeals to broaden the UN Human Rights donor

base. Over the last four years, only 46 Member States provided a contribution every year and 34 others contributed at least once in the same four-year period.

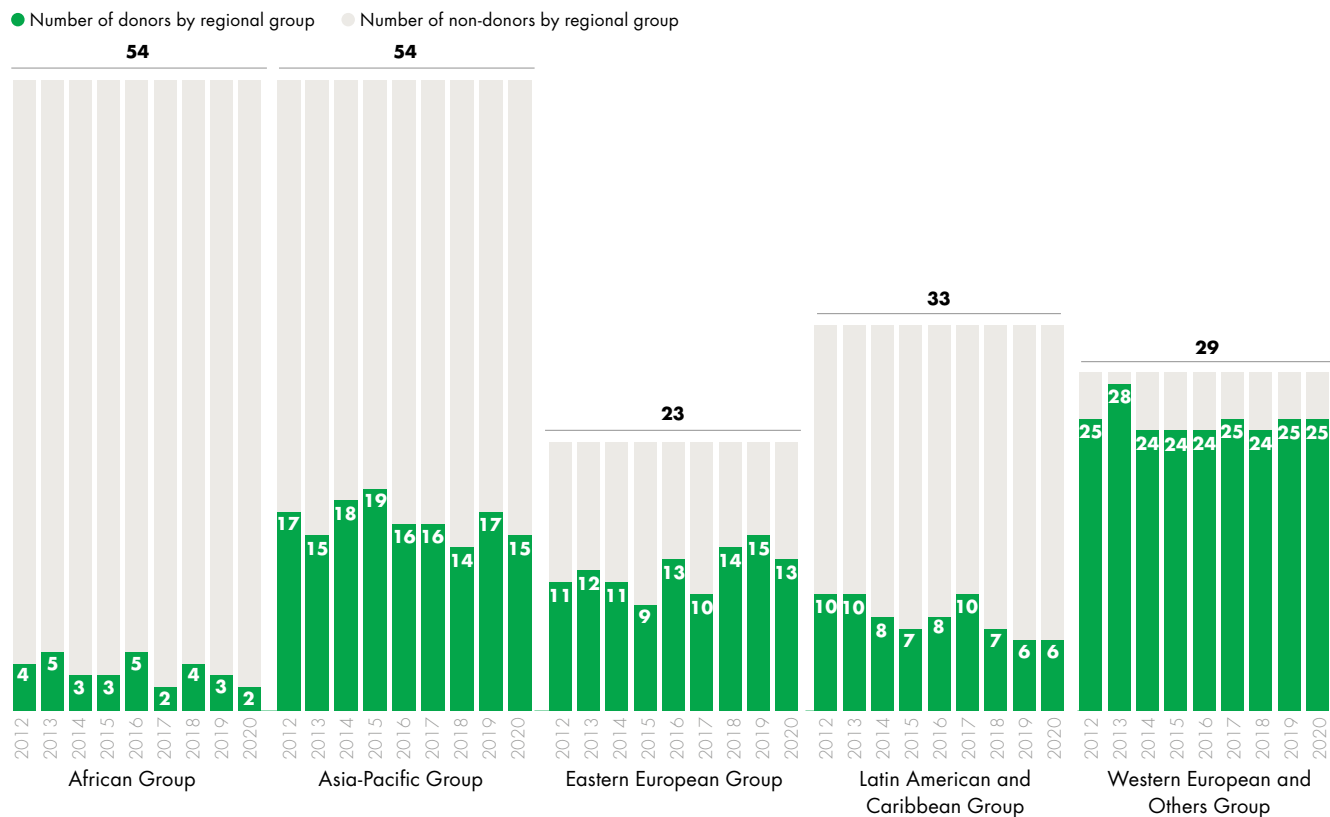
Of the 61 Member States that contributed in 2020, 25 were members of the Western European and Others Group (which is comprised of 29 Member States); 15 were from the Asia-Pacific Group (which is comprised of 54 Member States); 13 were from the Eastern European Group (which is comprised of 23 Member States); six were from the Latin American and

Caribbean Group (which is comprised of 33 Member States); and two were from the African Group (which is comprised of 54 Member States).

From 2012-2020, the number of donors per regional group fluctuated between 24 and 28 for the Western European and Others Group, between 14 and 19 for the Asia-Pacific Group, between nine and 15 for the Eastern European Group, between six and 10 for the Latin American and Caribbean Group and between two and five for the African Group.

The number of non-State donors, comprised of multilateral organizations, the private sector and the UN system gradually increased from six in 2012 to a total of 26 in 2018, then down to 18 in 2019 and 2020.

UN Human Rights donor base in 2012-2020, broken down by regional group



EARMARKED VS UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

In 2020, UN Human Rights received US\$62.3 million in unearmarked funds from 45 donors. In absolute terms, this is the fourth highest amount of unearmarked funds that UN Human Rights has raised since 2002. The unearmarked funds, however, represented 28 per cent of the overall voluntary contributions received in 2020, a four per cent decrease from 32 per cent in 2019, representing a significant decrease from 43 per cent in 2017 and the lowest percentage since 2006. From 2012-2020, the percentage of unearmarked funding has fluctuated between 28 per cent (at its lowest in 2020) and 54 per cent (at its highest in 2013).

Some of the increase in earmarking can be attributed to the receipt of more locally sourced funding for fieldwork and contributions from non-traditional budget lines that can only be accessed as earmarked funds (such as humanitarian and development budget lines). Other contributions that were previously unearmarked are now provided as more circumscribed funding.

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

A number of Member States, namely, Colombia, Qatar and Senegal, host UN Human Rights offices and provide in-kind support by covering some costs, such as the rental of the premises, utilities and vehicles. These contributions are credited to their assessed contributions to the United Nations regular budget.

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2020

MEMBER STATE	NATURE OF IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION	ESTIMATED FAIR VALUE US\$
Colombia	Rental of premises	296,506
	Provision of armoured vehicle and running costs	56,032
Qatar	Rental of premises and running costs	153,011
Senegal	Rental of premises	109,233

JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS AND UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS

Some Member States provided UN Human Rights with additional, indirect financial support by contributing to the **United Nations Junior Professional Officers (JPO) Programme**, which is administered by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in New York. As of 31 December, 32 JPOs (22 women, 10 men) were working at UN Human Rights who were supported by the Governments of Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany,

Hungary, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sweden and Switzerland (see table below). Denmark, the Netherlands and Switzerland also funded JPOs who were nationals of developing countries. Non-nationals amounted to six out of 32 JPOs in 2020. In terms of location, 24 JPOs were deployed at headquarters (20 in Geneva and four in New York) and eight in the field (four in the Middle East and North Africa region, three in the Africa region and one in the Americas region).

JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS 2017-2020

SPONSOR	NATIONAL JPOs (+ NON-NATIONALS) 2017	NATIONAL JPOs (+ NON-NATIONALS) 2018	NATIONAL JPOs (+ NON-NATIONALS) 2019	NATIONAL JPOs (+ NON-NATIONALS) 2020
Belgium		1	1	1
Denmark	10	8	4	4(+1)
Finland	1	1	1	2
Germany	2		1	1
Hungary		1	1	1
Italy	3	3	1	3
Japan	2	3	2	1
Netherlands	2	3 (+2)	3(+5)	3(+4)
Norway	2	1	2	2
Republic of Korea	2	2	2	1
Saudi Arabia	1	1		1
Sweden	2	2	3	2
Switzerland	6 (+1)	3 (+1)	5(+1)	4(+1)
Spain	1	1		
United States of America	1			
Total	36	33	32	32

In addition, UN Human Rights benefited from indirect financial support through the **United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme**, which is administered by UNDP. In 2020, a total of 139 UNVs served with UN Human Rights (85 women, 54 men), of whom 53 per cent were national UNVs. As of 31 December, 17 UNVs were working with UN Human Rights who were fully funded

by the Governments of Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, the Republic of Korea, Sweden and Switzerland (see table below). Switzerland also funded UNVs who were nationals of developing countries.








UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS 2017-2020 (fully funded by Member States)

SPONSOR	UNVs NATIONALS OF THE DONOR COUNTRY (+ NON-NATIONALS) 2017	UNVs NATIONALS OF THE DONOR COUNTRY (+ NON-NATIONALS) 2018	UNVs NATIONALS OF THE DONOR COUNTRY (+ NON-NATIONALS) 2019	UNVs NATIONALS OF THE DONOR COUNTRY (+ NON-NATIONALS) 2020
Finland	1	1	1	1
France	1	1		1
Germany	1 (+1)	1 (+1)	1	1
Ireland	1	1		1
Luxembourg	(+1)	(+1)		
Norway	1	1		
Republic of Korea	2	2	4	2
Sweden	1	1	3	2
Switzerland	7	7	9 (+1)	7 (+2)
Total	17	17	19	17










VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS IN 2020


The distribution of funds in this table reflects earmarking by donors (as per major headings of the extrabudgetary requirements presented in the UN Human Rights Appeal 2020).

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS IN 2020 (by earmarking and in descending order)










	Sweden	United States of America	European Commission	Norway	UNDP	Netherlands	Denmark
							
Unearmarked	11,313,290		4,940,282	7,228,482		5,919,409	3,972,341
Executive Direction and Management New York and Geneva				215,776	338,156		
Subprogramme 1: Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis		2,100,000	881,342	2,673,220	1,442,981	964,780	160,488
Subprogramme 2: Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies		490,000		119,875	95,432	786,517	200,610
Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation	1,936,847			959,003		2,247,195	686,080
Subprogramme 4: Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures		1,910,000		455,526		2,894,587	
Support to the Programmes							
Field Presences	17,018,602	15,437,650	17,026,649	8,227,872	14,218,991	294,770	7,344,134
<i>Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities</i>	352,154	1,150,000			5,207,579		5,724,343
<i>Africa</i>	8,368,162	2,620,000	9,770,479	3,991,848	5,418,731		1,619,791
<i>Americas</i>	5,383,295	6,740,000	1,194,924	2,073,843	2,006,804	266,854	
<i>Asia and the Pacific</i>	2,436,007	100,000	859,181	479,501		27,916	
<i>Europe and Central Asia</i>	478,985	987,650	1,594,180	819,576	813,877		
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>		3,840,000	3,607,885	863,102	772,000		
Humanitarian Trust Funds		8,000,000		719,252			735,619
Miscellaneous*						1,589,885	
Total contributions by donor	30,268,739	27,937,650	22,848,273	20,599,006	16,095,560	14,697,143	13,099,272








* Includes earmarked contributions that could not be reported above.

Germany	Canada	United Kingdom	Switzerland	Finland	Belgium	France	Ireland	Spain
								
3,342,728	3,852,080	3,234,153	3,700,000	3,275,109	2,275,313	1,919,431	2,036,026	598,060
		258,732						
863,975		666,509		223,964	418,160			238,239
682,594						118,483		23,753
483,667		50,020						
153,584	78,555		340,006	340,909	179,211	413,168		47,506
3,677,987	5,622,079	4,909,036	2,912,008	2,575,588	2,389,486	793,839	403,817	1,520,865
341,297				2,575,588		47,393		
1,396,333	606,061	2,966,391	200,000		1,194,743	331,754		117,371
674,646	3,652,382	745,342	1,410,000				292,398	1,403,495
79,636	454,545							
471,143	909,091	805,359	500,000					
714,932		391,944	802,008		1,194,743	414,692	111,419	
1,050,191	66,480	32,698	200,000	65,502		71,090	161,290	23,753
			1,655,629					
10,254,726	9,619,194	9,151,148	8,807,643	6,481,073	5,262,171	3,316,011	2,601,133	2,452,177





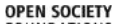




	Australia 	New Zealand 	ILO 	Russian Federation 	Saudi Arabia 	Korea, Rep. of 	Italy 
Unearmarked		2,051,984				521,416	
Executive Direction and Management New York and Geneva	147,820				364,867		27,473
Subprogramme 1: Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis	36,955			736,667	170,000	200,000	
Subprogramme 2: Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies						150,000	
Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation	258,684					190,000	
Subprogramme 4: Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures	18,477		2,009,455	493,333		400,000	23,895
Support to the Programmes							
Field Presences	1,481,817			770,000	1,240,000	100,000	836,320
<i>Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities</i>				100,000		50,000	
<i>Africa</i>							716,846
<i>Americas</i>							119,474
<i>Asia and the Pacific</i>	1,481,817					50,000	
<i>Europe and Central Asia</i>				670,000			
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>					1,240,000		
Humanitarian Trust Funds	129,342				175,000	40,000	29,869
Miscellaneous*							
Total contributions by donor	2,073,096	2,051,984	2,009,455	2,000,000	1,949,867	1,601,416	917,556








* Includes earmarked contributions that could not be reported above.

Microsoft	UNODC	China	Kuwait	Morocco	OCHA	Luxembourg	India	UN EOSG
								
			500,000	350,000		234,742		
880,000		620,000						320,000
		180,000				134,763	100,000	
	878,462				500,000		200,000	
							200,000	
	878,462				500,000			
			10,000			35,211	100,000	
				150,000				
880,000	878,462	800,000	510,000	500,000	500,000	404,716	400,000	320,000








	World Bank	UN Women	Iceland	Liechtenstein	UN Trust Fund for Human Security	11th Hour Project	MacArthur Foundation
							
Unearmarked			180,950	25,826			
Executive Direction and Management New York and Geneva				25,826			
Subprogramme 1: Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis				41,322		150,000	
Subprogramme 2: Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies				41,322			
Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation							
Subprogramme 4: Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures							
Support to the Programmes							
Field Presences	261,290	217,153			154,786		140,000
<i>Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities</i>							
<i>Africa</i>	261,290	89,673					
<i>Americas</i>							140,000
<i>Asia and the Pacific</i>		127,480			154,786		
<i>Europe and Central Asia</i>							
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>							
Humanitarian Trust Funds				25,826			
Miscellaneous*							
Total contributions by donor	261,290	217,153	180,950	160,124	154,786	150,000	140,000

* Includes earmarked contributions that could not be reported above.









Czech Republic	Mexico	Austria	Estonia	Open Society Foundations	Algeria	Portugal	Wellspring Philanthropic Fund	Poland
								
85,507	100,000		35,842		100,000	100,000		53,203
		10,989						
12,826				107,000			100,000	
8,551								
		78,256						
21,377			35,842					26,602
21,377								
			35,842					26,602
8,551	24,118	32,967	46,784					
136,811	124,118	122,212	118,468	107,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	79,805

	Japan	Cyprus	Pakistan	UNESCO	Romania	Monaco	Lithuania
							
Unearmarked			35,000			32,967	21,834
Executive Direction and Management New York and Geneva							
Subprogramme 1: Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis		23,895		49,317			
Subprogramme 2: Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies							
Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation							
Subprogramme 4: Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures			10,000		47,790	10,989	14,501
Support to the Programmes							
Field Presences	65,000	35,842					
<i>Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities</i>							
<i>Africa</i>	20,000						
<i>Americas</i>							
<i>Asia and the Pacific</i>	45,000						
<i>Europe and Central Asia</i>							
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>		35,842					
Humanitarian Trust Funds			5,000				
Miscellaneous*							
Total contributions by donor	65,000	59,737	50,000	49,317	47,790	43,956	36,335

* Includes earmarked contributions that could not be reported above.

	Thailand	Latvia	Malta	Azerbaijan	Singapore	Costa Rica	Slovakia
							
Unearmarked	20,000	17,921		15,000		13,938	10,309
Executive Direction and Management New York and Geneva							
Subprogramme 1: Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis							
Subprogramme 2: Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies							
Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation							
Subprogramme 4: Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures					15,000		
Support to the Programmes							
Field Presences			17,815				
<i>Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities</i>							
<i>Africa</i>			17,815				
<i>Americas</i>							
<i>Asia and the Pacific</i>							
<i>Europe and Central Asia</i>							
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>							
Humanitarian Trust Funds							
Miscellaneous*							
Total contributions by donor	20,000	17,921	17,815	15,000	15,000	13,938	10,309

* Includes earmarked contributions that could not be reported above.

Holy See	Counterpart International	Montenegro	Maldives	Sri Lanka	Vodafone Group	Nicaragua	Bahamas
							
		5,501	5,000	5,000		4,700	
					5,000		
							2,000
	5,703						
	5,703						
6,500							
6,500	5,703	5,501	5,000	5,000	5,000	4,700	2,000

Funds administered by UN Human Rights

Voluntary contributions in support of UN Human Rights are channelled and managed through nine trust funds and three special funds. The special funds are not trust funds as defined by the UN Financial Regulations and Rules.

Additional financial information related to these funds can be found in the extrabudgetary income and expenditure report for 2020 (p. 149).

UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

In 1993, the United Nations Trust Fund for the Support of the Activities of the High Commissioner for Human Rights was established by the Secretary-General to supplement regular budgetary resources as a general funding pool. It is the largest fund administered by UN Human Rights, through which 78.7 per cent of all extrabudgetary funds, including unearmarked funds, were managed in 2020. Detailed information on the implemented activities and the voluntary contributions managed through the Trust Fund is shared in this report.

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY FUND FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights (VFTC) was established by the Secretary-General in 1987. It is the second largest fund administered by UN Human Rights. It provides financial support for technical cooperation aimed at building a strong human rights framework, including effective national and regional institutions, legal frameworks and infrastructures.

Since 1993, a Board of Trustees, which is appointed by the Secretary-General, has provided administrative and operational guidance. In recent years, its role has evolved to include the provision of advice on policy orientation, strategies on technical cooperation at a broader programme level and a global vision of the work of the Fund. In 2013, the Secretary-General entrusted the Board to also serve as a Board of Trustees for the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review. In 2020, the Board was composed of Ms. Esi Sutherland-Addy, Chair (Ghana), Ms. Azita Berar Awad (Iran), Mr. Morten Kjaerum (Denmark), Ms.

Valeriya Lutkovska (Ukraine) and Mr. Santiago Corcuera-Cabezut (Mexico).

As of 31 December, the Fund had received a total of US\$23,266,101 in contributions compared to US\$17,208,002 in 2019. This was linked to increasing contributions from Member States to support technical cooperation, in particular to support the deployment of human rights advisers under the UNSDG Strategy that was launched in 2012. In 2020, the total expenditure of the Fund amounted to US\$15,943,243 compared to US\$15,498,086 in 2019. The actual level of expenditure was lower due to the late receipt of contributions, the impacts of COVID-19 on a number of planned activities and the need to secure an adequate level of funding to ensure the sustainability of efforts at the beginning of 2021.

In 2020, the Fund provided resources for technical cooperation programmes designed to build strong human rights frameworks at the national level in 53 regions, countries and territories through 42 human rights advisers and human rights mainstreaming projects in Argentina, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia,

Maldives, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of North Macedonia, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Serbia, South Caucasus region (Georgia), Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Zimbabwe. In addition, the Fund supported activities in seven human rights components of peace missions in Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Libya, Somalia and Sudan (Darfur) and in four country and stand-alone offices in Chad, Mauritania, Mexico and the State of Palestine.¹⁰

The Fund enabled the expansion of in-country human rights expertise, in particular through the joint UNSDG framework for the deployment of human rights advisers, and by responding to increased demands for UN Human Rights to have an in-country presence. With the support of the Fund, UN Human Rights facilitated national efforts to incorporate international human rights standards into national laws, policies and practices, with an emphasis on the human rights dimensions of the global health crisis and providing support for policies and practices aimed at addressing inequalities. In addition, UN Human Rights stressed the importance of supporting the implementation of and follow-up to the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms and the development of online mechanisms to supplement these efforts.

In light of the multiple impacts of the pandemic on the progress made in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UN Human Rights enhanced its technical cooperation and advisory services to support the efforts of Member States to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Fund enabled the Office to provide ongoing support across all regions in the establishment and strengthening of national structures, institutions and capacities and to ensure their adherence to international human rights standards. Furthermore, UN Human Rights focused on supporting activities to strengthen the administration of justice. This included increasing access to justice, in particular for individuals and groups facing discrimination and exclusion, and delivering capacity-building initiatives to combat inequality and promote gender equality and women's rights.

¹⁰ All references to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with General Assembly resolution 67/19.

UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2020

DONOR	US\$	EARMARKING
Denmark	5,724,343	VFTC
Finland	2,575,588	VFTC
Germany	341,297	VFTC
India	200,000	VFTC
United States of America	1,150,000	VFTC
(a) Total contributions earmarked to VFTC	9,991,228	
Australia	221,730	Activities in the Asia-Pacific region (Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste)
	188,395	Human Rights Adviser in the Philippines
Belgium	1,194,743	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
Canada	454,545	Sri Lanka
Denmark	147,254	Somalia
	71,090	Chad
France	82,938	Mauritania
Germany	79,636	Sri Lanka
MacArthur Foundation	140,000	Mexico (implementation of the 2018 National Law on Disappearances through technical assistance to Mexican authorities)
	359,626	Haiti
	719,252	OHCHR's work in the Sahel region (Chad)
Norway	299,688	OHCHR's work in the Sahel region (Mauritania)
	119,875	OHCHR's work in the Sahel region (Niger)
	503,476	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*

	200,000	Belarus (implementation of the National Action Plan on Human Rights)
	120,000	Expert consultations on business and human rights
Russian Federation	450,000	Russian Federation (consolidating the Human Rights Master's Programme)
	20,000	Russian Federation (activities of the Federal and Regional Ombudspersons for Human Rights in the Russian Federation)
	100,000	VFTC (in particular for its work in Africa)
Saudi Arabia	200,000	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
	6,054,915	Deployment of human rights advisers
UNDP	106,020	Georgia (National Human Rights Strategy and the new Action Plan)
UN Women	89,673	Kenya
United States of America	1,340,000	Chad, Haiti, Libya, Mexico
United Kingdom	12,016	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine* (COVID-19 information made available to persons with disabilities)
(b) Total contributions earmarked to specific projects	13,274,873	
Unearmarked funds allocated to VFTC		Unearmarked
(c) Total unearmarked funds	0	
Total (a) + (b) + (c)	23,266,101	
Expenditure	15,943,243	

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

UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR A HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN CAMBODIA

In 1992, the United Nations Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia was established by the Secretary-General. The original aim of the Trust Fund was to contribute to the development and implementation of a human rights education programme that would promote the understanding of and respect for human rights in Cambodia. Since then, it has been used to implement all of the activities of the Office in Cambodia. In 2020, the Trust Fund received US\$738,979 in voluntary contributions. For more information, see pp. 345-350 of the online report.

UN TRUST FUND FOR A HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN CAMBODIA

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2020

Donor	US\$
Australia ¹	73,910
Japan	45,000
Sweden	520,069
United States of America	100,000
Total	738,979
Expenditure	1,237,808

¹ Allocated from a contribution earmarked for activities in the Asia-Pacific region.

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY FUND FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW MECHANISM

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism was established by the Secretary-General in 2008, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 6/17. The Voluntary Fund facilitates the participation of developing States, particularly Least Developed Countries (LDCs), in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process. Under its terms of reference, the Voluntary Fund enables funding for a delegate to present the national report from her/his country and participate in the interactive dialogue at the Working Group session when the delegate's country is being considered. The delegate also attends the HRC's plenary session when the UPR outcome is adopted.

As of 31 December, the Fund had not received any pledges compared to US\$147,167 in pledges and contributions in 2019. In 2020, the total expenditure of the Fund amounted to US\$190,174 compared to US\$309,562 in 2019.

Through the Voluntary Fund, UN Human Rights facilitated the participation of government representatives from 10 States under review in the thirty-fifth session of the UPR Working Group and in the forty-third session of the HRC, which adopted the UPR outcomes of 14 States reviewed in the thirty-fourth session of the UPR Working Group in November 2019.

In March, in the context of COVID-19, UN Human Rights consulted with the Office of the HRC President and decided to postpone the thirty-sixth session of the UPR Working Group, which was originally scheduled to take place from May until November, to enable States and

other stakeholders to constructively and safely engage in the UPR process.

Given the worsening COVID-19 situation, all travel arrangements were cancelled that were made under the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the UPR (to attend the adoptions of the UPR outcomes at the forty-fourth and forty-fifth HRC sessions and the thirty-sixth Working Group session). In November, Swiss authorities decreased the maximum number of in-person meeting participants from 50 to five. For the thirty-sixth UPR Working Group session, scheduled in November, UN Human Rights adopted an innovative approach and used the Fund to facilitate the remote participation of States under review and of other Member States, resulting in approximately 650 video statements and 350 live videoconference calls.

UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE UPR

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2020

Donor	US\$
/	0
Total	0
Expenditure	190,174

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY FUND FOR FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review was established in 2008, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 6/17. This financial mechanism was created to provide a source of financial and technical assistance to help countries implement the recommendations emanating from the UPR, with the consent of and in consultation with the countries concerned. Since its establishment, the UPR has completed two cycles and the human rights record of every Member State has been reviewed at least twice. The focus of the third cycle, which began in May 2017, is the implementation of the accepted recommendations.

As of 31 December, the Fund had received a total of US\$346,597 in pledges and contributions compared to US\$417,362 in 2019. In 2020, the total expenditure of the Fund amounted to US\$512,511 compared to US\$585,112 in 2019.

In 2013, the Secretary-General requested the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights (see pp. 128-129) to also serve as a Board of Trustees for the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the UPR.

In 2020, the Fund approved financial and technical assistance for activities in the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belize, Bhutan, Brazil, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Jamaica, Kenya, Madagascar,

Malaysia, Mauritania, Mongolia, Nigeria, Peru, Republic of Moldova, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uruguay and Yemen. In 2020, the strategic focus was on assisting States in the implementation of key UPR recommendations, the establishment and/or strengthening of National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRFs), the creation of recommendation implementation plans and databases and supporting UNCTs and parliamentary capacities for implementation.

COVID-19 affected the implementation of a number of projects in the field. As a result, UN Human Rights informed Member States that it would consider adjustments upon request and as necessary, in accordance with new national priorities in the context of the pandemic. This flexible approach was discussed and agreed upon by the members of the Board of Trustees, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Deputy High Commissioner during online meetings that were held in May and November and co-organized with the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights.

UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UPR

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2020

Donor	US\$
France	128,807
India	100,000
Kazakhstan	10,000
Pakistan	5,000
Republic of Korea	50,000
Romania	47,790
Singapore	5,000
Total	346,597
Expenditure	512,511

VOLUNTARY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TRUST FUND TO SUPPORT THE PARTICIPATION OF LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES IN THE WORK OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the work of the Human Rights Council was established under HRC resolution 19/26 in 2012. The Trust Fund became operational in 2014. The objective of the Trust Fund is to enhance the institutional and human rights capacities of LDCs and SIDS through targeted training courses and travel assistance for delegates attending regular sessions of the HRC and the fellowship programmes.

In 2020, the Trust Fund received US\$377,988 in voluntary contributions compared to US\$648,991 in 2019. A total of 15 countries, including three new donors, contributed to the Trust Fund (there were only three in 2015). The Bahamas became the first beneficiary country and the first country from Latin America and the Caribbean to contribute to the Trust Fund. At the end of 2020, the Trust Fund reached the symbolic threshold of 30 donors that had contributed since it was established.

Since it became operational in 2014, the Trust Fund has supported the participation of 153 delegates and fellows, including 95 women and one visually impaired delegate, from 71 of the 72 eligible LDCs/SIDS, including all countries that were members of the HRC. Through the Trust Fund, 95 per cent of the beneficiaries, most of whom were responsible for following HRC activities in their

respective countries, participated in a regular Council session for the first time.

In 2016, as mandated by HRC resolution 19/26, the Trust Fund launched the first online training tool on the HRC and its mechanisms for government officials from LDCs and SIDS who work in the field of human rights. This interactive, fully accessible and gender-aware course is free of charge and available in English and French and in an “offline mode” on USB drives. To date, approximately 600 individuals have enrolled in the course.

In 2020, the Trust Fund provided support to 10 delegates (six women, four men) from 10 LDCs/SIDS, who travelled to Geneva to attend part of the forty-third session of the HRC. Two of the delegates were from Africa (Angola and Burkina Faso), five were from Asia and the Pacific (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Maldives, Marshall Islands and Solomon Islands) and three were from Latin America and the Caribbean (Barbados, Guyana and Haiti). Three of the delegates came from States that were members of the HRC in 2020 (Angola, Burkina Faso and Marshall Islands). Eighty per cent of all delegates worked for their respective Ministry of Foreign Affairs and all of them were attending a Council session for the first time. Each delegate participated in a three-day induction course, which was organized with support from the Trust Fund, and fully participated in the discussions. They delivered a total of 36 statements (34 were in their national capacities and two were joint statements). They also took part in nine briefings and side events that were organized by the Trust Fund and met with the Council President and the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights. For the first time, a side event was organized by the European Union delegation in

Geneva with the assistance of the Trust Fund. Unfortunately, four events were cancelled following the decision to suspend the forty-third session of the HRC due to COVID-19. All steps were taken to ensure the safe return of the delegates to their countries.

Due to the pandemic and the related travel restrictions, the capacity-building activities delivered by the Trust Fund had to be adjusted and held online. The Fund organized its first virtual induction course to assist the delegates from small States before, during and after all three regular Council sessions. The HRC Help Desk for Small States offered virtual consultations and responded to 102 requests for information through various means of communication. In particular, the Trust Fund conducted briefings for small States representatives who were based in Geneva and New York (including the Permanent Representatives in New York from countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)) and it assisted two focal points for small States appointed by the HRC President (Fiji and Singapore). During the reporting period, Benin and Solomon Islands closed their Permanent Missions in Geneva.

The Trust Fund continued to follow up with Caribbean Member States on the action points of the Georgetown Declaration Towards 2022 – the outcome document of the LDCs/SIDS workshop held in 2018 in the Caribbean region. As of the end of 2020, approximately 70 per cent of the action points had been implemented. Similarly, the Trust Fund followed up on the implementation of provisions included in the Nadi Declaration Towards 2020 – the outcome document adopted at a workshop held in 2019, in Fiji, to enhance the participation in the HRC of LDCs/SIDS from the Pacific

region. Two other workshops that are planned for the African and Asian regions will take place virtually in 2021.

VOLUNTARY FUND FOR PARTICIPATION OF LDCs AND SIDS IN THE WORK OF THE HRC

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2020

Donor	US\$
Australia	18,477
Austria	11,947
Bahamas	2,000
Canada	78,555
China	20,000
France	11,848
Germany	17,065
Italy	23,895
Luxembourg	33,210
Netherlands	55,991
Pakistan	5,000
Republic of Korea	50,000
Russian Federation	30,000
Singapore	10,000
Switzerland	10,000
Total	377,988
Expenditure	255,569

A former LDCs/SIDS fellow engaging his country in the process of ratifying CAT

In 2019, Sheldon Henry was one of six government officials selected to participate in the Fellowship Programme of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund in Geneva. This gave him a unique opportunity to interact with the international human rights mechanisms, including the HRC, as his country, Saint Kitts and Nevis, does not have diplomatic representation in Switzerland. As a result, Mr. Henry decided to take full advantage of his three-month stay. He participated in capacity-building activities and held meetings with key institutions and stakeholders, developing a strong network and looking for opportunities for his country to continue promoting and protecting human rights. Mr. Henry met with representatives of the Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI), a global initiative that supports States to ratify and implement the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT). “It was after hearing them speak about the purpose of the Convention that I got inspired. As the lead human rights officer for my country, I worked on developing a proposal for my Government to accede to the Convention,” said Mr. Henry.

Once back in his country, Sheldon Henry made presentations to advocate for the signature of CAT with senior government officials and key stakeholders. In September, Saint Kitts and Nevis acceded to the Convention. “I am grateful for the support of the Trust Fund and UN Human Rights because it has given me and my country an opportunity to grow and advance our human rights policies and agenda,” added Mr. Henry, who has applied the capacities he acquired in Geneva to coordinate the writing of his country’s report for the third UPR cycle.



Sheldon Henry at the graduation reception for fellows of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund, hosted by the Permanent Representative of Poland, with the Permanent Representatives of the Bahamas and Trinidad and Tobago and UN Human Rights staff. © OHCHR

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY FUND FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples was established by General Assembly resolution 40/131, in 1985, to provide indigenous peoples with the opportunity to raise issues faced by their communities in the mechanisms, meetings and processes of the United Nations.

The Fund provides support to the representatives of indigenous peoples to enable their participation in the sessions of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII), the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), the sessions of the Human Rights Council, including its Universal Periodic Review, and the human rights treaty bodies. With the expansion of the Fund's mandate in 2019, it now enables indigenous peoples to participate in the Forum on Business and Human Rights (FBHR) and meetings of the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC).

Over the past 35 years, the Fund has supported the participation of over 2,500 representatives of indigenous peoples from all regions of the world. Through the support of the Fund, the participation of indigenous peoples at the United Nations during the last three decades has led to considerable developments in international human rights standards, including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) and the creation of key UN mechanisms that are dedicated to indigenous issues, such as the PFII, the EMRIP and the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples.

The Fund is administered by UN Human Rights, on behalf of the Secretary-General, and is advised by a five-member

Board of Trustees. In December, the Secretary-General appointed four new Board members for the period 1 January 2021 – 31 December 2023, namely, Ms. Tukumminnguaq Nykjær Olsen (Greenland/Denmark), Mr. Dev Kumar Sunuwar (Nepal), Ms. Marjolaine Étienne (Canada) and Mr. Pablo Miss (Belize). It also extended the term of Mr. Diel Mochire Mwenge (Democratic Republic of the Congo) for another three years.

The Board of Trustees participated in the regular coordination meetings of all indigenous-related UN mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, the PFII and the EMRIP. In turn, these UN mechanisms disseminate information on the activities of the Fund to their respective networks. Moreover, the Special Rapporteur established an important practice of holding meetings with the beneficiaries of the Fund in parallel to the sessions of the PFII and the EMRIP.

In 2020, the Fund received a total of US\$543,572 in voluntary contributions compared to US\$470,763 in 2019. The total expenditure of the Fund amounted to US\$102,202 in 2020 compared to US\$759,114 in 2019.

In 2020, the Fund allocated 165 travel grants to enable indigenous representatives to participate in the sessions of the PFII in New York (46) and the EMRIP (40), the HRC, the UPR and the human rights treaty bodies (30) in Geneva. Additionally, seven indigenous representatives were supported by the Fund to attend a General Assembly consultative process/interactive hearing session, 21 representatives received grants to attend the FBHR and 21 representatives received grants to attend FCCC meetings. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, however, only four out of the 165 allocated grants

were disbursed to support three indigenous representatives from Tuvalu and one from the Cook Islands to attend a session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in the Pacific region, in Samoa.

UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2020

Donor	US\$
Australia	18,477
Estonia	46,784
Finland	65,502
Germany	34,130
Holy See	2,000
Mexico	14,118
Norway	359,626
Peru	2,936
Total	543,572
Expenditure	102,202

Adjusting the Indigenous and Minorities Fellowship Programme to adapt to COVID-19

Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions in 2020, UN Human Rights was unable to host its in-person Indigenous and Minorities Fellowship Programme in Geneva. Instead, the Office selected 34 of its outstanding former fellows to work as “senior fellows” in 27 locations, namely, UN Human Rights regional or country offices (19), UNCTs (six) and UN peacekeeping operations (two).

Of these fellows, 20 belong to indigenous communities and 14 to minority communities from 29 countries (Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, Paraguay, Republic of Moldova, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Yemen and Zimbabwe).

For the deployed senior fellows, this was an opportunity to enhance the experiences and capacities they had gained through the UN human rights system and to engage in advocacy efforts to increase awareness about the human rights impacts of COVID-19 on indigenous peoples and minorities. At the same time, UN Human Rights and the respective UN hosting entities benefited from the expertise, knowledge and experience of the senior fellows in relation to work on the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples. Two of the senior fellows are Jenny Amparo Chicaiza Lechón, from Ecuador, and Mirca Morera, from the United Kingdom.

In 2005, Jenny Amparo Chicaiza Lechón, a Kichwa Kayambi woman from

Imbabura, Ecuador, created the Wambra Páramo Youth Network with friends and colleagues. Together, they work on environmental and socio-territorial issues in the Kayambi territory and on questions related to ancestral knowledge and the impact of mother tongue teaching on learning outcomes. In 2019, she was selected to take part in the Indigenous Fellowship Programme and she served as Vice-President of the Indigenous Caucus at the twelfth session of the EMRIP. In her country, she applied her acquired knowledge to train more than 200 indigenous persons at the local and national level, in addition to 80 indigenous leaders in the context of COVID-19. In 2020, she was deployed as a senior fellow to Ecuador’s UNCT, where she continued using national and international human rights norms and mechanisms to enhance the rights of indigenous peoples in the context of the pandemic. She provided inputs to the COVID-19 report of the Special Rapporteur, participated virtually in the thirteenth session of the EMRIP and contributed to preparatory meetings for the 2021 session of the PFII.

Mirca Morera was born and raised in Tottenham, London, in an area close to the Latin Village, where community and police relations have been historically tense. Ms. Morera remains strongly engaged in fighting discrimination faced by the Latin American community and works to enhance equality in the UK. More specifically, she submitted inputs to international human rights mechanisms to highlight social deprivations faced by this fast-growing minority ethnic group. In 2019, she participated in the



Jenny Amparo Chicaiza Lechón (left) and Mirca Morera (right), 2020 senior fellows of the Indigenous and Minorities Fellowship Programme. © OHCHR

UN Minorities Fellowship Programme, which enabled her to build her capacities and knowledge on minority rights and forge a cross-regional collaboration with another fellow from New York. This knowledge and partnership became crucial in 2020 when she used art to raise awareness about and to advocate for minority rights as minority communities in the UK and the United States of America were disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. In response to this crisis, Ms. Morera convened two meetings with the Mayor of London and secured 500,000 British Pounds to provide financial support to those most affected by the pandemic. In 2020, Ms. Morera was selected to act as a senior minority fellow covering Europe.

Under the banner of enhancing equality and countering discrimination, including on COVID-19-related issues, the redesigned Fellowship Programme provided an opportunity to enhance the complementarity between actions undertaken in the field and at headquarters. The Programme supported awareness-raising, advocacy, monitoring and reporting efforts to address the impacts of the pandemic on minority and indigenous peoples’ communities.

UNITED NATIONS HUMANITARIAN FUNDS

UN Human Rights provides joint secretariat support to two grant-making funds, namely, the Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. Together, they are known as the UN Human Rights Humanitarian Funds. They were established by the General Assembly with the purpose of providing direct assistance and rehabilitation to individuals whose rights have been violated in the context of contemporary forms of slavery and torture, respectively. This assistance translates into yearly grants that are primarily awarded to civil society organizations that provide humanitarian, medical, psychological, social and legal assistance to victims. They are financed through voluntary contributions and are formally administered by the Secretary-General, who acts on the advice of Boards of Trustees. In 2020, the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery received a total of US\$848,240 in contributions compared to US\$872,728 in 2019. In 2020, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture received a total of US\$10,446,987 in contributions compared to US\$9,225,449 in 2019.

United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery was established by General Assembly resolution 46/122, in 1991, with a mandate to provide direct assistance to victims of contemporary forms of slavery. It awards annual grants to civil society organizations, including rehabilitation centres, trade unions, shelters for victims and legal redress programmes. Contemporary forms of slavery are regularly brought to light and include serfdom, forced labour, bonded labour, traditional slavery, trafficking in persons and in human organs, sexual slavery, the worst forms of child labour, early and forced marriage, inherited widows, the sale of wives and other forms of slavery.

In 2020, the Trust Fund prioritized projects that support victims of contemporary slavery in supply chains and the achievement of SDG Target 8.7. The Fund's Board of Trustees met remotely from 23 to 27 November and approved 37 annual grants to be awarded in 30 countries, with an average grant size of US\$20,000. In 2021, the awarded projects will provide assistance to approximately 17,000 survivors of slavery.

UN VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2020

Donor	US\$
Andorra	17,921
Australia	110,865
Germany	477,897
Holy See	2,500
India	50,000
Luxembourg	17,606
Republic of Korea	40,000
Saudi Arabia	75,000
Spain	23,753
United Kingdom	32,698
Total	848,240
Expenditure	753,026

Reintegrating children into school and providing a protective environment with support from the Slavery Trust Fund



Association Medica Zenica empowering victims of child trafficking and contemporary slavery.
© Medica Zenica

Two sisters, 11 and 12 years old, were admitted to Medica Zenica's safe house. They had been sold by their father to their aunt for 500 Euros, were forced to beg on the street and were physically harmed if they refused. The girls had never attended school and were illiterate. As victims of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, they needed to recover from ongoing abuse. Medica Zenica helped them to acquire basic skills and complete four grades of primary education.

Medica Zenica has been providing comprehensive assistance, including shelter, to women and child victims of contemporary forms of slavery and trafficking since 1999, when trafficking in human beings emerged as a new phenomenon after the end of the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2020, the organization received its first grant from the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, which facilitated the provision of assistance to 12 women and children who were survivors of trafficking, forced begging and sexual slavery. By operating an SOS helpline and offering shelter, legal counselling and support, occupational therapies and economic empowerment through vocational training, Medica Zenica provided direct support to victims who frequently came from vulnerable families and marginalized groups, including Roma communities.

After a successful recovery process, the two sisters were sheltered in a family-oriented organization that will provide them with long-term care and protection. And the girls were finally able to join their peers in a regular school.

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, established by General Assembly resolution 36/151, in 1981, is mandated to provide direct assistance to victims of torture and their families. The Fund awards annual and emergency grants to CSOs, including to support rehabilitation centres, grassroots organizations and legal aid programmes.

The Fund's Board of Trustees met remotely from 7 to 11 October and recommended that 178 annual grants be awarded to 79 countries, with an average grant size of US\$41,371. The awarded grants will support approximately 47,000 victims of torture. A total of 172 projects will enable the delivery of direct assistance to victims of torture and their families (for a total of US\$7,184,000) and six projects will help to strengthen the capacities of organizations that deliver such services (for a total of US\$180,000).

Through its emergency grants procedure, the Fund supported 24 emergency projects in 2020 (for a total of US\$530,000) to enable them to respond to urgent humanitarian and human rights situations in 23 countries, including in the context of COVID-19. In addition, the Fund launched a special call for COVID-19 emergency projects in 2020. Within this framework, 17 grants were awarded to assist nearly 4,000 torture survivors that were particularly impacted by the pandemic (in Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, Ghana, Greece, India, Italy, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Peru, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, South Africa, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States of America).

UN VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2020

Donor	US\$
Andorra	11,737
Austria	32,967
Canada ¹	66,480
Czech Republic	8,551
Denmark	735,619
France	71,090
Germany	538,164
Holy See	2,000
India	50,000
Ireland	161,290
Italy	29,869
Kuwait	10,000
Liechtenstein	25,826
Luxembourg	17,606
Mexico	10,000
Norway	359,626
Pakistan	5,000
Peru	1,086
Saudi Arabia	100,000
Switzerland	200,000
United States of America	8,000,000
Individual donors	10,075
Total	10,446,987
Expenditure	8,807,809

¹ Includes a contribution of CAD\$30,000 from the provincial Government of Québec.

Overcoming the impacts of torture in detention, COVID-19 and the Beirut blast

The 4 August explosion in Beirut and the COVID-19 pandemic dramatically worsened the situation of persons deprived of their liberty in Lebanon. Among them, victims of torture were particularly impacted, with the abrupt suspension of visits and withdrawal of rehabilitation services. The Association Justice et Miséricorde (AJEM), which provides medical, legal, psychological and social assistance services to 300 victims of torture each year, including in detention facilities and police stations, began to receive support from the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture in 2018. In 2020, it received an annual grant to assist 150 victims of torture, including 30 women. After the blast, AJEM was awarded an emergency grant to support an additional 260 beneficiaries in Beirut's two detention centres. This enabled the organization to address medical relapses, provide medical supplies, phone cards and legal assistance to detainees and to extend urgent social assistance to their families as needed.

"I was hopeless and my life had no value," recalls Mr. Chehade, a 28-year-old man who was subjected to torture during arrest and investigation. Transferred to one of Lebanon's biggest prisons, Mr. Chehade showed alarming

signs of depression and hopelessness when AJEM first came in contact with him in 2019. He had reportedly used drugs and had attempted suicide. AJEM provided assistance to Mr. Chehade and secured his transfer to another building where he received professional health care, psychological support and medical treatment. When Mr. Chehade was released in 2020, he was physically and emotionally healthier. He continued receiving counselling from AJEM's psychosocial team and he is now preparing to get married. He is grateful to AJEM for standing with him through this challenging and critical period of his life.



The staff of the Association Justice et Miséricorde in Lebanon. © OHCHR

SPECIAL FUND ESTABLISHED BY THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT) was adopted by the General Assembly in December 2002 and entered into force in June 2006. OP-CAT created a two-pillar system at the international and national level to prevent torture and other forms of ill-treatment in places where persons may be deprived of their liberty.

At the international level, it established the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT), which has been in operation since February 2007. SPT is mandated to visit all places of detention in States Parties and provide assistance and advice to States Parties and National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs).

At the national level, the Special Fund established by article 26 of OP-CAT helps to finance the implementation of recommendations issued by SPT after a visit to a State Party and supports training programmes for NPMs. In 2020, the Fund awarded grants amounting to US\$381,005 to support 14 torture prevention projects in 10 States Parties to the Optional Protocol. In 2020, the Fund received contributions and pledges of US\$490,251, which enabled the launch of the 2021 Call for Applications.

Since 2012, the Fund has supported 84 technical cooperation projects in 22 countries worldwide. These projects were responsible for facilitating legislative and institutional changes in the 22 countries and supported the

compliance of laws with international human rights standards on torture prevention and the creation of NPMs. This resulted in the amendment of codes of criminal procedure, prison acts and laws prohibiting abusive body searches for persons deprived of their liberty. The projects supported the establishment or strengthening of effective NPMs or other relevant institutions and contributed to the improved knowledge and capacity of NPM staff members to monitor places of detention (through trainings, study visits, the elaboration of internal rules and methodologies and the production of manuals, interview protocols and guidelines). The projects also resulted in the enhanced visibility of NPMs (through the improvement and translation of annual reports into national languages, radio broadcasts, brochures and posters). Funding from the Special Fund enabled projects to purchase technical equipment (such as cameras and equipment to measure the size and humidity of cells) and contributed to enhanced collaboration with other stakeholders (professional groups, prosecutors, the judiciary, the police, lawyers and CSOs).

In addition, the projects supported capacity-building activities in institutions equipped with psychiatric and health facilities and enhanced collaboration with national monitoring bodies established under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), thereby contributing to the improved protection of vulnerable persons and groups (women, persons with disabilities, children and persons with HIV/AIDS).

OP-CAT SPECIAL FUND

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2020

Donor	US\$
Czech Republic	8,551
Denmark	200,610
France	23,697
Germany	113,766
Norway	119,875
Spain	23,753
Total	490,251
Expenditure	280,271

CONTINGENCY FUND

The Contingency Fund is a flexible funding mechanism that was established in 2006 to carry out activities and implement the priorities and strategies of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, particularly in response to human rights and humanitarian emergencies. This was primarily achieved by the rapid deployment of human rights staff and the provision of necessary logistical support.

The Fund, which is financed through voluntary contributions, aims to maintain a balance of approximately US\$1 million at all times. Cash advances are withdrawn from the Fund to enable the implementation of emergency response activities without administrative delays. When additional funding is received from other sources, the Fund is reimbursed. Since the inception of the Fund, there has been a significant increase in the capacity of UN Human Rights to provide conceptual and operational support to unforeseen mandates or situations requiring a rapid response.

In 2020, despite the impacts of COVID-19, the Contingency Fund facilitated the emergency deployment of 13 UN Human Rights staff (seven women, six men) in six countries with deteriorating human rights situations, including during electoral periods.

In Guinea, the surge capacity deployment ensured increased human rights monitoring during the legislative elections and the constitutional referendum. In Côte d'Ivoire, additional resources supported the Resident Coordinator with human rights monitoring and analysis in the period preceding the presidential elections. Similarly, in Niger and Uganda, human rights officers were deployed to strengthen the capacity of the field offices

to monitor and report on the human rights situation during the elections. In Kyrgyzstan, the deployment focused on strengthening the early warning and monitoring system of the UN Human Rights Regional Office for Central Asia to effectively respond to and mitigate risks of serious human rights violations following post-electoral violence. In Ethiopia, UN Human Rights responded to the conflict in the Tigray region by deploying human rights officers to monitor and report on the unfolding human rights and humanitarian situation. Furthermore, the Fund enabled the Office to enhance remote monitoring to report on the human rights situation of the population affected by the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh.

In 2020, the Fund received contributions of US\$449,547 compared to US\$297,505 in 2019. In 2020, the total expenditure of the Fund amounted to US\$96,216 compared to US\$405,606 in 2019. As of 31 December, the remaining balance of US\$540,204 was below the target of maintaining a reserve of US\$1 million at all times, thus undermining the capacity of UN Human Rights to implement rapid response deployments.

CONTINGENCY FUND

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2020

Donor	US\$
France	47,393
Republic of Korea	50,000
Sweden	352,154
Total	449,547
Expenditure	96,216

Monitoring the human rights situation during the electoral period in Niger



Dorothee Ndoh Ondobo, Human Rights Officer, with a group of supporters of political parties in Niamey. © OHCHR

Dorothee Ndoh Ondobo was deployed to Niger from November 2020 to January 2021, in the midst of an electoral period. As the country moved through local, regional and legislative elections and the first round of presidential elections, her role was to coordinate the activities of the surge capacity team in support of the recently established UN Human Rights Country Office. Through this work, she was able to contribute to the promotion of and respect for human rights during the electoral period.

During that period, Dorothee and her team provided technical assistance and training to 157 key national stakeholders (64 women, 93 men), including from the National Human Rights Commission,

civil society and the media, on human rights monitoring and reporting. She and her team also enhanced the knowledge of representatives of the security and defence forces on international human rights obligations in electoral contexts. In addition, the team assessed the human rights situation during that period by collecting information on incidents, analysing human rights issues and alerting on potential triggers of electoral violence.

“My experience in a few commissions of inquiry and surge capacity teams was an added value during my field visits to polling stations as well as remote monitoring. I conducted more than 200 interviews and focus groups with victims, witnesses and various stakeholders, including electoral

personnel, members of the National Electoral Independent Commission, Heads of polling stations, delegates of political parties, voters, community and religious leaders and internally displaced persons,” said Dorothee.

Her past experience in fostering human rights compliance in electoral contexts, in relation to the peace and security agenda with the Human Rights Division in MINUSMA, the UN Human Rights Regional Office for Central Africa and at headquarters in New York enabled her to support the UN early warning and prevention efforts in Niger. “Monitoring hate speech and incitement to violence by political and civil society actors was facilitated through social media, such as Facebook,” she added.

Security concerns, including possible terrorist attacks, coupled with COVID-19-related sanitary challenges, added to an already tense political situation. “On electoral days, I contributed to the establishment of an operational situation room to compile information collected by several human rights officers on the ground,” noted Dorothee. “I assisted the UN Human Rights Country Office in sharing preliminary findings on the human rights situation during the elections by providing briefings to the Resident Coordinator, representatives of ECOWAS and of the European Union.” This successful deployment also enhanced local capacities to provide regular early warning and prevention updates to these stakeholders, UNOWAS and the UNOCC.

SPECIAL FUND FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE SOCIAL FORUM, THE FORUM ON MINORITY ISSUES AND THE FORUM ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Special Fund for the Participation of Civil Society in the Social Forum, the Forum on Minority Issues and the Forum on Business and Human Rights was established by HRC decision 24/118, on 27 September 2013. The aim of the Fund is to facilitate the broadest possible participation of civil society representatives and other relevant stakeholders in the annual meetings of the three forums. In 2020, the Special Fund received US\$50,000 in new contributions.

From 19 to 20 November, the **UN Forum on Minority Issues** held its thirteenth session, virtually, on “Hate speech, social media and minorities.” Participants included approximately 400 representatives from States, international and regional organizations, civil society and other stakeholders. Invited expert panelists representing the world’s five regions shared their expertise and highlighted the pressing need to address the critical challenge of tackling hate speech, xenophobic rhetoric and incitement to hatred against minorities. The recommendations of the Forum were presented to the HRC in March 2021. The Forum was preceded by two regional forums on the same topic that were held in Asia-Pacific and Europe and were organized by the Special Rapporteur on minority issues.

The ninth **Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights** took place from 16 to 18 November and focused on the theme “Preventing business-related human rights abuses: The key to a sustainable future for people and planet.” Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, UN Human Rights organized the Forum as a virtual event. It was guided and chaired by the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, with the objective of promoting the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). The High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, and the Chair of The Elders, Mary Robinson, opened the Forum, along with government representatives and Heads of UN entities. During 28 sessions, more than 200 speakers from all regions and stakeholder groups discussed issues related to climate change, inequality and racism, mandatory human rights due diligence, corruption, the role of human rights defenders (HRDs), new technologies and human rights, migrant workers and labour rights. The role of States and businesses in responding to COVID-19 and taking part in recovery efforts was also discussed. A total of 3,724 participants from 140 countries registered to attend the Forum (with representatives from the private sector (30 per cent), civil society (24 per cent), academia (13 per cent), international organizations (nine per cent), Member States (eight per cent) and national human rights institutions (NHRIs) (three per cent), among others). The virtual format of the Forum enabled new audiences to participate and the number of registered persons was the highest to date. The Forum was also broadcast via UNWebTV, where archived sessions can be viewed. The Forum reinforced the message that strengthening the prevention

of business-related human rights abuses, including by learning from both good and bad practices and addressing systemic gaps, can help to build a sustainable future for people and the planet. The discussions informed the Working Group's plan to mark its tenth anniversary in 2021, including by acknowledging its achievements in the implementation of the UNGPs, assessing gaps and challenges and developing a joint vision for implementation over the next decade.

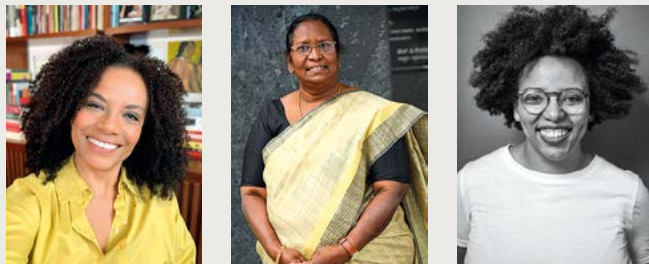
Each year, the **Social Forum**, which is convened by the HRC, provides a unique space for an open and interactive dialogue between civil society actors, representatives of Member States and intergovernmental organizations on a theme that is chosen by the Council. As a result of COVID-19 restrictions, the 2020 Social Forum was held as a hybrid in-presence and online event. The Special Fund was used to hire UNWebTV to broadcast the event and to archive the sessions in the six UN official languages. In this way, the Fund contributed to 1,209 views from 62 countries during the first day of the Forum, 973 views from 107 countries during the second day and 1,622 views of the archived videos in the following month.

SPECIAL FUND FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE SOCIAL FORUM, THE FORUM ON MINORITY ISSUES AND THE FORUM ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Voluntary contributions and expenditure in 2020

Donor	US\$
Russian Federation	50,000
Total	50,000
Expenditure	136,077

The Social Forum: Amplifying the voices of women engaged in the fight against poverty and inequality



Flavia Oliveira (left) Ruth Manorama (centre) and Berhan Taye (right). © OHCHR

In 2020, the Social Forum convened thousands of participants to exchange experiences, learn from each other and engage with State representatives and key stakeholders on the topic of combating poverty and inequality. Among the dozens of speakers were Flavia Oliveira, an Afrodescendant journalist from Brazil, Ruth Manorama, a Dalit rights activist from India and Berhan Taye, a digital rights researcher and activist from Ethiopia.

Flavia Oliveira was raised by a single mother in a poor neighbourhood of Rio de Janeiro. She is now one of the best-known economic journalists in Brazil, where she consistently fights against discrimination, racism and patriarchy. “Only by better distributing political, legislative, judicial, economic and corporate power to better reflect the heterogeneity of societies can we achieve societies that are as just as we need, desire and deserve,” said Flavia at the Forum. She highlighted

how COVID-19 had disproportionately affected families of African descent living in favelas and precarious dwellings due to historical inequalities. She also underlined how the worldwide mass mobilization to promote racial equality had gained momentum after the killing of George Floyd, forcing change in racist economic, political and social practices.

Ruth Manorama, who has received international awards for her activism against the injustices of the caste system and systemic gender-based violence against Dalit women, noted in her speech, “Let us transform our pain into power!” Beyond statistics, she illustrated the perversity of inequalities by citing caste-based sexual assaults, the lack of access to education for Dalit girls and the practice of manual scavenging of toilets. Through her work, she gives a voice to those people who are discriminated against and helps them fight for their rights with governments and other stakeholders.

Berhan Taye comes from a region where millions are deprived of the benefits of the digital age due to lack of access to Internet infrastructure, Internet shutdowns and prohibitive access fees. Born and raised in Addis Ababa, she works for the organization Access Now, where she engages in advocacy work across Africa and provides policy advice for the #KeepItOn Coalition. At the Forum, she underlined that “unless the technology is rooted in social justice and equity framing, at its best, it will maintain the unequal status quo and continue to perpetuate inequality and, at its worst, discriminate and marginalize the most vulnerable.” Berhan added that inequalities online reflect and aggravate inequalities offline, undermining the enjoyment of rights by the most vulnerable groups and persons, including inhabitants of rural areas or indigenous peoples. She explained how clear it was to her that lack of access, shutdowns and punitive regulations deny billions of people the potential benefits of the digital age.

For Flavia, Ruth and Berhan, the Social Forum was a valuable opportunity for sharing human rights concerns with others, advocating for more equal and inclusive societies and building new partnerships to bridge digital divides and address structural racial and caste-based discrimination.

Financial reports as at 31 December 2020

SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE IN 2020

This summary financial report indicates total funds available for activities in 2020, inclusive of new contributions carry-over, overall expenditure incurred during the period and total funds balance at the end of the fiscal year 2020.

	EXTRABUDGETARY	REGULAR BUDGET	TOTAL
SUMMARY			
Opening balance ¹	124,485,977	n/a	124,485,977
Adjustment ²	(1,860,867)	n/a	(1,860,867)
Income from contributions/Allotments ³	224,331,556	106,050,514 ⁴	330,382,070
Other income ⁵	(662,645)	n/a	(662,645)
Total funds available	346,294,021	106,050,514	452,344,535
Expenditure ⁶	183,962,222	108,018,353	291,980,575
Closing balance⁷	162,331,799	(1,967,839)	160,363,960

Notes:

¹ Corresponds to the final 2019 closing balance, as reported in the UN Human Rights Report 2019.

² Includes adjustments of income, refunds to donors and write-off of unpaid pledges from the past period.

³ Extrabudgetary includes all donor contributions and pledges received in the UNOG/OHCHR accounts for the fiscal year 2020. Excludes future donor pledges and commitments. Regular Budget corresponds to the amount allotted to OHCHR for 2020.

⁴ The Regular Budget allotment corresponds to the amount actually received from the initially approved appropriation of \$116.8 m.

⁵ Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions and interest income.

⁶ Includes disbursements and commitments for the fiscal year 2020. Excludes future commitments and liabilities.

⁷ The extrabudgetary amount corresponds to all funds held in the UNOG/OHCHR accounts at the end of the fiscal year 2020.

The above summary financial report of income and expenditure in 2020 is materially correct and expenditures were incurred in connection with the purpose of the extrabudgetary contributions received and the regular budget amount allotted to OHCHR for 2020.

Notes: ►

¹ Corresponds to the final 2019 closing balance, as reported in the UN Human Rights Report 2019.

² Includes adjustments of income, transfer between trust funds, refunds to donors and write-off of unpaid pledges from past period.

³ Includes all contributions and pledges received in the UNOG/OHCHR accounts for the fiscal year 2020. Excludes future donor pledges and commitments.

⁴ Includes gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions and interest income.

⁵ = opening balance + adjustment + income from contributions + other income available.

⁶ Includes disbursements and commitments for the fiscal year 2020. Excludes future commitments and liabilities.

⁷ Corresponds to all funds held in the UNOG/OHCHR accounts at the end of the fiscal year 2020.

The summary financial report of extrabudgetary income and expenditure for 2020 is materially correct and expenditures were incurred in connection with the purpose of the trust funds for which contributions were received.

SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT OF EXTRABUDGETARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE IN 2020 (TRUST FUNDS)

This summary financial report indicates total funds available for activities in 2020, inclusive of new contributions carry-over, overall expenditure incurred during the period and total funds balance at the end of the fiscal year 2020.

	VF for Victims of Torture	TF on Contemporary Forms of Slavery	VF for Indigenous Peoples	TF for Universal Periodic Review - Participation	TF for Universal Periodic Review - Technical Assistance	TF for Participation of LDCs and SIDS in the work of the HRC	VF for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights	TF for Human Rights Education in Cambodia	TF for Support Activities of OHCHR	Total OHCHR Trust Funds
SUMMARY	CHA	SHA	IHA	VPU	UPR	VTA	AHA	CIA	HCA	TOTAL
Opening balance ¹	11,619,809	1,093,635	1,671,309	913,467	2,352,993	1,886,730	16,085,486	983,116	87,879,432	124,485,977
Fund balance	11,614,809	1,093,635	1,666,309	913,467	2,247,993	1,854,728	15,902,087	983,116	82,212,040	118,488,184
Unpaid pledges past period	5,000	0	5,000	0	105,000	32,002	183,399	0	5,667,392	5,997,793
Adjustment ²	80,000	1,453	15,641	1,319	0	0	92,458	(1,120)	(1,174,123)	(984,372)
and write-off (unpaid pledges) ²	0	0	0	0	0	0	(13,400)	0	(863,095)	(876,495)
Income from contributions ³	10,446,987	848,240	543,572	0	346,597	377,988	23,266,101	738,979	187,763,092	224,331,556
Paid contributions 2020	10,444,987	845,740	541,572	0	346,597	361,262	23,118,847	738,979	175,472,583	211,870,567
Unpaid pledges 2020	2,000	2,500	2,000	0	0	16,726	147,254	0	12,290,509	12,460,989
Other income available ⁴	113,420	16,755	(12,465)	14,409	39,539	28,396	320,114	(63,021)	(1,119,792)	(662,645)
Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions	(31,519)	2,682	(44,098)	0	466	(3,324)	(86,735)	(78,512)	(2,666,903)	(2,907,943)
Interest income	144,939	14,073	31,633	14,409	39,073	31,720	406,849	15,491	1,547,111	2,245,298
Total funds available⁵	22,260,216	1,960,083	2,218,057	929,195	2,739,129	2,293,114	39,750,759	1,657,954	272,485,514	346,294,021
Expenditure ⁶	8,807,809	753,026	102,202	190,174	512,511	255,569	15,943,243	1,237,808	156,159,880	183,962,222
Closing balance⁷	13,452,407	1,207,057	2,115,855	739,021	2,226,618	2,037,545	23,807,516	420,146	116,325,634	162,331,799

REGULAR BUDGET ALLOTMENT AND EXPENDITURE IN 2020**(Summary by programme, in thousands of US\$)**

	ALLOTMENT	EXPENDITURE
HEADQUARTERS		
Executive Direction and Management	8,135.8	7,913.1
Policymaking Organs	1,865.6	2,952.6
Programme of Work		
Subprogramme 1: Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis	11,725.1	12,712.0
Subprogramme 2: Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies	14,769.9	15,537.7
Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation ¹	26,962.1	27,340.8
Subprogramme 4: Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures		
- Human Rights Council and the UPR	7,897.8	7,549.3
- Special Procedures	11,786.6	12,245.0
Total programme of work: Headquarters	73,141.5	75,384.8
Programme Support and Management Services	7,327.4	5,865.3
Subtotal: Headquarters operating resources	90,470.3	92,115.8
FIELD PRESENCES		
Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services, Technical Cooperation and Field Activities ²		
- Africa	3,168.6	3,241.0
- Americas	1,967.8	2,039.9
- Asia and the Pacific	3,267.1	3,207.9
- Europe and Central Asia	1,745.9	1,672.6
- Middle East and North Africa	3,365.0	3,547.7
Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (Sec. 23)	2,065.8	2,193.4
Subtotal: Field presences operating resources	15,580.2	15,902.5
Grand total	106,050.5	108,018.3

¹ Includes allotments for mandated commissions of inquiry.² Includes Cambodia, Sudan, the Regional Office for Central Africa in Yaoundé, the field-based structure on the DPRK, the presence in the State of Palestine (all references to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with General Assembly resolution 67/19) and the Regional Offices in Bangkok, Bishkek, Brussels, Dakar, Panama, Qatar and Santiago de Chile.

EXTRABUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS AND EXPENDITURE IN 2020

(Summary by programme, in thousands of US\$)

	REQUIREMENTS	EXPENDITURE
HEADQUARTERS		
Executive Direction and Management	24,608.9	21,378.5
Programme of Work		
Subprogramme 1: Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis	24,105.4	19,703.4
Subprogramme 2: Supporting the Human Rights Treaty Bodies	3,699.7	3,110.1
Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation	18,543.5	14,047.6
Subprogramme 4: Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures		
- Human Rights Council and the Universal Periodic Review	4,347.0	3,822.0
- Special Procedures	12,033.4	8,924.3
Total programme of work: Headquarters	62,729.0	49,607.4
Programme Support and Management Services	10,787.2	9,943.6
Subtotal: Headquarters operating resources	98,125.1	80,929.5
FIELD PRESENCES		
Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services, Technical Cooperation and Field Activities		
- Africa	48,871.0	35,490.3
- Americas	32,220.4	23,580.8
- Asia and the Pacific	13,666.1	9,835.8
- Europe and Central Asia	13,025.9	9,191.4
- Middle East and North Africa	21,556.6	12,332.3
Contingency Fund - Emergency Response Projects	212.7	96.2
Subtotal: Field presences operating resources	129,552.7	90,526.8
Total: Headquarters and field presences	227,677.8	171,456.3

	REQUIREMENTS	EXPENDITURE
OTHER TRUST FUNDS		
Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture	9,633.7	8,807.3
Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples	806.4	102.1
Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery	962.8	753.0
Trust Fund for Universal Periodic Review - Technical Assistance	1,115.7	512.3
Trust Fund for Universal Periodic Review - Participation	419.3	190.1
Trust Fund for Participation of LDCs and SIDS in the work of the HRC	1,112.8	255.4
Total: Other trust funds	14,050.7	10,620.2
Other expenditure and adjustments not reported above	2,828.1	1,885.7
Grand total	244,556.6	183,962.2

EXTRABUDGETARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE IN 2020

Overall summary (in thousands of US\$)

	REQUIREMENTS	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
HEADQUARTERS			
Executive Direction and Management (EDM)			
EO - Executive Office of the High Commissioner	1,395,753.0	1,195,816.7	1,116,310.6
EOS - Communications Section	6,357,816.0	5,930,800.0	5,543,066.4
EOS - Donor and External Relations Section	3,995,792.0	3,501,800.0	3,254,826.8
EOS - External Outreach Service	626,504.0	567,200.0	542,147.2
EOS - Media and Public Positioning Section	2,056,406.0	2,246,300.0	2,146,764.4
EOS - Meetings, Documents and Publications Unit	1,735,981.0	1,853,600.0	1,713,396.7
NYO - New York Office	3,533,598.0	3,316,300.0	3,165,504.2
NYO - Human Rights Conflict Risk Tool Project	491,223.0	172,900.0	0.0
NYO - (MPTF) Conflict-Related Sexual Violence	304,083.0	338,156.4	298,029.1
NYO - UN's Response on Reprisals	628,713.0	467,994.3	613,122.1
PPMES - Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service	2,186,423.0	1,784,650.0	1,776,708.0
SSS - Safety and Security Section	1,296,576.0	1,260,950.0	1,208,583.3
Subtotal EDM	24,608,868.0	22,636,467.3	21,378,458.7
PROGRAMME OF WORK (SUBPROGAMME 1 TO 4)			
Subprogramme 1 - Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis (RRDD)			
Director's Office - Coordination and Management	1,666,947.0	1,661,150.0	1,733,954.2
Human Rights Online, Innovation and Technology Outreach	809,177.0	1,058,550.0	834,705.7
ARDS - Anti-Discrimination	1,152,199.0	853,533.6	901,566.6
BHRU - Business and Human Rights	343,531.0	372,157.9	265,650.8
CSU - Civic Space Unit	1,193,549.0	756,949.8	1,162,545.2
HRESIS - Addressing Human Rights, Migration and Climate Change	513,091.0	1,487,294.1	81,102.5
HRESIS - Child and Youth Rights	818,816.0	649,516.4	523,333.8
HRESIS - Disabilities	315,997.0	125,000.0	295,714.2

	REQUIREMENTS	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
HRESIS - Economic and Social Issues	343,886.0	300,000.0	294,628.4
HRESIS - Human Rights at International Borders: Focus on the MENA Region	748,221.0	0.0	188,838.2
HRESIS - Human Rights Indicators for CRPD	450,611.2	394,689.5	419,796.9
HRESIS - Migration	820,387.0	905,914.2	810,083.8
HRESIS - (MPTF) Response and Recovery Planning for COVID-19	182,124.0	199,106.0	149,815.9
IPMS - Indigenous Peoples and Minorities	1,528,167.0	1,498,164.6	1,377,150.4
IPMS - Protection of Religious Minorities	403,068.0	635,874.6	399,565.8
METS - Methodology, Education and Training	1,828,732.0	1,869,100.0	1,267,123.6
METS - (EU) Human Rights Indicators	402,994.1	80,042.7	254,368.1
METS - Human Rights Indicators	603,815.0	895,825.0	524,438.2
METS - IACT Image Authentication/Categorization Tool Project	42,940.0	0.0	39,585.0
ROIDS - Rule of Law and Democracy	1,785,042.0	1,999,834.5	1,751,709.6
ROIDS - (EU) Torture-Free Trade	241,026.0	452,455.9	205,582.5
ROIDS - EOSG Renewing the UN Approach to Transitional Justice	112,765.0	320,000.0	60,505.2
ROIDS - Support to OHCHR's Work on Accountability	489,265.0	0.0	376,505.9
RTDS - Right to Development	245,526.0	65,200.0	125,098.1
RTDS - Corruption and Human Rights	130,383.0	107,000.0	78,289.8
RTDS - Environment and Climate Change	452,427.0	489,207.3	399,714.0
RTDS - SFP Participation of Civil Society at the Social Forum, Forum on Minority Issues and Forum on Business and Human Rights*	16,666.0	0.0	-1,854.6
SDGs - MDGs and Human Rights-Based Approach	481,297.0	583,050.0	478,594.2
SDGs - (MPTF) HRM Common Country Analysis/SDS Surge Team	1,243,091.0	1,243,875.0	828,980.5
SDGs - Washington Liaison Office	341,972.0	358,800.0	356,213.6
WHRG - Women's Human Rights and Gender	1,345,937.0	870,148.0	1,276,256.1
WHRG - Conflict-Related Sexual and Gender-Based Violence	875,144.0	634,250.3	620,594.0
WHRG - Criminal Laws Project	119,674.0	100,000.0	104,850.7
WHRG - Project for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (LGBTI Rights)	1,817,128.0	48,688.6	1,261,917.1
WHRG - Regional Gender Advisers	239,827.0	227,272.7	256,485.6
Subtotal subprogramme 1	24,105,422.3	21,242,650.6	19,703,409.6

	REQUIREMENTS	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Subprogramme 2 - Supporting the Human Rights Treaties Bodies (HRTB)			
Support to Treaty Bodies and Organs	2,777,570.0	2,176,251.9	2,562,695.3
Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture	440,997.0	517,936.2	280,271.1
Support to Treaty Bodies - Capacity-Building Work on ICPPED*	293,016.0	-10,000.0	220,958.9
Support to Treaty Bodies - Group in Focus (CEDAW)	159,559.0	0.0	37,521.9
Support to Treaty Bodies - (MPTF) National Implementation of CRPD	28,552.0	95,432.0	8,608.7
Subtotal subprogramme 2	3,699,694.0	2,779,620.1	3,110,055.8
Subprogramme 3 - Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation (FOTCD)			
Director's Office - Coordination and Management	1,189,627.8	1,263,900.0	874,437.1
Africa Branch	2,538,899.9	2,183,447.7	2,280,116.7
Americas Branch	547,004.8	253,600.0	352,598.9
Europe and Central Asia	1,466,067.7	1,014,700.0	1,091,915.2
Asia-Pacific Branch	2,099,554.7	1,797,873.0	2,110,796.8
Middle East and North Africa	1,629,282.6	1,359,624.2	1,313,717.5
ERS - Emergency Response Section	1,360,826.2	1,339,000.0	1,223,589.6
ERS - HRUF Initiative - Light Teams Deployments	0.0	6,093.2	37,907.7
ERS - Investigative Capacity	1,752,247.4	2,247,195.0	1,281,604.8
ERS - Prevention and Early Warning Capacity - Emergency Response Teams	1,498,269.3	3,955,085.9	1,249,428.8
ERS - Strengthen the Capacity of Investigative Bodies to Undertake HRC-Mandated Investigations	483,099.9	483,667.5	109,866.4
MENA - Database Production and Work Support	143,858.0	72,900.0	67,877.0
MENA - Protection of Human Rights in Arab Region	733,926.0	0.0	358,529.8
MENA - Strengthening Human Rights in Iran	359,371.6	375,849.6	264,255.8
National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms	1,014,938.9	491,623.0	563,722.5
PMSS - Peace Missions Support Section	485,408.5	299,700.0	323,039.0
PMSS - Human Rights Protection and Peace Operations	1,241,151.3	731,802.5	544,220.6
Subtotal subprogramme 3	18,543,534.5	17,876,061.5	14,047,624.1

	REQUIREMENTS	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Subprogramme 4 - Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures			
Director's Office - Coordination and Management	1,691,495.0	1,422,050.0	1,477,560.2
HRCB - Human Rights Council Activities	2,026,158.0	1,776,050.0	1,735,207.3
HRCB - HRC and UPR Webcasting	251,506.0	265,550.0	245,556.3
UPRB - Universal Periodic Review Branch	377,804.0	374,650.0	363,690.3
SPB - Support to Special Procedures	6,147,690.0	5,077,330.6	5,497,963.6
SPB - Support to Coordination Committee	195,000.0	255,337.4	115,512.2
SPB - Support to Special Procedures Mandates	5,690,694.7	4,533,177.4	3,310,867.0
Subtotal subprogramme 4	16,380,347.7	13,704,145.4	12,746,356.8
Total programme of work (subprogramme 1 to 4)	62,728,998.5	55,602,477.7	49,607,446.3
Programme Support and Management Services (PSMS)			
PSMS - Information Technologies Section	2,802,872.3	2,831,150.0	2,706,510.7
PSMS - Programme Support and Management Services	7,683,447.4	7,290,200.0	6,960,207.5
PSMS - OIOS/Auditor (UNOG)	300,856.9	317,300.0	276,835.1
Subtotal PSMS	10,787,176.6	10,438,650.0	9,943,553.3
Total headquarters	98,125,043.1	88,677,595.0	80,929,458.3
FIELD PRESENCES			
Africa			
Burkina Faso - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	360,294.7	0.0	348,506.3
Burundi - Country Office	1,434,300.0	922,310.8	737,960.7
Burundi - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	0.0	192,500.0	0.0
Central Africa (Yaoundé) - Sub-Regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy	349,424.3	314,600.0	281,408.1
Central Africa (Yaoundé) - Integrating Human Rights into the COVID-19 Response and Recovery	0.0	730,525.7	0.0
Central African Republic - Peace Mission Support*	98,310.0	24,254.8	-31,555.4
Chad - Country Office	1,285,637.2	999,152.5	1,175,796.1
Chad - (PBF) Peace Consolidation	165,632.1	0.0	165,171.4

	REQUIREMENTS	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
DRC - (PBF) Appui aux ex-Combattants et Communautés au Kasai	550,637.0	709,088.8	79,078.8
DRC - Human Rights Promotion and Protection in the Electoral Context (Election II)	2,845,178.4	833,145.5	2,270,924.1
DRC - Human Rights Due Diligence and Profiling (HRDDP)	1,632,042.1	2,450,261.8	1,580,631.5
DRC - (MPTF) Lutte contre les VBG-Justice	224,463.5	298,487.0	120,535.2
DRC - (PBF) Le Droit des Femmes - Sud Kivu	434,951.8	409,046.4	265,125.9
DRC - Protection Mechanisms	314,158.1	7,021.6	29,907.8
DRC - (PBF) Reconciliation in Kasai	484,334.4	0.0	139,810.6
DRC - (PBF) Renforcer le Rôle des Femmes et des Jeunes dans la Gouvernance Locale au Kasai	0.0	369,202.0	0.0
DRC - Women Protection Adviser	72,656.7	0.0	137,858.3
East Africa (Addis Ababa) - Regional Office	3,048,766.0	2,057,801.8	1,658,520.3
Ethiopia - Human Rights Priorities	1,300,094.4	1,563,966.2	511,719.8
Ethiopia - (OCHA) Protection and Monitoring in Return Areas	5,350.0	0.0	96,921.5
Ethiopia - (OCHA) Protection and Monitoring in Areas of Return and Newly Affected with Conflicts	250,000.2	500,000.3	87,157.7
Gambia - (PBF) Transitional Justice	261,478.0	0.0	219,441.9
Guinea - Country Office	2,805,184.3	2,926,576.3	2,452,097.9
Guinea - (PBF) Prévention des Conflicts Intercommunautaires	0.0	322,070.0	0.0
Guinea-Bissau - Peace Mission Support	111,474.5	90,300.0	35,129.6
Guinea-Bissau - Human Rights Adviser	0.0	348,546.0	0.0
Kenya - Human Rights Adviser	832,852.9	724,973.2	657,707.2
Kenya - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	248,805.0	282,820.0	266,768.9
Lesotho - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	108,113.2	108,100.0	1,717.0
Liberia - Country Office	2,133,032.3	2,039,236.0	2,096,459.2
Liberia - (MPTF/EU) Spotlight Initiative for the SGBV Programme*	80,678.0	605,568.0	-10,400.3
Liberia - (PBF) Reconciliation*	345,418.4	-0.4	353,885.7
Liberia - (PBF) Women, Peace and Security	163,389.0	261,422.4	99,712.9
Madagascar - Human Rights Adviser	186,653.4	147,700.0	137,132.3
Madagascar - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	242,462.0	278,340.0	274,128.3

	REQUIREMENTS	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Madagascar - (PBF) Appui à une Gouvernance Démocratique	281,766.3	281,766.6	269,213.1
Madagascar - (PBF) Radio Sifaka	88,968.4	0.0	44,057.7
Malawi - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	246,301.2	103,700.0	239,742.3
Mali - Peace Mission Support	202,857.6	286,309.4	190,051.4
Mali - Force Conjointe G5 Sahel	1,471,486.0	1,801,602.9	1,454,744.1
Mali - (EU) Force Conjointe G5 Sahel	6,672,785.4	5,107,756.2	7,455,491.1
Mali - (EU) Force Conjointe G5 Sahel - Support to the Internal Security Forces	0.0	4,357,967.1	0.0
Mali - (PBF) Approche Intégrée pour Lutter contre l'Impunité	615,250.0	718,310.5	0.0
Mauritania - Country Office	1,306,947.0	661,054.7	1,133,508.0
Mauritania - (PBF) Moughataa Bassikouno	98,313.0	0.0	121,349.9
Mozambique - Advancing the Human Rights Agenda	715,206.4	0.0	272,157.3
Niger - Human Rights Adviser	476,640.8	240,760.7	331,182.1
Niger - (PBF) Peace Consolidation in Diffa*	27,971.2	63,400.0	-36,681.5
Nigeria - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	304,787.4	285,114.0	311,364.0
Nigeria - (PBF) Farmer Herder Crisis	102,240.6	0.0	53,117.6
Rwanda - Human Rights Adviser	218,085.5	125,500.0	75,483.7
Rwanda - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	214,171.2	166,700.0	183,079.0
Somalia - Peace Mission Support	501,408.1	181,908.4	336,757.8
Southern Africa (Pretoria) - Regional Office	1,096,006.2	683,185.7	478,601.4
South Africa - (MPTF) SDGs Joint Programme	100,000.1	0.0	93,375.0
South Africa - (MPTF) Strengthening Disability Inclusive Machinery	0.0	32,100.0	0.0
South Africa - (MPTF) Strengthening Migrant Integration and Social Cohesion	0.0	315,000.0	0.0
South Sudan - Peace Mission Support	110,175.0	63,656.0	75,941.5
Sudan (Darfur) - Peace Mission Support (UNAMID)	88,705.0	58,600.0	80,970.7
Sudan - Country Office	4,175,750.6	4,560,623.0	1,877,905.7
Tanzania - (MPTF) Human Rights and Gender Equality Activities	55,640.0	175,676.0	34,369.1
Uganda - Country Office	3,574,521.1	2,500,708.4	2,928,042.6
Uganda - (PBF) Harnessing the Youth's Potential	239,016.6	258,280.8	159,409.2

	REQUIREMENTS	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Uganda - Programme Activities in Northern Uganda and Karamoja	47,274.1	0.0	42,321.0
Uganda - (UNDP) Strengthening Electoral Processes	202,795.0	214,167.0	42,419.1
West Africa (Dakar) - Regional Office	577,732.8	400,300.0	170,190.0
West Africa (Dakar) - Appui à la Protection des Enfants	1,748,202.7	0.0	740,450.4
West Africa (Dakar) - Human Rights-Based Response to Smuggling of Migrants*	721,686.1	878,462.0	-123,026.7
Zimbabwe - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	212,557.6	152,617.0	215,500.8
Subtotal Africa	48,871,020.7	45,192,243.0	35,490,346.6

Americas

Americas - (MPTF) National Human Rights Advisers	1,144,855.1	357,900.0	731,332.9
Bolivia - Strengthen Respect for Human Rights	544,348.1	841,584.2	470,126.0
Bolivia - (PBF) Apoyando el Diálogo y los DDHH para la Construcción de Paz	418,543.3	420,000.0	399,369.7
Chile - Regional Office for South America	985,157.9	1,110,811.5	860,281.5
Colombia - Country Office	10,963,272.4	9,572,507.4	7,478,542.5
Colombia - (PBF) Territorial Model	158,192.0	0.0	132,144.1
Costa Rica - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	188,748.0	134,400.0	139,697.4
Dominican Republic - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	135,451.3	254,981.0	10,352.8
Guatemala - Country Office	4,711,690.9	4,640,222.8	4,290,105.2
Guatemala - (EU) Country Office	102,756.4	196,713.3	50,270.6
Guatemala - (MPTF) Contribution for Peace Building	111,542.2	0.0	87,849.1
Guatemala - (MPTF/UNPRPD) Disability Activities	6,242.4	0.0	6,036.3
Guatemala - (MPTF) Implementation of the Gender-Responsive Integrated National Household Social Registry	0.0	89,131.0	0.0
Guatemala - (MPTF) Maya Programme for Indigenous Peoples' Rights (Phase III)	687,493.2	360,151.0	500,067.0
Guatemala - (PBF) Sepur Zarco Reparation Sentence	232,095.8	0.0	247,731.3
Haiti - Peace Mission Support	768,246.3	514,282.1	379,555.8
Honduras - Country Office	3,595,277.7	2,982,110.7	2,803,369.5
Honduras - (PBF) Promoviendo Transparencia para la Prevención de Conflictos	0.0	673,090.7	0.0
Jamaica - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	307,162.8	281,221.0	328,830.5

	REQUIREMENTS	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Mexico - Country Office	2,524,424.5	1,896,400.0	1,931,170.2
Mexico - National Law on Disappearances	161,820.5	140,000.0	112,605.9
Mexico - (MPTF/EU) Spotlight Initiative for the SGBV Programme	233,771.5	209,450.0	29,478.8
Nicaragua - Monitoring, Documenting and Reporting on the Human Rights Situation	737,691.1	527,040.3	292,312.4
Panama - Regional Office for Central America	740,385.0	694,953.4	489,747.3
Panama - El Salvador - Human Rights Engagement	418,288.7	970,807.6	275,449.8
Panama - El Salvador - Transitional Justice	9,040.0	5,703.1	18,756.5
Paraguay - Human Rights Adviser*	147,384.4	76,700.0	-49,781.2
Venezuela - Monitoring, Documentation and Reporting on the Human Rights Situation	1,060,125.3	1,857,188.4	854,407.3
Venezuela - Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants and Refugees	129,253.9	296,912.1	49,252.6
Venezuela - (EU) Support to OHCHR's Work	997,099.8	1,026,449.0	661,699.7
Subtotal Americas	32,220,360.7	30,130,710.5	23,580,761.2

Asia and the Pacific

Afghanistan - Peace Mission Support	255,634.0	105,800.0	184,816.2
Asia - (MPTF) National Human Rights Advisers*	114,948.0	35,600.0	-4,527.9
Bangladesh - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	330,722.1	54,522.0	232,021.9
Cambodia - Country Office	1,678,842.0	665,467.2	1,237,735.0
Cambodia - (MPTF/UNPRPD) Disability Activities	52,135.0	0.0	46,987.5
Cambodia - Protection on Land and Natural Resources	143,411.0	20,000.0	94,415.9
Cambodia - Sihanoukville for All: Promoting a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive City	116,564.7	154,786.2	98,060.1
DPRK - Country Office (based in Seoul)	196,531.9	187,245.8	146,776.1
Malaysia - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	203,320.0	0.0	34,488.7
Maldives - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	326,375.0	0.0	246,908.3
Myanmar - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	266,901.0	0.0	0.0
Myanmar - Promotion and Protection of Human Rights	1,278,196.0	451,405.2	1,057,401.2

	REQUIREMENTS	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Myanmar - Protection of Rohingya Refugees in Cox's Bazaar	591,773.0	80,079.0	452,300.9
Pacific Region (Suva) - Regional Office	1,320,305.5	1,070,708.2	899,601.5
Pacific Region (Suva) - Migrants and Communities Affected by Climate Change	133,807.0	0.0	54,985.8
Pacific Region (Suva) - Women Human Rights Defenders in the Pacific Region	103,760.0	0.0	103,760.0
Papua New Guinea - Human Rights Adviser	524,252.0	276,802.7	263,368.9
Papua New Guinea - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	285,369.0	276,488.0	261,385.8
Philippines - Human Rights Adviser	279,407.0	180,762.5	226,540.2
South-East Asia (Bangkok) - Regional Office	1,349,639.0	1,296,308.2	1,136,693.0
South-East Asia (Bangkok) - Access to Justice for Women in Asia-Pacific	125,631.0	127,480.0	43,459.1
South-East Asia (Bangkok) - (EU) Democratic Space in Thailand	586,874.0	874,203.3	495,860.7
South-East Asia (Bangkok) - Strengthening the Capacity of Regional Actors to Promote Human Rights Accountability	2,098,251.0	1,915,938.2	1,690,422.2
Sri Lanka - Human Rights Adviser	563,558.0	529,442.3	168,524.7
Sri Lanka - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	230,114.0	242,838.0	241,048.0
Timor-Leste - Human Rights Adviser	273,419.0	181,702.7	217,430.0
Timor-Leste - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	236,385.0	139,000.0	205,354.9
Subtotal Asia and the Pacific	13,666,125.3	8,866,579.5	9,835,818.6

Europe and Central Asia

Azerbaijan - (EU) Support to Human Rights Activities*	410,760.2	-49,877.4	397,967.9
Belarus - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	257,159.5	214,107.0	252,934.4
Belarus - Human Rights Adviser/Human Rights National Action Plan	430,682.6	200,000.0	179,828.0
Bosnia and Herzegovina - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	0.0	243,809.0	0.0
Central Asia (Bishkek) - Regional Office	812,800.0	653,903.7	507,297.8
Europe (Brussels) - Regional Office	789,836.1	654,200.0	503,448.7
Georgia - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	226,048.2	259,500.0	253,340.1
Georgia - (UNDP/EU) National Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan	107,805.7	106,019.9	106,484.4
Georgia - (MPTF) SDGs Joint Programme	101,222.0	101,222.0	92,162.0
Kyrgyzstan - (PBF) Violent Extremism	387,846.1	0.0	204,007.1

	REQUIREMENTS	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Kyrgyzstan - (EU) Project	327,937.0	50,000.0	18,351.8
Montenegro - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	179,533.2	119,400.0	218,803.1
North Macedonia - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	85,381.7	70,049.0	57,718.7
Moldova (Republic of) - Human Rights Adviser	289,980.6	228,200.0	193,198.0
Moldova (Republic of) - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	182,272.4	87,200.0	195,999.1
Moldova (Republic of) - (MPTF) Transnistria	167,793.1	187,826.0	148,531.3
Russian Federation - Human Rights Adviser	945,709.4	590,000.0	497,856.2
Russian Federation - Projects on Human Rights Awareness-Raising and Training Activities*	67,800.0	0.0	-7,192.4
Serbia - Human Rights Adviser	449,642.8	366,600.0	253,132.3
Serbia - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	107,107.0	101,847.0	83,724.1
Serbia - (MPTF/UNPRPD) Disability Activities*	25,478.8	0.0	-665.2
Southern Caucasus - Human Rights Advisers	538,400.9	377,700.0	313,473.5
Ukraine - HRMMU/Protection Cluster	4,524,519.3	5,036,825.4	3,536,746.3
Ukraine - (PBF) Building a Constituency for Peace	0.0	175,000.0	0.0
Ukraine - (EU) Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine	1,610,195.9	1,594,180.0	1,184,209.4
Subtotal Europe and Central Asia	13,025,912.5	11,367,711.6	9,191,356.7

Middle East and North Africa

Iraq - Peace Mission Support	329,372.0	24,700.0	102,154.4
Iraq - Peace Mission Support - Accountability for Abduction and Torture	0.0	800,000.0	0.0
Iraq - Peace Mission Support - Protection of Religious Minorities	478,250.0	104,760.7	76,559.2
Jordan - (MPTF) Human Rights Adviser	265,625.0	108,700.0	181,147.6
Libya - Peace Mission Support	190,970.0	40,000.0	6,547.9
Middle East (Beirut) - Regional Office	1,873,498.0	1,375,812.9	1,293,382.5
Middle East (Beirut) - (PBF) Lebanon, Dealing with the Past	754,582.0	772,000.0	201,701.6
Middle East (Beirut) - Protection of Religious Minorities	588,954.0	787,277.8	548,480.2
Saudi Arabia - Financial and Technical Assistance through the Saudi Human Rights Commission (in coordination with ROME)	1,689,927.0	800,000.0	664,124.3

	REQUIREMENTS	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
South-West and Arab Region (Doha) - Training and Documentation Centre	309,609.0	262,900.0	217,895.2
State of Palestine ¹ - Stand-alone Office	2,077,726.0	3,024,554.1	1,256,753.2
State of Palestine - (EU) Implementing Palestine's Human Rights Treaty Obligations	483,051.5	1,982,880.0	482,065.9
State of Palestine - Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the oPt	509,987.0	513,874.6	386,291.1
Syria - (EU) Advancing Justice and Human Rights	1,881,804.7	1,393,070.5	1,071,657.2
Syria - International Response to the Human Rights Situation in Syria (Refugees/IDPs/TJ)	1,494,357.2	732,060.6	1,319,271.6
Tunisia - Country Office	2,539,797.7	2,022,028.8	1,097,758.1
Tunisia - (MPTF/UNPRPD) Disability Activities	133,289.6	0.0	60,356.7
Tunisia - Migration and Protection	0.0	0.0	1,365.0
Yemen - Country Office	4,623,150.0	875,138.0	2,531,751.2
Yemen - Country Office in Aden	459,004.0	0.0	256,719.1
Yemen - (OCHA) Human Rights Activities*	0.0	72.2	-49,630.8
Yemen - (EU) Human Rights Protection	873,676.3	231,934.7	625,934.3
Subtotal Middle East and North Africa	21,556,631.1	15,851,764.9	12,332,285.4
Contingency Fund			
Contingency Fund - Emergency Response Projects	212,729.3	610,348.5	96,216.4
Subtotal Contingency Fund	212,729.3	610,348.5	96,216.4
Total field presences	129,552,779.6	112,019,357.9	90,526,784.9
Cross Entities Global Projects			
Human Rights up Front Action Plan	664,671.0	860,450.1	694,901.6
Programme on Conflict Prevention and Human Rights	786,057.4	515,519.7	833,885.3
Task Force on ESCRs, SDGs and Prevention	910,252.0	685,200.0	597,545.3
Support to Human Rights Advisers (MPTF) - HQ Coordination and Regional Workshops	467,055.0	267,500.0	286,264.0
Subtotal Cross Entities Global Projects	2,828,035.4	2,328,669.8	2,412,596.1
Total headquarters and field presences	230,505,858.0	203,025,622.7	173,868,839.4

	REQUIREMENTS	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
OTHER TRUST FUNDS			
Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture	9,633,690.0	10,415,468.0	8,807,333.4
Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples	806,414.0	499,474.2	102,078.4
Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery	962,760.0	850,921.9	752,981.6
Trust Fund for Universal Periodic Review - Technical Assistance	1,115,676.0	347,063.3	512,327.5
Trust Fund for Universal Periodic Review - Participation	419,284.0	0.0	190,114.8
Trust Fund for Participation of LDCs and SIDS in the Work of the HRC	1,112,791.0	374,664.7	255,445.4
Total other trust funds	14,050,615.0	12,487,592.0	10,620,281.0
Other income/expenditure			
Unearmarked Reserves for Allocations to Project Requirements (HCA Trust Fund)	0.0	3,041,780.9	0.0
Reserves for Allocations to VFTC Project Requirements (AHA Trust Fund)	0.0	6,186,420.9	0.0
Other Income/Expenditure Not Reported Above**	0.0	-1,072,505.4	-526,898.7
Subtotal other income/expenditure	0.0	8,155,696.3	-526,898.7
Grand total	244,556,473.0	223,668,911.0	183,962,221.7

¹ All references to the State of Palestine hereafter should be understood in compliance with General Assembly resolution 67/19.

* Includes prior period income and/or expenditure adjustments.

** Includes miscellaneous income and interest for 2020 and prior period expenditure adjustments not reported above.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT (EDM)

Voluntary contributions in 2020

DONOR	US\$	EARMARKING
Saudi Arabia	204,867	EDM
(a) Total contributions to EDM	204,867	
Australia	147,820	Response to reprisals
Austria	10,989	Response to reprisals
Italy	27,473	Response to reprisals
Liechtenstein	25,826	Response to reprisals
Norway	215,776	Response to reprisals
Saudi Arabia	160,000	Communications Section (Website Arabic version)
United Kingdom	258,732	Response to reprisals
UNDP (Conflict-Related Sexual Violence)	338,156	Team of experts and rule of law
(b) Total contributions to specific sections/ projects	1,184,772	
(c) Total contributions earmarked to EDM (a) + (b)	1,389,638	
Unearmarked funds allocated to EDM*	21,292,550	Unearmarked
(d) Total unearmarked funds	21,292,550	
(e) Total XB funds available for EDM (c) + (d)	22,682,188	

*Includes only allocations from unearmarked funds received in 2020.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT (EDM)**RB & XB funds made available for EDM in 2020**

	US\$	% OF TOTAL
RB funds		
Regular budget allotment for EDM	8,135,818	100.0%
Subtotal RB funds	8,135,818	26.4%
XB funds		
Earmarked funds to EDM	204,867	0.9%
Earmarked funds for specific sections/projects	1,184,772	5.2%
Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions	-28,126	-0.1%
Unearmarked funds from 2020 voluntary contributions allocated by OHCHR to EDM	21,292,550	94.1%
Prior period income adjustments, including prior period unearmarked funds, allocated by OHCHR to EDM	-17,595	-0.1%
Subtotal XB funds	22,636,467	73.6%
Total RB + XB funds	30,772,285	100.0%

RESEARCH AND RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT DIVISION (RRDD)

Voluntary contributions in 2020

DONOR	PLEDGE US\$	EARMARKING
-	0	
(a) Total contributions to RRDD	0	
Australia	36,955	Activities in the Asia-Pacific region (allocated to the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section)
Belgium	418,160	Rule of Law and Democracy Section
	50,000	OHCHR's work related to addressing social inequalities
	150,000	OHCHR's work related to combating racial discrimination and hate speech
China	300,000	OHCHR's work related to economic, social and cultural rights
	40,000	OHCHR's work related to protection of the rights of migrants
	50,000	OHCHR's work related to protection of the rights of minorities
	30,000	Right to Development Section
Cyprus	11,947	Climate change
	11,947	Gender-related activities (including SGBV)
Czech Republic	12,826	Draft guidelines on the effective implementation of the right to participate in public affairs
Denmark	1,472,537	Addressing the human rights, migration and climate change nexus in the Sahel region
	160,488	Indigenous Fellowship Programme 2020-2021
	328,960	Bridging the gap: Human Rights indicators for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in support of a disability-inclusive 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
European Commission	472,338	Implementing the UN resolution on Torture-Free Trade (Phase II)
	80,043	Supporting the deployment of human rights indicators
Finland	223,964	OHCHR's regional gender adviser in Addis Ababa
	116,545	Business and human rights in technology
	455,063	Frontier issues (environment/climate change and migration)
Germany	50,543	Realizing human rights, including child and youth rights, in development cooperation
	20,402	The right to privacy in the digital age
Liechtenstein	41,322	Trafficking in persons
Microsoft	880,000	To support OHCHR's work relating to human rights online, innovation and technology, business and human rights and outreach

DONOR	PLEDGE US\$	EARMARKING
Netherlands	248,260	Freedom of religion or belief
	716,520	Freedom of expression, press freedom and safety of journalists
	119,875	Accountability and remedy project
	215,776	Expert mechanism on the rights of indigenous peoples
	743,227	OHCHR's work for child and youth rights
Norway	383,601	Protecting and expanding civil society space
	563,414	Support of freedom of religion and belief and the protection of religious minorities
	167,825	Sustainable Development Goals and human rights indicators
	479,501	Women's rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights
Open Society Foundations (FPOS)	107,000	Research on the social costs of corruption
Republic of Korea	50,000	Rule of Law and Democracy Section
	150,000	New and emerging digital technologies and human rights
Russian Federation	600,000	Anti-discrimination
	20,000	Anti-discrimination
	50,000	Women's Human Rights and Gender Section
Saudi Arabia	25,000	Disabilities
	75,000	Methodology, education and training
	118,765	Regional gender advisers
Spain	119,474	Gender rights in the Americas in the context of Security Council resolution 1325
	150,000	Human rights defenders and online civic space
UN EOSG	320,000	Renewing the UN approach to transitional justice
UNDP	1,243,875	HRM Common Country Analysis
	199,106	UNPRPD - Disability Fund
UNESCO	49,317	Engaging UNCTs in promoting the safety of journalists at the country level
United Kingdom	619,579	Sexual and gender-based violence
	46,930	UN Free & Equal
United States of America	2,100,000	Civil space, disabilities, rule of law and democracy and violence against women
Vodafone Group	5,000	B-Tech Project
Wellspring Philanthropic Fund	100,000	Support for the review of criminal codes in compliance with international human rights standards

DONOR	PLEDGE US\$	EARMARKING
Private donors	1,758	UN Free & Equal
(b) Total contributions to specific sections/projects	15,202,846	
(c) Total contributions earmarked to RRDD (a) + (b)	15,202,846	
Unearmarked funds allocated to RRDD projects*	6,039,116	Unearmarked
(d) Total unearmarked funds	6,039,116	
(e) Total XB funds available for RRDD (c) + (d)	21,241,961	

*Includes only allocations from unearmarked funds received in 2020.

RESEARCH AND RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT DIVISION (RRDD)

RB & XB funds made available for RRDD in 2020

	US\$	% OF TOTAL
RB funds		
Regular budget allotment for RRDD	11,725,090	100.0%
Subtotal RB funds	11,725,090	35.6%
XB funds		
Earmarked funds to RRDD - all projects	0	0.0%
Earmarked funds for specific sections/projects	15,202,846	71.6%
Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions	-259,978	-1.2%
Unearmarked funds from 2020 voluntary contributions allocated by OHCHR to RRDD	6,039,116	28.4%
Prior period income adjustments, including prior period unearmarked funds, allocated by OHCHR to RRDD	260,667	1.2%
Subtotal XB funds	21,242,651	64.4%
Total RB + XB funds	32,967,741	100.0%

HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES BRANCH (HRTB)**Voluntary contributions in 2020**

DONOR	US\$	EARMARKING
France	94,787	HRTB
Germany	568,828	HRTB
Liechtenstein	41,322	HRTB
Netherlands	786,517	HRTB
United States of America	490,000	HRTB
(a) Total contributions to HRTB - all bodies	1,981,454	
Czech Republic	8,551	OP-CAT Special Fund
Denmark	200,610	OP-CAT Special Fund 2020-2021
France	23,697	OP-CAT Special Fund
Germany	113,766	OP-CAT Special Fund
Norway	119,875	OP-CAT Special Fund
Republic of Korea	150,000	Petitions and Urgent Actions Section in its support of CEDAW, CERD, CESCR and CRPD
Spain	23,753	OP-CAT Special Fund
UNDP	95,432	UNPRPD - Disability Fund
(b) Total contributions to specific bodies/projects	735,683	
(c) Total contributions earmarked to HRTB (a) + (b)	2,717,137	
Unearmarked funds allocated to HRTB*	0	Unearmarked
(d) Total unearmarked funds	0	
(e) Total XB funds available for HRTB (c) + (d)	2,717,137	

*Includes only allocations from unearmarked funds received in 2020.

HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES DIVISION (HRTB)
RB & XB funds made available for HRTB in 2020

	US\$	% OF TOTAL
RB funds		
Regular budget allotment for HRTB	14,769,860	100.0%
Subtotal RB funds	14,769,860	84.2%
XB funds		
Earmarked funds to HRTB - all bodies	1,981,454	71.3%
Earmarked funds for HRTB specific bodies/projects	245,432	8.8%
Earmarked funds to OP-CAT Special Fund	490,251	17.6%
Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions	-21,835	-0.8%
Unearmarked funds from 2020 voluntary contributions allocated by OHCHR to HRTB	0	0.0%
Prior period income adjustments, including prior period unearmarked funds, allocated by OHCHR to HRTB	84,319	3.0%
Subtotal XB funds	2,779,620	15.8%
Total RB + XB funds	17,549,480	100.0%

FIELD OPERATIONS AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION DIVISION (FOTCD)

Voluntary contributions in 2020

DONOR	PLEDGE US\$	EARMARKING
	1,071,693	Activities in the Asia-Pacific region
Australia	221,730	Activities in the Asia-Pacific region*
	188,395	Human Rights Adviser in the Philippines*
	258,684	National Human Rights Institutions
Belgium	1,194,743	Integrating human rights into the COVID-19 response and recovery and addressing the social and economic impacts of the pandemic in Central Africa
	1,194,743	OHCHR's work in the occupied Palestinian territories*
	1,969,697	Colombia
Canada	549,882	Guatemala (strengthening the rights of indigenous and other discriminated women)
	526,742	Honduras (strengthening the promotion, monitoring and respect for the rights of women and girls and LGBTI rights)
	909,091	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	454,545	Sri Lanka*
	606,061	Sudan
	606,061	Venezuela
Counterpart International	5,703	El Salvador (supporting transitional justice)
Cyprus	35,842	Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa
Czech Republic	21,377	Venezuela
	686,080	Human rights protection in stabilization and peace operations
Denmark	147,254	Somalia*
	5,724,343	Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation*
Estonia	35,842	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine

DONOR	PLEDGE US\$	EARMARKING
European Commission	83,916	Burundi
	5,348,984	G5 Sahel (support to the establishment and implementation of human rights and humanitarian law compliance framework for the operations of the G5 Sahel Joint Force)
	183,154	Guatemala (protection of human rights defenders)
	1,594,180	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	1,982,880	Occupied Palestinian territories (implementing the State of Palestine's human rights treaty obligations) ¹
	4,337,579	Sahel region (international human rights law compliance of law enforcement operations in Chad, Mauritania and Niger: Strengthening the capacity of internal security forces)
	1,393,070	Syria (advancing justice and human rights)
	859,181	Thailand (widening democratic space)
	1,011,769	Venezuela (Fortalecimiento de las organizaciones de la sociedad civil en el contexto de las restricciones del espacio cívico y democrático)
	231,935	Yemen
Finland	2,575,588	Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation*
France	71,090	Chad*
	59,242	Burkina Faso
	47,393	Contingency Fund
	118,483	Guinea
	82,938	Mauritania*
	177,725	Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa
	236,967	Tunisia

DONOR	PLEDGE US\$	EARMARKING
Germany	79,636	Bolivia
	34,130	DPRK accountability project
	293,797	G5 Sahel
	471,143	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	219,397	Iran
	113,122	Nicaragua
	79,636	Sri Lanka*
	483,667	Strengthening OHCHR's capacity to support investigative bodies
	1,102,536	Sudan
	187,713	Syria
	110,735	Tunisia
	197,088	Tunisia (transitional justice process)
	481,888	Venezuela
341,297	Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation*	
India	200,000	Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation*
Ireland	292,398	Colombia
	111,419	Syria
Italy	716,846	G5 Sahel
	119,474	Venezuela
Japan	45,000	Cambodia
	20,000	Youth survey on conflict prevention in Africa
MacArthur Foundation	140,000	Mexico (promote a network of forensic science experts and facilitate Mexico's adoption of policies to improve the justice system's forensic sciences)*
Malta	17,815	Operations in the Africa region

DONOR	PLEDGE US\$	EARMARKING
Netherlands	27,916	DPRK (outreach and capacity development in relation to accountability for human rights)
	2,247,195	Strengthening OHCHR's investigative capacity
	266,854	Venezuela
	1,330,616	Colombia
	599,377	Democratic Republic of the Congo
	695,277	Ethiopia
	599,377	G5 Sahel
	359,626	Haiti*
	819,576	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	239,751	Human Rights up Front
Norway	479,501	Myanmar
	167,825	Nicaragua
	503,476	OHCHR's work in the occupied Palestinian territories*
	359,626	Protection of religious minorities
	1,138,816	Sahel region (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania and Niger)*
	479,501	West Africa/Emergency Response Team
	479,501	Southern Africa/Emergency Response Team
	719,252	Strengthening early warning and response
	215,776	Venezuela
	OCHA	500,000
Poland	26,602	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine

DONOR	PLEDGE US\$	EARMARKING
Republic of Korea	50,000	Contingency Fund
	100,000	Emergency Response Section
	50,000	Field-based structure on DPRK
	40,000	National Human Rights Institutions
	50,000	OHCHR's partnership activities with Justice Rapid Response
Russian Federation	200,000	Belarus (implementation of the Nation Action Plan on human rights)*
	20,000	Russian Federation (activities of Federal and Regional Ombudspersons for human rights in the Russian Federation)*
	450,000	Russian Federation (consolidation of the Human Rights Master's Programme)*
	120,000	Russian Federation (expert consultations on business and human rights)*
	100,000	Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation, in particular for its work in Africa*
Saudi Arabia	200,000	OHCHR's work in the occupied Palestinian territories*
	800,000	Technical assistance in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
	240,000	Technical assistance in the MENA Region
Spain	411,765	Colombia
	130,641	Country Offices (allocated to Guatemala)
	358,423	Gender issues in Central America
	89,074	Regional Offices (allocated to ROCA in Panama)
	413,592	Venezuela
	117,371	West Africa/Emergency Response Team

DONOR	PLEDGE US\$	EARMARKING
Sweden	1,915,938	Asia-Pacific (strengthening capacity of regional actors to promote human rights, accountability, democratic space and gender equality in the region)
	766,136	Bolivia (engagement in a context of post-election violence)
	520,069	Cambodia
	1,529,436	Colombia
	352,154	Contingency Fund (surge capacity and seed funding for the integration of human rights into COVID-19 responses to the pandemic)
	1,205,498	Democratic Republic of the Congo (enhancing and protecting the civic space and responding to conflict-related sexual violence)
	1,563,966	Ethiopia
	821,693	El Salvador (strengthening and supporting human rights)
	1,913,876	Guatemala (countering racial discrimination and combating impunity)
	352,154	Honduras (supporting Honduras in advancing the human rights agenda)
	478,985	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	1,654,533	Liberia (support to the Independent National Human Rights Commission)
	1,936,847	Regional emergency response (COVID-19 and human rights)
	1,881,861	Sudan
Switzerland	2,062,303	Uganda
	1,100,000	Honduras
	500,000	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	150,000	Iran
	250,000	Nicaragua
	502,008	OHCHR's work in the occupied Palestinian territories
	200,000	Sudan
	150,000	Syria
60,000	Venezuela	

DONOR	PLEDGE US\$	EARMARKING
Ukraine	35,000	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	745,342	Colombia (enhancing institutional capacity and accompanying victims in the search for truth, justice reparation and non-recurrence)
	2,450,262	Democratic Republic of the Congo (profiling project)
	805,359	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
United Kingdom	12,016	OHCHR's work in the occupied Palestinian territories*
	50,020	Programme on conflict prevention and human rights
	516,129	Sudan
	271,134	Syria
	108,794	Yemen
United States of America	3,500,000	Colombia
	1,000,000	Guatemala
	1,000,000	Honduras
	987,650	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
	800,000	Iraq (accountability for abductions and torture)
	5,660,000	Cambodia, Guatemala, Guinea, Mali, Sudan, Tunisia, Yemen
	1,340,000	Chad, Haiti, Libya, Mexico*
	1,150,000	Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation*

DONOR	PLEDGE US\$	EARMARKING
UNDP (UN-managed pooled and trust fund funding)	420,000	Bolivia (PBF)
	298,487	Democratic Republic of the Congo (JP)
	1,487,337	Democratic Republic of the Congo (PBF)
	101,222	Georgia (Joint SDG Fund)
	106,020	Georgia (UNDP)*
	360,151	Guatemala (JP)
	89,131	Guatemala (UN COVID-19 response and recovery)
	322,070	Guinea (PBF)
	673,091	Honduras (PBF)
	772,000	Lebanon (PBF)
	261,422	Liberia (PBF)
	605,568	Liberia (Spotlight)
	281,767	Madagascar (PBF)
	718,310	Mali (PBF)
	209,450	Mexico (Spotlight)
	100,000	Niger (PBF)
	187,826	Moldova (2030 SDGs Partnership)
	315,000	South Africa (Migration)
	32,100	South Africa (UNPRPD - Disability Fund)
	175,676	Tanzania (One UN)
258,281	Uganda (PBF)	
214,167	Uganda (UNDP)	
175,000	Ukraine (PBF)	
5,787,415	UNDG-HRM - deployment of human rights advisers*	
267,500	UNDG-HRM - support to RCs, HRAs*	

DONOR	PLEDGE US\$	EARMARKING
UN Women	127,480	Access to justice for women in the Asia and the Pacific region
	89,673	Kenya (SGBV)*
UNODC	878,462	Strengthening the capacities of West African States to develop a human rights-based response to smuggling of migrants and effectively respond to human rights violations related to irregular migration
UNTF for Human Security	154,786	Cambodia (Sihanoukville for all)
World Bank	261,290	Ethiopia (strengthening the AU early warning methodologies through the integration of a human rights-based approach into the AU Continental Early Warning System)
Total earmarked contributions	116,889,471	
"Unearmarked funds allocated to FOTCD**"	17,154,815	Unearmarked
Total unearmarked funds	17,154,815	
Total XB funds available for FOTCD	134,044,286	

¹ All references to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with General Assembly resolution 67/19.

* Project financed/implemented through the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation.

** Includes only allocations from unearmarked funds received in 2020.

FIELD OPERATIONS AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION DIVISION (FOTCD)

RB & XB funds made available for FOTCD in 2020

	US\$	% OF TOTAL
RB funds		
Regular budget allotment for FOTCD - headquarters	26,962,073	63.4%
Regular budget allotment for FOTCD - field presences	13,514,441	31.8%
Regular programme of technical cooperation for FOTCD - field presences	2,065,800	4.9%
Subtotal RB funds	42,542,314	23.7%
XB funds		
Earmarked funds to VFTC	9,991,228	7.3%
Earmarked funds for specific field presences/activities	106,448,696	77.8%
Earmarked funds for the Contingency Fund	449,547	0.3%
Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions	-1,177,437	-0.9%
Unearmarked funds from 2020 voluntary contributions allocated by OHCHR to FOTCD	17,154,815	12.5%
Funds from prior years, including unearmarked funds, allocated by OHCHR to FOTCD	3,925,948	2.9%
Subtotal XB funds	136,792,798	76.3%
Total RB + XB funds	179,335,112	100.0%

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL BRANCH AND UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW BRANCH (HRCB/UPRB)**Voluntary contributions in 2020**

DONOR	US\$	EARMARKING
-	0	
(a) Total contributions to HRCB/UPRB	0	
Republic of Korea	50,000	HRCB/Support to the work of the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council
(b) Total specifically earmarked contributions	50,000	
(c) Total contributions earmarked to HRCB/UPRB (a) + (b)	50,000	
Unearmarked funds allocated to HRCB*	3,413,650	Unearmarked
Unearmarked funds allocated to UPRB*	374,650	Unearmarked
(d) Total unearmarked funds	3,788,300	
(e) Total XB funds available for HRCB (c) + (d)	3,838,300	

* Includes only allocations from unearmarked funds received in 2020.

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL BRANCH AND UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW BRANCH
(HRCB/UPRB) RB & XB funds made available for HRCB and UPRB in 2020**

	US\$	% OF TOTAL
RB funds		
Regular budget allotment for HRCB	3,195,183	40.5%
Regular budget allotment for UPRB	4,702,653	59.5%
Subtotal RB funds	7,897,836	67.3%
XB funds		
Earmarked funds to HRCB/UPRB	0	0.0%
Earmarked funds for HRCB-specific activities	50,000	1.3%
Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions	0	0.0%
Unearmarked funds from 2020 voluntary contributions allocated by OHCHR to HRCB	3,413,650	88.9%
Unearmarked funds from 2020 voluntary contributions allocated by OHCHR to UPRB	374,650	9.8%
Prior period income adjustments, including prior period unearmarked funds, allocated by OHCHR to HRCB	0	0.0%
Prior period income adjustments, including prior period unearmarked funds, allocated by OHCHR to UPRB	0	0.0%
Subtotal XB funds	3,838,300	32.7%
Total RB + XB funds	11,736,136	100.0%

SPECIAL PROCEDURES BRANCH (SPB)**Voluntary contributions in 2020**

DONOR	PLEDGE US\$	EARMARKING/MANDATE
Netherlands	2,022,472	SPB
Norway	119,875	SPB
United States of America	1,900,000	SPB
(a) Total contributions to SPB - all mandates	4,042,347	
Austria	54,945	Forum on Minority Issues
	11,364	Regional Forum on Minority Issues in Vienna
Belgium	119,474	Coordination Committee
	59,737	Extreme poverty
China	160,000	Negative impact of unilateral coercive measures
	25,000	Education
	70,000	Extreme poverty
	46,705	Housing, water and environment
Finland	30,000	Indigenous peoples
	109,600	Rights of persons with disabilities
	33,636	Sexual orientation and gender identity
	25,968	Violence against women
	35,545	Sexual orientation and gender identity
France	118,483	WG on Arbitrary Detention
	118,483	WG on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances
	45,506	Adequate housing
Germany	187,293	Building common visions and harmonized strategies for the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights beyond 2021
	45,506	Trafficking in persons
	45,506	Water and sanitation

DONOR	PLEDGE US\$	EARMARKING/MANDATE
International Labour Organization	2,009,455	Responsible business conduct in Latin America and the Caribbean
Lithuania	10,917	Freedom of peaceful assembly and association (10th Anniversary)
	3,584	WG on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances
	23,895	Human rights defenders
	17,921	Sale of children
Luxembourg	11,947	Sexual orientation and gender identity
	17,921	Trafficking in persons
	29,869	Violence against women
Monaco	10,989	Environment
Netherlands	409,050	Freedom of religion or belief
	407,075	Freedom of expression, press freedom and safety of journalists
	59,938	Cultural rights
	215,776	Support of freedom of religion and belief and the protection of religious minorities
Norway	59,938	WG (incl. Forum) on business and human rights
	20,000	Right to privacy
	50,000	Promotion of truth, justice and reparations
	20,000	Rights of persons with disabilities
Republic of Korea	50,000	Violence against women
	50,000	WG on discrimination against women and girls
	30,000	WG on Arbitrary Detention
	30,000	WG on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances

DONOR	PLEDGE US\$	EARMARKING/MANDATE
	50,000	Minority issues
	115,000	Negative impact of unilateral coercive measures
	50,000	Racism, xenophobia and related intolerance
Russian Federation	50,000	Rights of persons with disabilities
	50,000	Special Fund for the participation of civil society in the Forum on Minority Issues, the Forum on Business and Human Rights and the Social Forum
	115,000	Terrorism
	50,000	WG on business and human rights
Spain	11,876	Rights of persons with disabilities
	23,753	Violence against women
	11,876	Water and sanitation
Switzerland	70,000	Freedom of peaceful assembly and association (10th Anniversary)
	85,173	Rights of migrants
	150,000	Trafficking in persons
	24,833	WG on business and human rights
United States of America	10,000	Torture
(b) Total contributions to specific mandates	5,748,539	
(c) Total contributions earmarked to SPB (a) + (b)	9,790,886	
Unearmarked funds allocated to SPB*	437,127	Unearmarked
Unearmarked funds allocated to specific mandates*	80,000	Unearmarked
(d) Total unearmarked funds	517,127	
(e) Total XB funds available for SPB (c) + (d)	10,308,013	

*Includes only allocations from unearmarked funds received in 2020.

SPECIAL PROCEDURES BRANCH (SPB)**RB & XB funds made available for SPB in 2020**

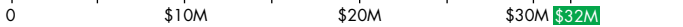
	US\$	% OF TOTAL
RB funds		
Regular budget allotment for SPB	11,786,621	100.0%
Subtotal RB funds	11,786,621	54.4%
XB funds*		
Earmarked funds to SPB - all mandates	4,042,347	41.0%
Earmarked funds for specific mandates	5,748,539	58.3%
Gain/(loss) on exchange from contributions	-54,164	-0.5%
Unearmarked funds from 2020 voluntary contributions allocated by OHCHR to SPB	437,127	4.4%
Unearmarked funds from 2020 voluntary contributions allocated by OHCHR to SPB specific mandates	80,000	0.8%
Prior period income adjustments, including prior period unearmarked funds, allocated by OHCHR to SPB	-67,291	-0.7%
Prior period income adjustments, including prior period unearmarked funds, allocated by OHCHR to SPB specific mandates	-320,713	-3.3%
Subtotal XB funds	9,865,845	45.6%
Total RB + XB funds	21,652,466	100.0%

Donor Profiles

Donor ranking
 Total voluntary contribution in 2020 in USD
 Junior Professional Officer(s) funded by the donor



VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS 2012-2020 (IN MILLIONS OF US\$)



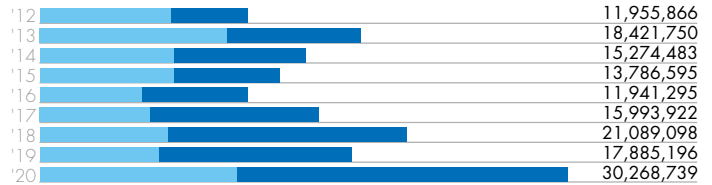
SWEDEN

1/79

30,268,739 ▶
275,121,000 (SEK)



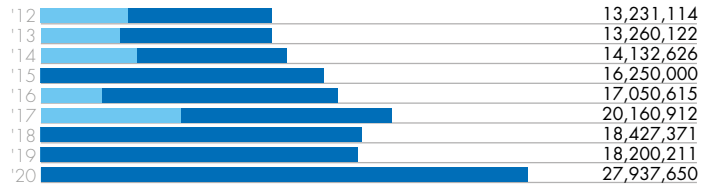
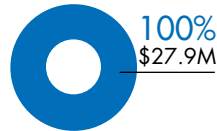
2



UNITED STATES

2/79

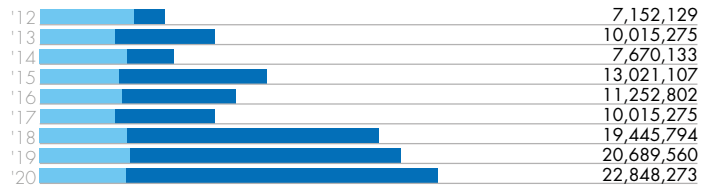
27,937,650 ▶



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

3/79

22,848,273 ▶
20,289,909 (EUR)



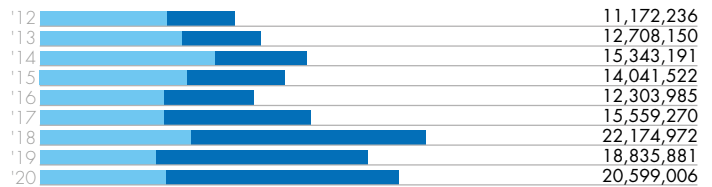
NORWAY

4/79

20,599,006 ▶
172,000,000 (NOK)



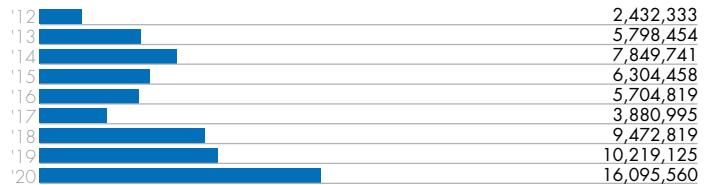
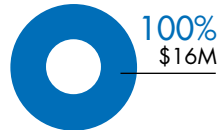
2



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

5/79

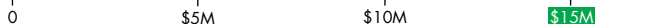
16,095,560 ▶



Donor ranking
 Total voluntary contribution in 2020 in USD
 Junior Professional Officer(s) funded by the donor



VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS 2012-2020 (IN MILLIONS OF US\$)

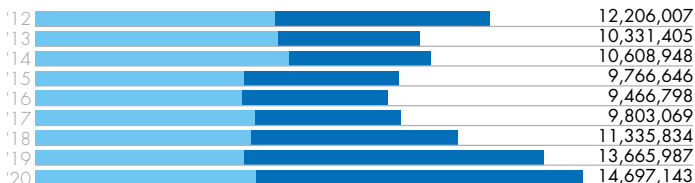


NETHERLANDS

6/79

14,697,143 ▶
12,574,346 (EUR)

7

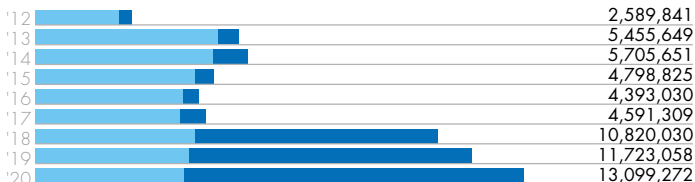


DENMARK

7/79

13,099,272 ▶
87,750,000 (DKK)

5

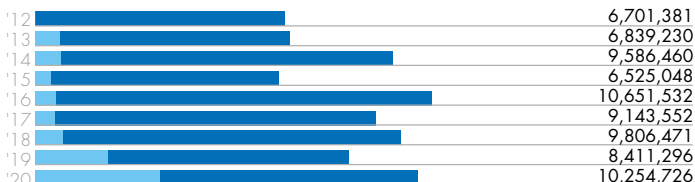


GERMANY

8/79

10,254,726 ▶
9,045,814 (EUR)

1

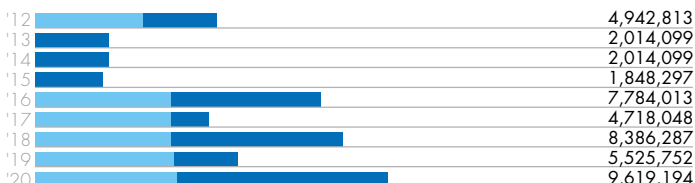


CANADA

9/79

9,619,194 ▶
12,790,000 (CAD)

1

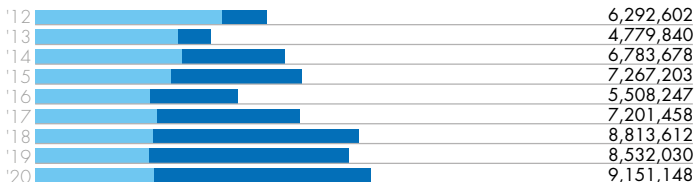


UNITED KINGDOM

10/79

9,151,148 ▶
7,066,676 (GBP)

1



Donor ranking
 Total voluntary contribution in 2020 in USD
 Junior Professional Officer(s) funded by the donor



VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS 2012-2020 (IN MILLIONS OF US\$)

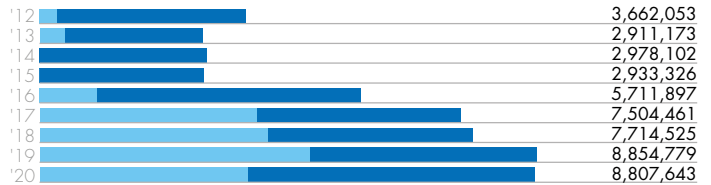


SWITZERLAND

11/79

8,807,643
8,361,936 (CHF)

5

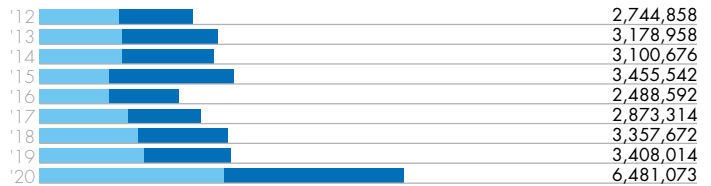


FINLAND

12/79

6,481,073
5,860,000 (EUR)

2

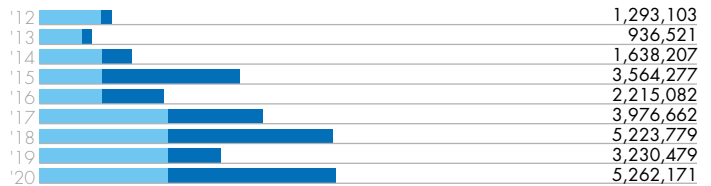


BELGIUM

13/79

5,262,171
4,500,000 (EUR)

1

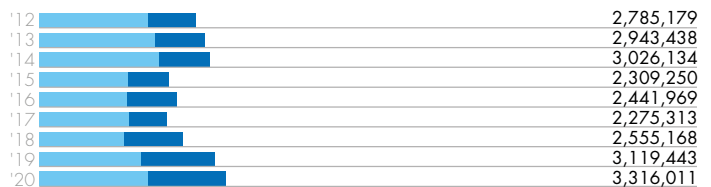


FRANCE

14/79

3,316,011
2,800,000 (EUR)

1

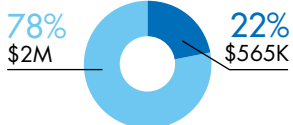


IRELAND

15/79

2,601,133
2,343,815 (EUR)

1



Donor ranking
 Total voluntary contribution in 2020 in USD
 Junior Professional Officer(s) funded by the donor

▬ Unearmarked funds
 ▬ Earmarked funds

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS 2012-2020 (IN MILLIONS OF US\$)

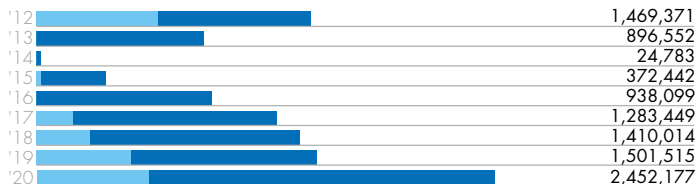
0 \$1M \$2M \$3M



SPAIN

16/79

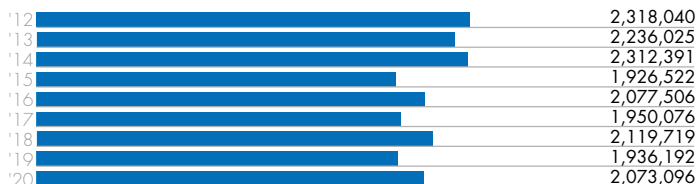
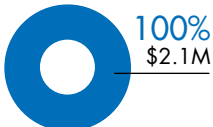
2,452,177
2,070,000 (EUR)



AUSTRALIA

17/79

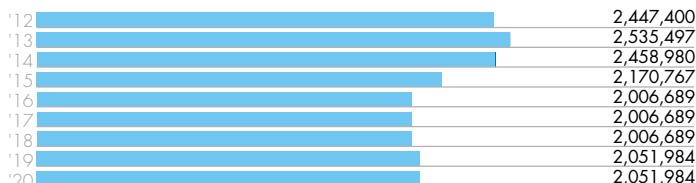
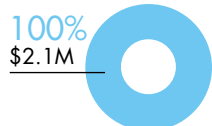
2,073,096
2,800,000 (AUD)



NEW ZEALAND

18/79

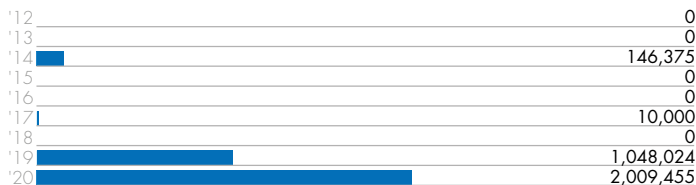
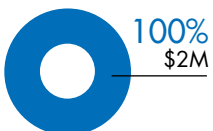
2,051,984
3,000,000 (NZD)



INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

19/79

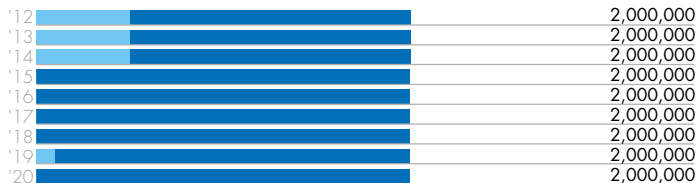
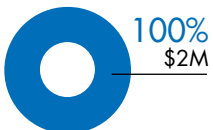
2,009,455
1,750,235 (EUR)



RUSSIAN FEDERATION

20/79

2,000,000



Donor ranking
 Total voluntary contribution in 2020 in USD
 Junior Professional Officer(s) funded by the donor

Unearmarked funds Earmarked funds

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS 2012-2020 (IN MILLIONS OF US\$)

0 \$1M \$2M \$3M **\$3.5M**

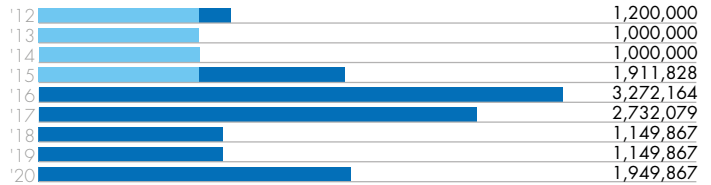
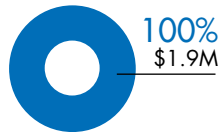


SAUDI ARABIA

21/79

1,949,867 ▶

1

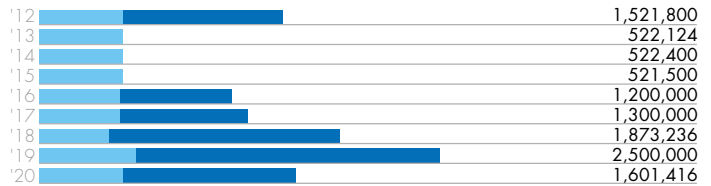
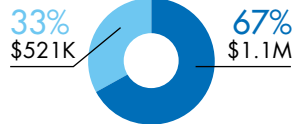


REPUBLIC OF KOREA

22/79

1,601,416 ▶

1

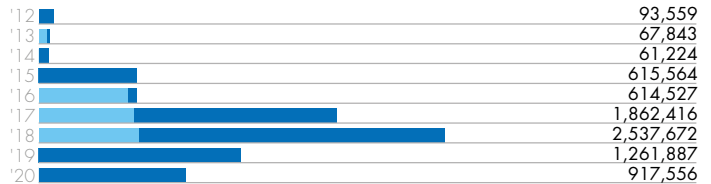
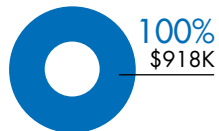


ITALY

23/79

917,556 ▶
770,000 (EUR)

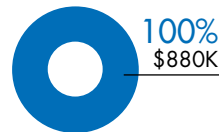
3



MICROSOFT

25/79

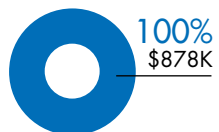
880,000 ▶



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIMES

24/79

878,462 ▶



Donor ranking
 Total voluntary contribution in 2020 in USD
 Junior Professional Officer(s) funded by the donor

Unearmarked funds
 Earmarked funds

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS 2012-2020 (IN MILLIONS OF US\$)

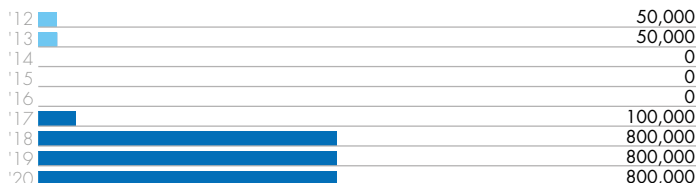
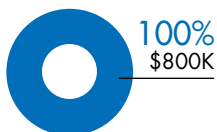
0 \$500k \$1M \$1.5M



CHINA

26/79

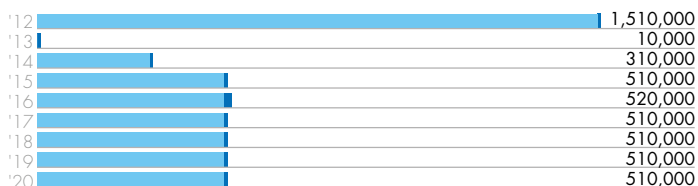
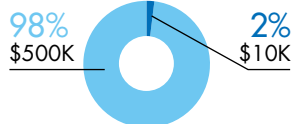
800,000



KUWAIT

27/79

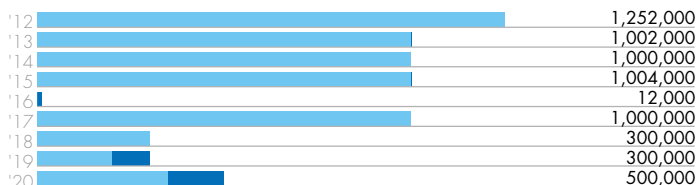
510,000



MOROCCO

28/79

500,000

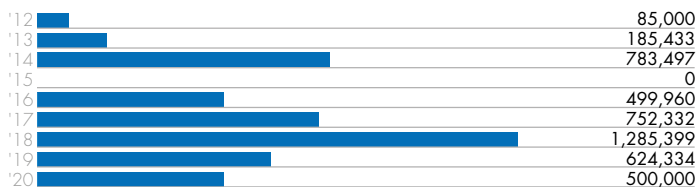
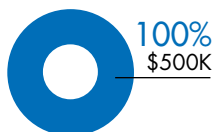


OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

OCHA

28/79

500,000



LUXEMBOURG

30/79

404,716
344,000 (EUR)



Donor ranking
 Total voluntary contribution in 2020 in USD
 Junior Professional Officer(s) funded by the donor

▬ Unearmarked funds
 ▬ Earmarked funds

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS 2012-2020 (IN MILLIONS OF US\$)

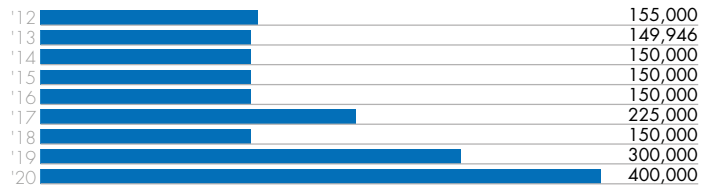
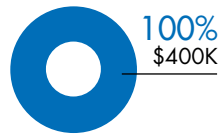
0 \$100k \$200k \$300k \$400k



INDIA

31/79

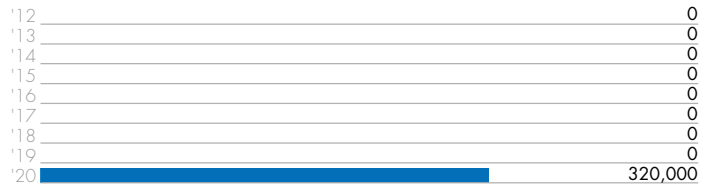
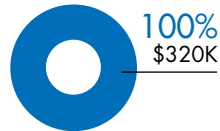
400,000



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

32/79

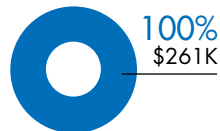
320,000



WORLD BANK

33/79

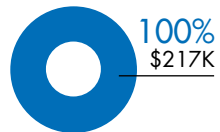
261,290



UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

34/79

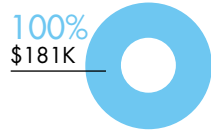
217,153

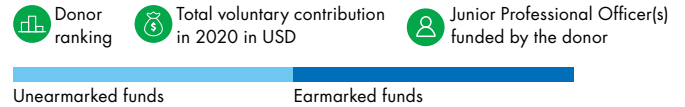


ICELAND

35/79

180,950
25,000,000 (ISK)





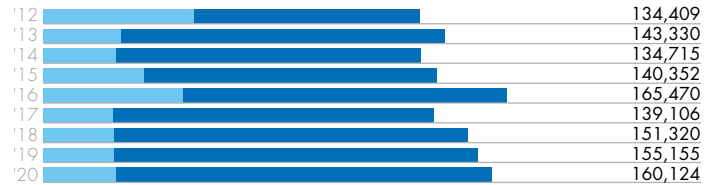
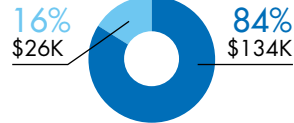
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS 2012-2020 (IN MILLIONS OF US\$)



LIECHTENSTEIN

36/79

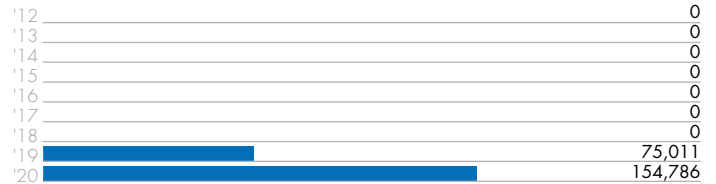
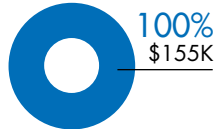
160,124
155,000 (CHF)



UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR HUMAN SECURITY

37/79

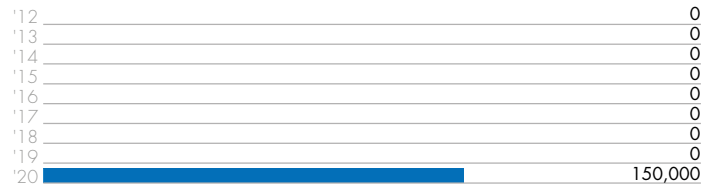
154,786



11TH HOUR PROJECT/THE SCHMIDT FAMILY FOUNDATION

38/79

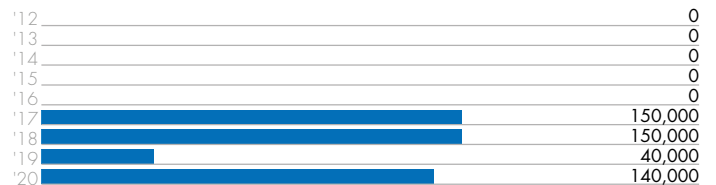
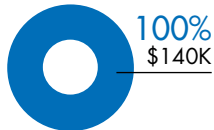
150,000



MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

39/79

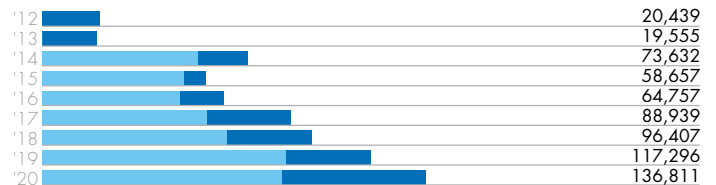
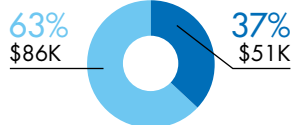
140,000



CZECH REPUBLIC

40/79

136,811
3,200,000 (CZK)



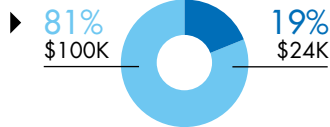
Donor ranking
 Total voluntary contribution in 2020 in USD
 Junior Professional Officer(s) funded by the donor



MEXICO

41/79

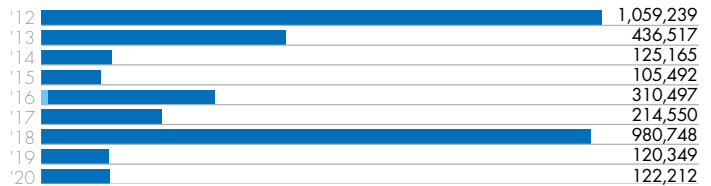
124,118



AUSTRIA

42/79

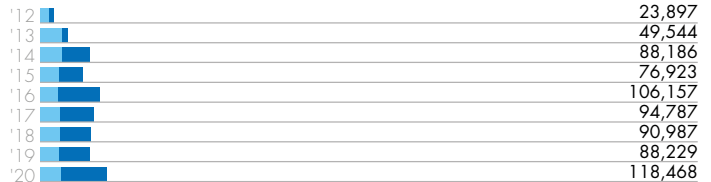
122,212
110,000 (EUR)



ESTONIA

43/79

118,468
100,000 (EUR)



OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

44/79

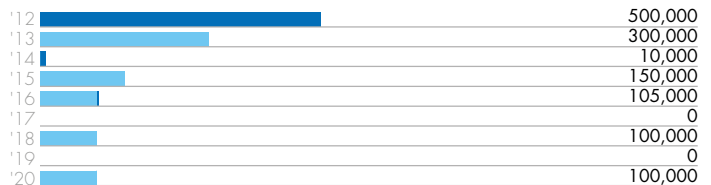
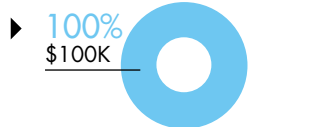
107,000



ALGERIA

45/79

100,000



Donor ranking
 Total voluntary contribution in 2020 in USD
 Junior Professional Officer(s) funded by the donor



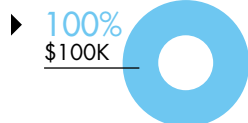
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS 2012-2020 (IN MILLIONS OF US\$)



PORTUGAL

45/79

100,000



'12	139,982
'13	100,000
'14	206,227
'15	209,520
'16	100,000
'17	159,242
'18	186,518
'19	375,028
'20	100,000



WELLSPRING PHILANTHROPIC FUND

45/79

100,000



'12	0
'13	0
'14	0
'15	0
'16	0
'17	0
'18	0
'19	0
'20	100,000



POLAND

48/79

79,805
73,101 (CHF)



'12	115,933
'13	161,468
'14	93,425
'15	64,536
'16	100,324
'17	205,657
'18	254,428
'19	335,239
'20	79,805



JAPAN

49/79

65,000

1



'12	577,226
'13	0
'14	481,135
'15	2,285,329
'16	119,263
'17	109,325
'18	1,937,444
'19	117,133
'20	65,000



CYPRUS

50/79

59,737
50,000 (EUR)



'12	30,068
'13	13,561
'14	12,487
'15	10,989
'16	10,616
'17	17,773
'18	17,065
'19	22,002
'20	59,737

Donor ranking
 Total voluntary contribution in 2020 in USD
 Junior Professional Officer(s) funded by the donor

■ Unearmarked funds
 ■ Earmarked funds

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS 2012-2020 (IN MILLIONS OF US\$)

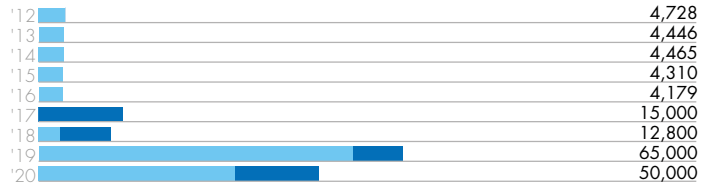
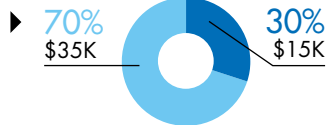
0 \$20k \$40k \$60k \$80k \$100k



PAKISTAN

51/79

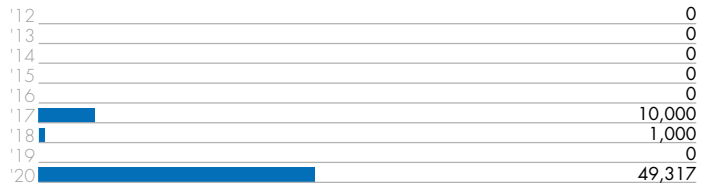
50,000



UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

52/79

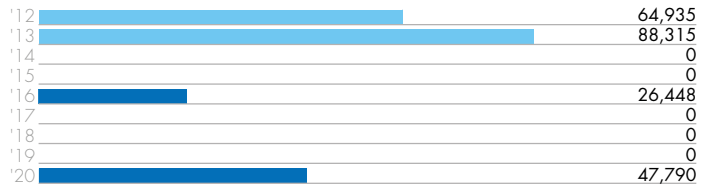
49,317



ROMANIA

53/79

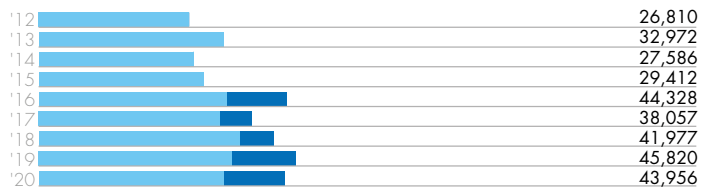
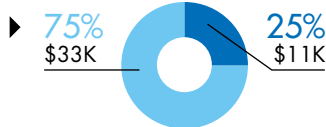
47,790
40,000 (EUR)



MONACO

54/79

43,956
40,000 (EUR)

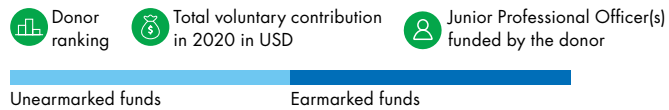


LITHUANIA

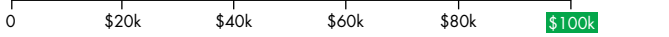
55/79

36,335
33,000 (EUR)



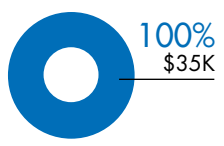


VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS 2012-2020 (IN MILLIONS OF US\$)



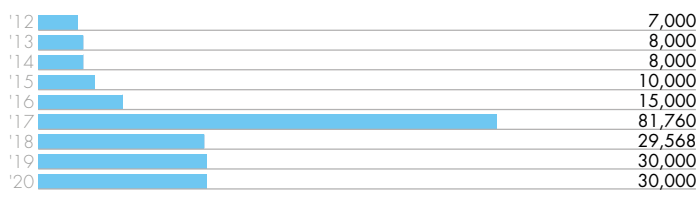
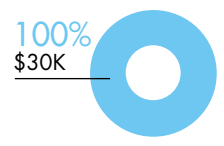
UKRAINE

56/79
35,000



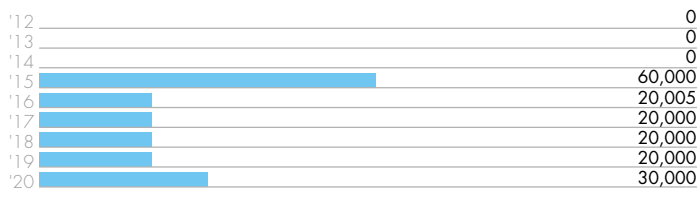
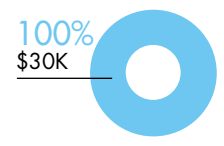
BULGARIA

57/79
30,000



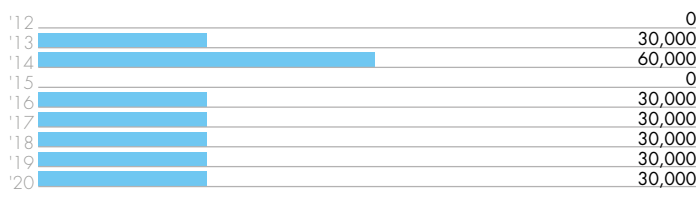
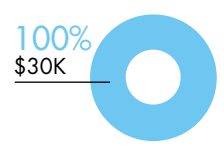
MALAYSIA

57/79
30,000



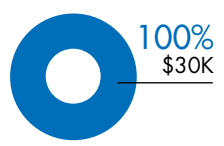
URUGUAY

57/79
30,000



ANDORRA

60/79
29,658
25,000 (EUR)



Donor ranking
 Total voluntary contribution in 2020 in USD
 Junior Professional Officer(s) funded by the donor



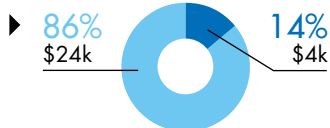
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS 2012-2020 (IN MILLIONS OF US\$)



PERU

61/79

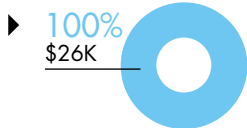
28,187



ARMENIA

62/79

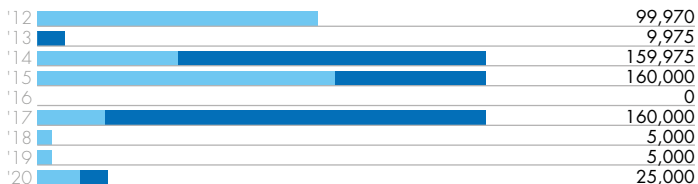
26,285



KAZAKHSTAN

63/79

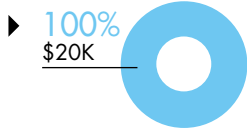
25,000



INDONESIA

64/79

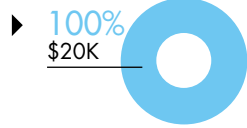
20,000



THAILAND

64/79

20,000



Donor ranking
 Total voluntary contribution in 2020 in USD
 Junior Professional Officer(s) funded by the donor

▬ Unearmarked funds
▬ Earmarked funds

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS 2012-2020 (IN MILLIONS OF US\$)

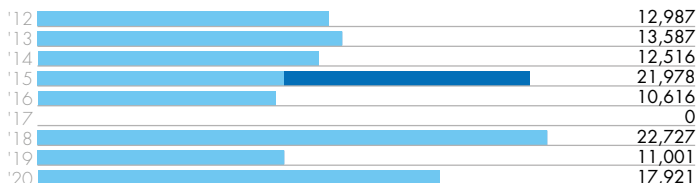
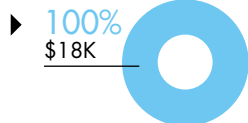
0 \$5k \$10k \$15k \$20k \$25k



LATVIA

66/79

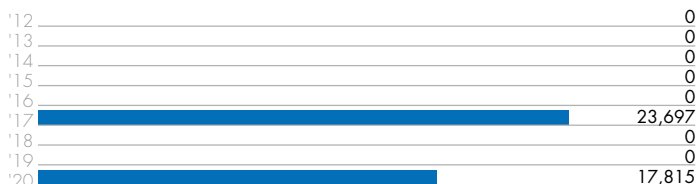
17,921
15,000 (EUR)



MALTA

67/79

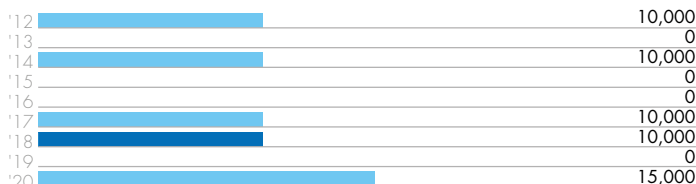
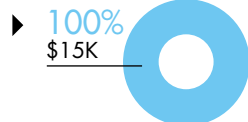
17,815
15,000 (EUR)



AZERBAIJAN

68/79

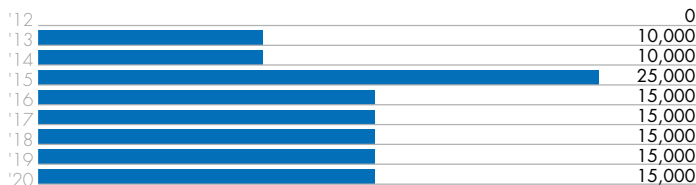
15,000



SINGAPORE

68/79

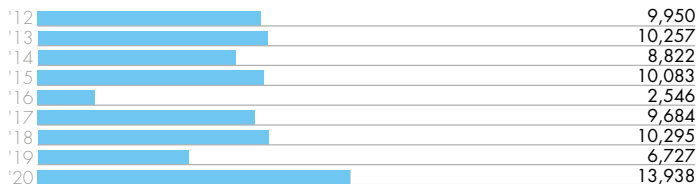
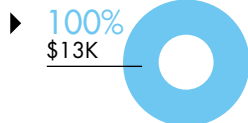
15,000



COSTA RICA

70/79

13,938



Donor ranking
 Total voluntary contribution in 2020 in USD
 Junior Professional Officer(s) funded by the donor



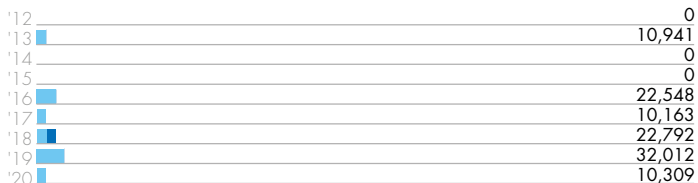
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS 2012-2020 (IN MILLIONS OF US\$)



SLOVAKIA

71/79

10,309
10,000 (CHF)



HOLY SEE

72/79

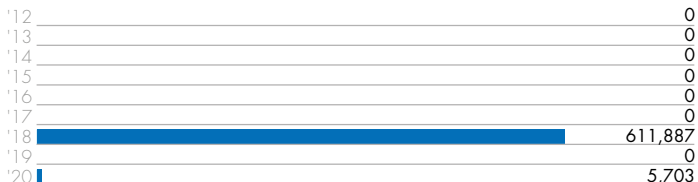
6,500



COUNTERPART INTERNATIONAL

73/79

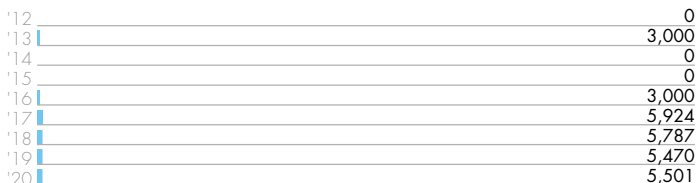
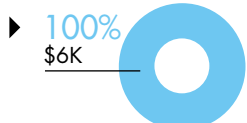
5,703



MONTENEGRO

74/79

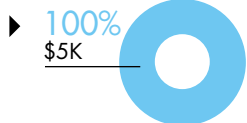
5,501
5,000 (EUR)



MALDIVES

75/79

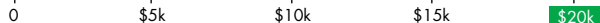
5,000



Donor ranking
 Total voluntary contribution in 2020 in USD
 Junior Professional Officer(s) funded by the donor



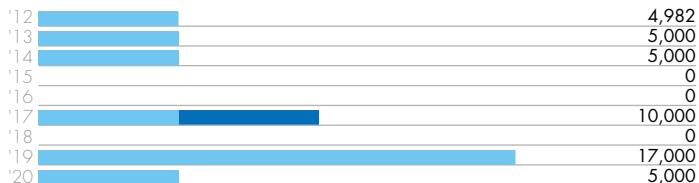
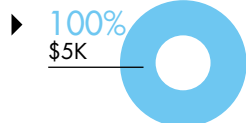
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS 2012-2020 (IN MILLIONS OF US\$)



SRI LANKA

75/79

5,000



VODAFONE GROUP

75/79

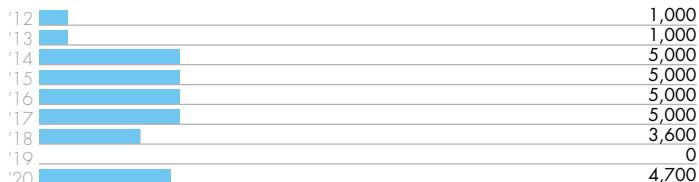
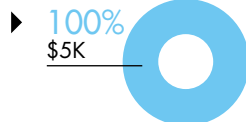
5,000



NICARAGUA

78/79

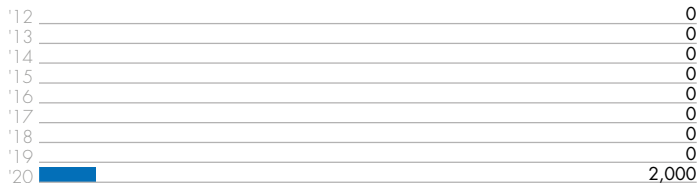
4,700



THE BAHAMAS

79/79

2,000



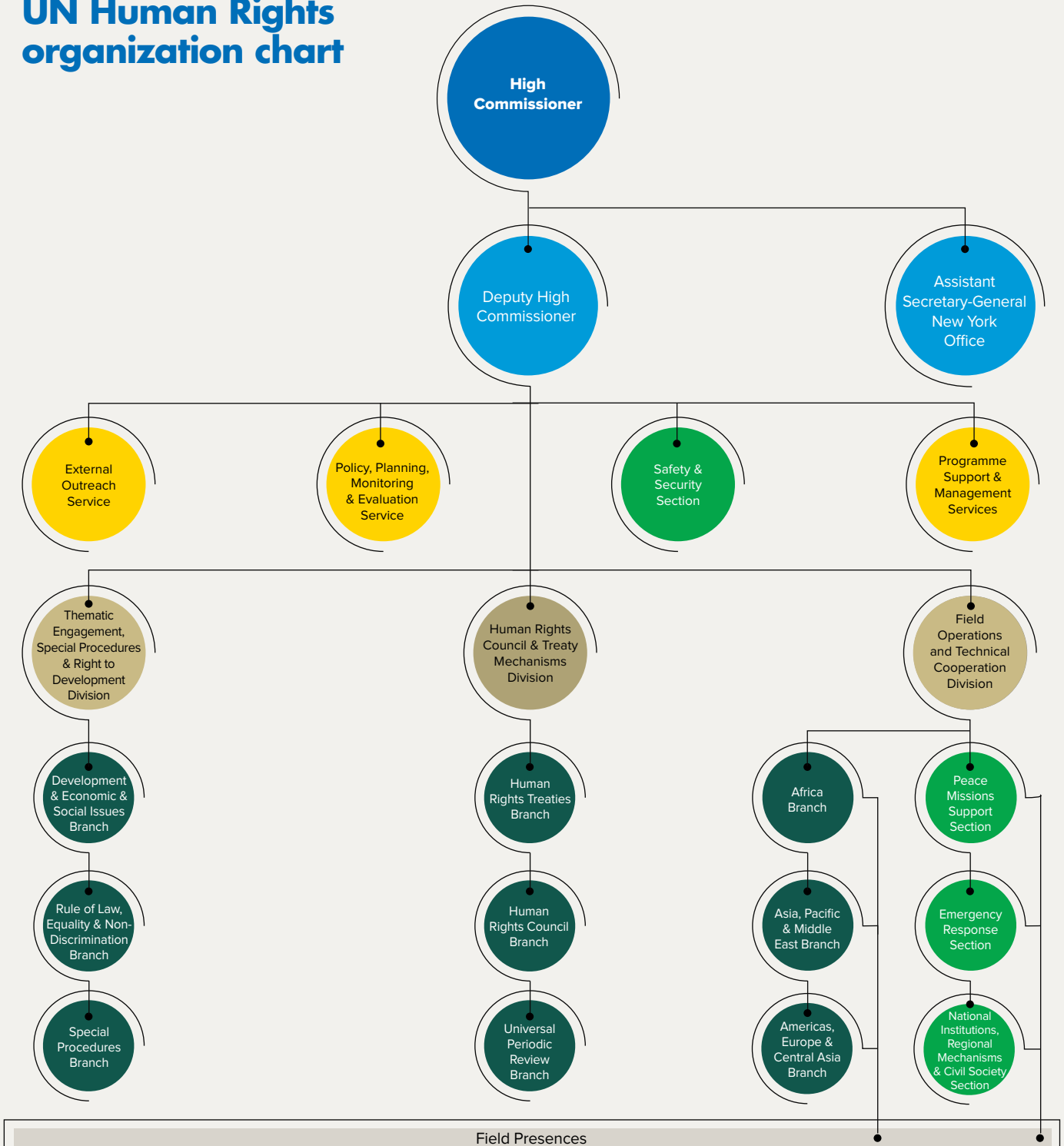




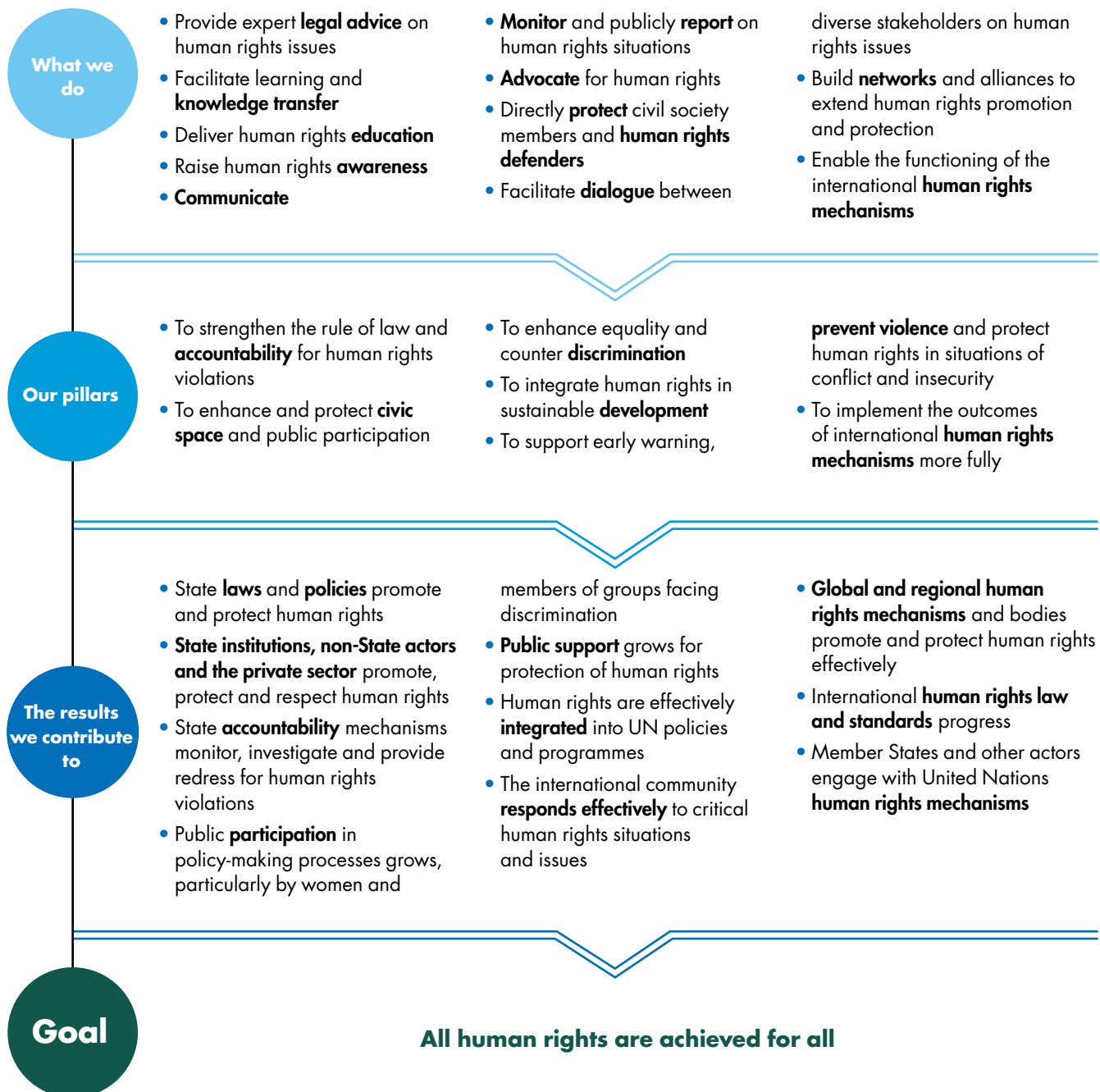
Annexes

In Ukraine, a UN Human Rights Officer speaks with a civilian from a village close to the contact line (Popasna, Luhansk region). The man recalled how he had lost his home to fires and shared how the pandemic affected his region. © Zhenya Pedin

UN Human Rights organization chart



UN Human Rights theory of change



Progress in 2020 towards OMP targets for 2018-2021

THE TYPE OF RESULTS THAT WE CONTRIBUTE TO	UN HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMME INDICATORS ¹	WHAT WE EXPECT TO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO BY 2021, IN COOPERATION WITH OUR PARTNERS	REPORTED PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT ²	PILLARS
State laws and policies promote and protect human rights.	# of countries of engagement ³ where the level of compliance of legislation/policy with international human rights standards in selected human rights areas has significantly improved.	In 63 countries*, laws and policies will have significantly increased the promotion and protection of human rights in selected human rights areas. ⁴	2020: 50 2019: 35 2018: 29	
	# of countries of engagement where NHRI have been established or have improved compliance with international standards (Paris Principles).	In 35 countries*, NHRIs will have been established or will have improved their compliance with international standards (the Paris Principles).	2020: 22 2019: 19 2018: 16	
State institutions, non-State actors and the private sector, promote, protect and respect human rights.	# of countries of engagement where the level of compliance of selected State institutions and programmes with international human rights standards has significantly improved.	In 54 countries*, State institutions, non-State actors or the private sector will have increased their contribution to the promotion and protection of and respect for human rights.	2020: 31 2019: 27 2018: 20	
	# of countries of engagement where human rights trainings have been institutionalized in one or more selected human rights areas.	In 15 countries*, human rights education and training programmes will have been institutionalized.	2020: 11 2019: 10 2018: 8	
	# of countries of engagement where the use of international human rights law in court proceedings and decisions has increased to a significant extent.	In 15 countries*, the use of international human rights law and jurisprudence will have increased in court proceedings and decisions.	2020: 4 2019: 6 2018: 5	

¹ The programme indicators are the same as in previous programming and reporting cycles.

² Full or partial achievement of results or good progress made in achieving results.







³ The use of * after 'countries' in the table indicates a reference to all countries in which the Office plans to undertake or implement activities towards a planned result. It is not limited to countries where UN Human Rights has a presence.

⁴ Due to potentially shifting priorities, these targets should not be understood as the baselines for upcoming programming cycles. Similarly, the achievements from the previous programming cycle cannot be understood as the baseline. Baselines have been provided for those targets that are cumulative, i.e., ratifications.





	# of countries of engagement where oversight, accountability or protection mechanisms have been established or have improved compliance with international human rights standards.	In 46 countries*, oversight, accountability or protection mechanisms will have been established or improved their compliance with international human rights standards.	2020: 36 2019: 28 2018: 19	
State accountability mechanisms monitor, investigate and redress human rights violations.	# of countries of engagement where transitional justice mechanisms, which conform to international human rights standards, have been established or improved their compliance with international human rights standards.	In 24 countries*, transitional justice mechanisms will have been established or improved their compliance with international human rights norms and standards.	2020: 11 2019: 9 2018: 5	
	# of countries of engagement where the number of human rights violation cases raised by UN Human Rights, which are positively addressed by governments, has significantly increased.	In 33 countries*, an increased number of cases of human rights violations raised by UN Human Rights will have been positively addressed.	2020: 15 2019: 17 2018: 15	
Public participation in policymaking processes grows, particularly by women and members of groups facing discrimination.	# of countries of engagement demonstrating significant improvement in the level of meaningful participation in selected public processes.	In 35 countries*, the level of meaningful participation by selected groups in public processes will have improved significantly.	2020: 24 2019: 29 2018: 20	
	# of countries of engagement where the level of use of national protection systems has increased significantly.	In 23 countries*, the use of national protection systems will have increased significantly.	2020: 12 2019: 15 2018: 14	
The international community responds effectively to critical human rights situations and issues.	# of countries of engagement where the international community has engaged in an objective and constructive way on specific issues raised by UN Human Rights.	In 13 countries*, the international community will have engaged objectively and constructively on specific issues raised by UN Human Rights.	2020: 15 2019: 8 2018: 6	









	<p># of countries of engagement with UN peace missions that have integrated international human rights standards and principles, as well as the recommendations of the UN human rights mechanisms, into their work to a significant extent.</p>	<p>16 UN peace and political missions will have integrated international human rights norms, standards and principles, as well as the recommendations of the UN human rights mechanisms, into their work.</p>	<p>2020: 6 2019: 14 2018: 10</p>	
<p>Human rights are effectively integrated into UN policies and programmes.</p>	<p># of countries of engagement with humanitarian operations that have integrated international human rights standards and principles, as well as the recommendations of the UN human rights mechanisms, into their work to a significant extent.</p>	<p>12 humanitarian operations will have integrated international human rights norms, standards and principles, as well as the recommendations of the UN human rights mechanisms, into their work.</p>	<p>2020: 7 2019: 5 2018: 6</p>	
	<p># of UNCTs where human rights norms, standards and principles, as well as the recommendations of the UN human rights mechanisms, have been integrated to a significant extent.</p>	<p>50 UNCTs will have satisfactorily integrated international human rights norms, standards and principles, as well as the recommendations of the UN human rights mechanisms, into their work.</p>	<p>2020: 38 2019: 42 2018: 30</p>	
	<p># of UN policies and programmes at the global level which integrate an HRBA to a significant extent.</p>	<p>25 UN policies and programmes at global level will have significantly integrated an HRBA.</p>	<p>2020: 37 UN policies have significantly integrated an HRBA. 2019: 22 UN policies 2018: 15 UN policies</p>	
<p>Widespread public support for protection of human rights.</p>	<p># of countries of engagement where the narrative on selected human rights topics has significantly improved.</p>	<p>In 23 countries*, the narrative on selected human rights topics will have improved significantly.</p>	<p>2020: 13 2019: 12 2018: 9</p>	
<p>Member States and other actors (such as regional organizations, NHRIs, civil society, UN entities) engage positively with the UN human rights mechanisms.</p>	<p># of countries of engagement where mechanisms for integrated reporting and/or implementation of outstanding recommendations of the treaty bodies, special procedures or Human Rights Council are in place or increasingly functioning.</p>	<p>In 68 countries*, mechanisms for integrated reporting or implementation of recommendations of the UN human rights mechanisms will have been put in place or have improved functioning.</p>	<p>2020: 31 2019: 41 2018: 22</p>	



Total number of international human rights treaties ratified.	100 additional ratifications of international human rights treaties. Baseline: 2,233	2020: 79 ratifications in 2018-20. 2019: 69 ratifications in 2018-19. 2018: 32 ratifications in 2018.	
Total number of reservations withdrawn from international human rights treaties.	10 reservations will have been withdrawn from international human rights treaties.	3 in 2019/2020 2 in 2020 1 in 2019 0 in 2018	
Percentage of countries that submit reports to the treaty bodies on time.	35% of countries will have submitted reports to the treaty bodies in a timely manner. Baseline: 32%	2020: 37% of reports submitted on time in 2020. 2019: 38% 2018: 38%	
Number of countries which have issued a standing invitation to the special procedures mandate holders.	125 countries will have issued a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders. Baseline: 118	2020: Standing invitation by 127 countries and one non-Member Observer State.	
Number of countries for which requests for visits of thematic special procedures have resulted in at least one visit.	In 63 countries, requests for visits of thematic special procedures will have resulted in a visit.	2020: 149 visits to 87 countries. 2019: 135 visits to 79 countries. 2018: 84 visits to 59 countries.	
Rate of responses from governments to special procedures communications.	60% of special procedures communications will have received a response from governments. Baseline: 57.6%	2020: 48% 2019: 45% 2018: 43%	
Percentage of reprisals raised by UN Human Rights, which are positively addressed by governments.	50% of the cases of reprisals against individuals for cooperation with the UN human rights mechanisms that are reported by UN Human Rights will have been addressed.	The 2020 report of the Secretary-General (A/HRC/45/36) included public allegations pertaining to 45 countries, including summaries of formal responses of more than half sent to UN Human Rights and the UN human rights mechanisms, on new and ongoing cases during the reporting period (1 June 2019 to 30 April 2020).	



	# of countries of engagement with a significant number of substantive submissions or submitting actors to the UN human rights mechanisms.	In 51 countries*, the number of submissions to UN human rights mechanisms will have increased significantly.	2020: 34 2019: 33 2018: 27	
	Total number of substantive submissions from NHRIs, civil society organizations, UN entities and individuals to the UN human rights mechanisms.	15,000 substantive submissions to the UN human rights mechanisms will have been received from NHRIs, civil society organizations, UN entities and individuals.	2020: 5,588 reports, 559 urgent actions and 12,384 submissions to communications. > 18,531 2019: 14,055 2018: 8,310	
International human rights laws and standards are elaborated.	Number of thematic areas where UN and/or regional human rights law or standards have been strengthened/developed.	In 12 areas, international/regional human rights law/standards will have been strengthened.	2020: 14 areas 2019: 9 areas 2018: 7 areas	
	Number of countries which submitted or updated common core documents.	85 countries will have submitted or updated their common core documents.	30 common core documents submitted in 2018-2020. 9 in 2019 12 in 2018	
UN and regional human rights mechanisms and bodies effectively promote and protect human rights.	Degree of progress made in improving the level of harmonization of the treaty bodies' work.	Harmonization of the treaty bodies' work will have improved significantly.	2020: Chairs of TBs established a WG to address procedural aspects of the impacts of COVID-19 on the work of TBs, including a predictable calendar, recommendations for online State Party reviews in 2021 and substantive aspects of COVID-19 and human rights.	
	Degree of coordination among the special procedures.	A high degree of coordination among the special procedures will have been achieved.	2020: 90% of communications were issued jointly by two or more mandate holders. 2019: 79% 2018: 80%	



Abbreviations and acronyms

ACHPR

African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

AGA

African Governance Architecture

AI

Artificial Intelligence

AIPP

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact

AMISOM

African Union Mission to Somalia

APCOF

African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum

APF

Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions

APSA

African Peace and Security Architecture

ASEAN

Association of Southeast Asian Nations

ASG

Assistant Secretary-General

AU

African Union

AU-WGDD

African Union Women, Gender and Development Directorate

BINUH

United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti

CARICOM

The Caribbean Community

CAT

Committee against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

CCA

Common Country Analysis

CEB

United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

CED

Committee on Enforced Disappearances

CEDAW

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

CERD

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

CERF

Central Emergency Response Fund

CESCR

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

CITAC

G5 Sahel Joint Force Civilian Casualty and Incidents Tracking and Analysis Cell

CIVIC

Center for Civilians in Conflict

CLT

Communal land titling

CMW

Committee on Migrant Workers

COHOM

EU Council Working Party on Human Rights

COI

Commission of inquiry

CRC

Committee on the Rights of the Child

Convention on the Rights of the Child

CRPD

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

CRSV

Conflict-related sexual violence

CSO

Civil society organization

CTD

Europe Office of the Centre for Democracy and Technology

DCO

Development Coordination Office

DEVCO

European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development

DFS

Department of Field Support

DOCO

Development Operations Coordination Office

DPA

Department of Political Affairs

DPO

Department of Peacekeeping Operations

DPPA

Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

DROI

European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights

ECA

Europe and Central Asia

ECLAC

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

ECOSOC

Economic and Social Council

ECOWAS

Economic Community of West African States

EDG

Emergency Directors Group

EEAS

European External Action Service

EMRIP

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

ENPAD

European Network of People of African Descent

EOSG

Executive Office of the Secretary-General

ERT

Emergency Response Team

ESCRs

Economic, social and cultural rights

EU European Union	HRPD Human Rights Protection Division	ICT Information and communication technology
FAO Food and Agriculture Organization	HRTG Human Rights Theme Group	ICTJ International Center for Transitional Justice
FBHR Forum on Business and Human Rights	HRS Human Rights Section	IDB Inter-American Development Bank
FCCC Framework Convention on Climate Change	HRuF Human Rights up Front Initiative	IDPs Internally displaced persons
FFM Fact-finding mission	IACHR Inter-American Commission on Human Rights	IED Improvised explosive devices
FGM Female genital mutilation	IAM Independent Accountability Mechanism	ILO International Labour Organization
FRA European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights	IASC Inter-Agency Standing Committee	IOM International Organization for Migration
GANHRI Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions	ICC International Criminal Court	IIM Independent investigative mechanism
GBV Gender-based violence	ICCPR International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	IMM Independent monitoring mechanism
GEE Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts	ICCPR-OP1 First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	IPU Inter-Parliamentary Union
GMG Global Migration Group	ICCPR-OP2 Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty	IT Information technology
GPC Global Protection Cluster	ICERD International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	JPO Junior Professional Officer
GTG Gender Theme Group	ICESCR International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	LDCs Least Developed Countries
HC Humanitarian Coordinator	ICGLR International Conference for the Great Lakes Region	LGBTI Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex persons
HCT Humanitarian Country Team	ICJ International Commission of Jurists	LNOB Leave/Leaving No One Behind
HRA Human rights adviser	ICPPED International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	MARA Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements
HRBA Human rights-based approach	ICRC International Committee of the Red Cross	MDB Multilateral development bank
HRC Human Rights Council	ICRMW International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	MPTF Multi-Partner Trust Fund
HRD Human rights defender		MENA Middle East and North Africa
HRDDP Human Rights Due Diligence Policy		MINUJUSTH United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti
HRMMU Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine		MINUSCA United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

MINUSMA

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

MONUSCO

United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

MOPAN

Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network

MoU

Memorandum of Understanding

MPTF

Multi-Partner Trust Fund

MRM

Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism

NGO

Non-governmental organization

NHRI

National human rights institution

NMRF

National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up

NPM

National Preventive Mechanism

NRTD

National Recommendations Tracking Database

OAS

Organization of American States

OCHA

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

OEAP

Organizational Effectiveness Action Plan

OECD

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

OHCHR

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

OIBC

Opportunity Issue-Based Coalition

OICT

Office of Information and Communications Technology

OIF

Organisation internationale de la Francophonie

OIOS

Office of Internal Oversight Services

OMP

OHCHR Management Plan

OP-CAT

Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

OP-CEDAW

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

OP-CRC-AC

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict

OP-CRC-IC

Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure

OP-CRC-SC

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

OPDs

Organizations of persons with disabilities

OP-ICESCR

Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

OSAPG

United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide

OSWPA

Office of the Senior Women's Protection Adviser

OVRA

Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate

PAPEV

Support Project for the Protection of Child Victims of Rights Violations

PBF

United Nations Peacebuilding Fund

PBSO

United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office

PCCMHS

Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security

PFII

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

PGLE

World Economic Forum Partnership for Global LGBTI Equality

PICTs

Pacific Island Countries and Territories

PMS

Performance Monitoring System

PSEA

Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

PSMC

Private Security and Military Company

RBM

Results-based management

RC

Resident Coordinator

RCO

Resident Coordinator's Office

REC

Regional Economic Community

RMR

Regional Monthly Review

SADC

Southern African Development Community

SDGs

Sustainable Development Goals

SEIA

Socio-Economic Impact Assessment

SEM

Sustainable environmental management

SERP

Socio-Economic Response Plan

SGBV

Sexual and gender-based violence

SIDS

Small Island Developing States

SMT

Senior Management Team

SOPs

Standard operating procedures

SPT

Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

SRA

Strategic Result Area

SRHR

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

SRS

Special Representative of the Secretary-General

SWAP

United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

TOE

United Nations Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict

UDHR

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

UHRI

Universal Human Rights Index

UNAOC

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

UNAMA

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

UNAMI

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

UNAMID

African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

UNBT

United Nations Brussels Team

UNCT

United Nations Country Team

UNDAF

United Nations Development Assistance Framework

UNDESA

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

UNDIS

United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy

UNDP

United Nations Development Programme

UNECA

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

UNEP

United Nations Environment Programme

UNESCO

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNFPA

United Nations Population Fund

UNGPs

United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNIC

United Nations Information Centre

UNICEF

United Nations Children's Fund

UNIOGBIS

United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau

UNIPP

United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Partnership

UNITAMS

United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan

UNITAR

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

UNJHRO

United Nations Joint Human Rights Office

UNMIK

United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

UNMIL

United Nations Mission in Liberia

UNMISS

United Nations Mission in South Sudan

UNMSDF

United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework

UNOCC

United Nations Operations and Crisis Centre

UNOCI

United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNOG

United Nations Office at Geneva

UNOWAS

United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel

UNPRPD

United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

UNSDCF

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

UNSDG

United Nations Sustainable Development Group

UNSDG-HRM

United Nations Sustainable Development Group Human Rights Mainstreaming

UNSMIL

United Nations Support Mission in Libya

UNSOM

United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia

UPR

Universal Periodic Review

UNV

United Nations Volunteers

UNVFVT

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

UNVTFCS

United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

VFTC

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights

VNR

Voluntary National Review

WGAD

Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

WGEID

Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

WGEPAD

Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent

WHO

World Health Organization

WHRDs

Women human rights defenders

Online Content



UN Human Rights in the field



UN Human Rights staff in Mexico at the 2nd meeting with the monitoring and verification commissions of the Mayan Train project, in November 2020, in Palenque, Chiapas. © OHCHR

Introduction

The deployment of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in countries and regions through its field presences is central to implementing the High Commissioner's global mandate, outlined in General Assembly resolution 48/141, to promote and protect the enjoyment and full realization, by all people, of all human rights, everywhere. The impartial work of field presences is critical to supporting the High Commissioner's independent, objective voice in her dialogue and advocacy on human rights with all counterparts.

UN Human Rights' field engagement is based on interaction, dialogue and technical cooperation with a wide range of actors, including governments, national institutions, civil society (such as community and religious groups and the private sector), non-State actors (armed groups and de facto authorities), United Nations entities, international military coalitions, regional and subregional organizations, victims of human rights violations and abuses and other affected persons and communities. As impartial interlocutors, the Office's field presences serve as conveners and foster dialogue among different stakeholders.

OHCHR field presences also contribute to broader United Nations efforts on human rights, peace and security and development (the three United Nations pillars), including through the integration of human rights across and within all pillars and by providing assistance in relation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights. Moreover, OHCHR's engagement in the field ensures the application of a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to UN country programming and advocacy.

UN Human Rights operates through two main categories of field presences, namely, offices and collaborative arrangements. The first category is composed of country, stand-alone and regional offices. The second category consists of human rights components of peace or political missions and human rights advisers (HRAs) in UN Resident Coordinator's Offices (RCOs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs).

As of 31 December, OHCHR was operating in **92** field presences globally, consisting of **18** country offices, **12** regional offices, **43** HRAs and human rights mainstreaming projects, **12** human rights components in UN peace operations and **7** other types of field presences. The United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) completed its Security Council mandate on 31 December and closed the Office.

TYPES OF FIELD PRESENCES



Country and stand-alone offices

UN Human Rights country and stand-alone offices are established based on an agreement between the host State and the High Commissioner. A mandate typically includes human rights monitoring and analysis, protection, interaction with and the provision of technical assistance to the host government, national authorities, civil society, victims and other relevant counterparts through targeted technical cooperation activities, capacity-building and public reporting. These offices are primarily funded through voluntary contributions.

OHCHR's 18 country or stand-alone offices includes 16 country offices in Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Liberia, Mauritania, Mexico, Niger, the State of Palestine¹¹, the Syrian Arab Republic (based in Beirut), Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda and Yemen; one field-based structure in Seoul that covers the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK); and the Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU).

¹¹ All references to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.



Regional offices and centres

Regional offices cover multiple countries and are instrumental in integrating human rights into the broader development, peacebuilding and humanitarian programming of the United Nations and Member States.

UN Human Rights maintains 12 regional presences, which includes 10 regional offices, one Sub-Regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (Yaoundé) and one Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha). The regional offices are based in East Africa (Addis Ababa), Southern Africa (Pretoria), West Africa (Dakar) South-East Asia (Bangkok), the Pacific (Suva), the Middle East and North Africa (Beirut), Central Asia (Bishkek), Europe (Brussels), Central America (Panama City) and South America (Santiago de Chile). Regional offices are funded by the UN regular budget and voluntary contributions.

Regional offices focus on cross-cutting regional human rights issues, in close cooperation with UNCTs in the region, regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and civil society. In addition, they play an important role in supporting governments in their engagement with the international human rights mechanisms, specifically the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

UN Human Rights strengthened its regional offices, including by establishing early warning/emergency response teams in the Regional Offices for Southern Africa

in 2017, South-East Asia in 2018 and West Africa in 2019 and integrating expertise, for example on migration, in Southeast Asia. The Office's efforts to strengthen its regional presence are consistent with the Secretary-General's plans to increase the UN's engagement at the regional level and reinforce cooperation with regional organizations. In 2021, OHCHR plans to expand its early warning/emergency response teams in three additional regional offices and centres, namely, the Regional Office for East Africa, the Regional Office for Central America and the Regional Office for South America.



Human rights components of United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions

The promotion and protection of human rights are a core mandate and function of UN peace operations (peacekeeping operations and special political missions). UN Human Rights facilitates the political, strategic and operational integration of human rights into the United Nations peace and security agenda and supports the implementation of Security Council mandates for UN peace operations.

The integration of human rights into peace operations is governed by a 2005 decision of the Secretary-General and the 2011 OHCHR/DPKO/DPA/DFS Policy on Human Rights in United Nations Peace Operations and Political Missions. The latter recognizes the centrality of human rights in integrated and multidimensional missions, outlines the roles and responsibilities of mission leadership and human

rights and other components in promoting and protecting human rights and assigns backstopping responsibilities to OHCHR.

In 2020, human rights components were integrated into 12 UN peacekeeping operations and special political missions mandated by the Security Council in order to promote and protect human rights in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iraq, Kosovo¹², Libya, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan (Darfur). The Head of the human rights component serves as the representative of the High Commissioner, with reporting lines to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Head of Mission and the High Commissioner. As noted above, the Security Council mandate for UNIOGBIS ended on 31 December and the mission closed.

Human rights components in peace operations document, prevent and follow up on violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law through monitoring and investigations by undertaking early warning analysis for the protection of civilians, engaging with duty-bearers and reporting publicly. In addition to monitoring and reporting, human rights components conduct a wide range of activities, including building the capacity of civil society, NHRIs and national institutions, advocating for accountability, supporting transitional justice programmes, training military, police and law enforcement officials, advocating for legislative and rule of law

reforms and supporting the implementation of peace agreements and the UN's Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) by peace operations.



Human Rights Advisers in UN Country Teams

HRAs are deployed at the request of Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UNCTs under the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG).

HRAs are essential catalysts of human rights mainstreaming. They support and assist the RCs, Heads of UN agencies and members of UNCTs to integrate human rights into UN programmes and activities at the country level and ensure coordinated UN responses to requests for technical cooperation and advisory services from State institutions.

HRAs also provide human rights expertise in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which situates human rights at the core of the UN's development efforts. They play a critical early warning and prevention role as part of the UNCTs and, when applicable, provide advice on integrating human rights into humanitarian responses and post-crisis recovery processes.

In addition, HRAs provide support to State actors and technical advice and capacity-building to NHRIs. They build networks with and provide practical support to civil society in the promotion and protection of human rights, including with regard to follow-up on engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

HRAs are funded through extrabudgetary contributions. In some instances, the posts are funded through cost-sharing agreements with UNDP or relevant UNCTs or with other UN entities at the country level. Since 2012, all deployments have been aligned with the UNSDG Strategy for the Deployment of HRAs. In addition, the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF), established to support the deployment of human rights expertise to RCOs and UNCTs, has been critical in ensuring the sustainability of this effort.

Requests for and the number of HRAs have steadily increased, including in relation to reform of the UN Development System and interest in supporting follow-up to the recommendations issued by the UPR. Support has also been requested with regard to the national-level implementation of the SDGs, Common Country Analysis (CCA) and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).

As of the end of 2020, the Office had deployed HRAs and/or undertaken human rights mainstreaming projects in 43 countries, supporting RCs and UNCTs through the enhanced integration of human rights into their programmes. The countries include Argentina, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bosnia Herzegovina, Brazil, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia/South Caucasus, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, the Republic of North Macedonia, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Zimbabwe. The consolidation of support

¹² All references to Kosovo should be understood in compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

to RCs and UNCTs is occurring at a critical juncture when the new CCAs, UNSDCFs and the Management Accountability Framework of the UN Development System and the RC system are being implemented.

ENGAGEMENT IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

In the face of the crises that unfolded in 2020, including COVID-19, UN Human Rights increased its engagement in humanitarian action at the global and field levels, strengthening efforts to prevent and respond to human rights violations and supporting efforts to ensure greater respect for international human rights and humanitarian law.

Early in the pandemic outbreak, the Office enhanced its participation in the different forums of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), including the Emergency Directors Group (EDG), the Operational Policy and Advocacy Group and its Results Groups and the Crisis Management Team for COVID-19. Furthermore, OHCHR participated in the Global Protection Cluster (GPC) and its task teams, raising awareness and integrating human rights concerns into policy guidance, the global humanitarian response plan and national responses to ensure that populations at risk of being left behind were placed at the centre of these efforts.

With WHO, the Office co-led the drafting of the IASC Interim Guidance on COVID-19: Focus on people deprived of their liberty, which was one of the first tools released to support field responses and advocacy with State authorities. To ensure the inclusion of protection risk analysis and protection principles, OHCHR also

contributed to the following IASC guidance: the gendered impact of COVID-19; public health and social measures in low capacity and humanitarian settings; persons with disabilities; key protection advocacy messages-COVID-19; key messages on climate change, humanitarian action and COVID-19; and preparedness in relation to COVID-19. The High Commissioner issued a letter and an aide-memoire to promote and support NHRI's engagement in response to COVID-19. OHCHR engaged with the Secretary-General's initiatives to ensure a disability-inclusive approach to the COVID-19 humanitarian response by, for instance, supporting human rights mainstreaming into the work of the COVID-19 task force that was established by the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy Secretariat.

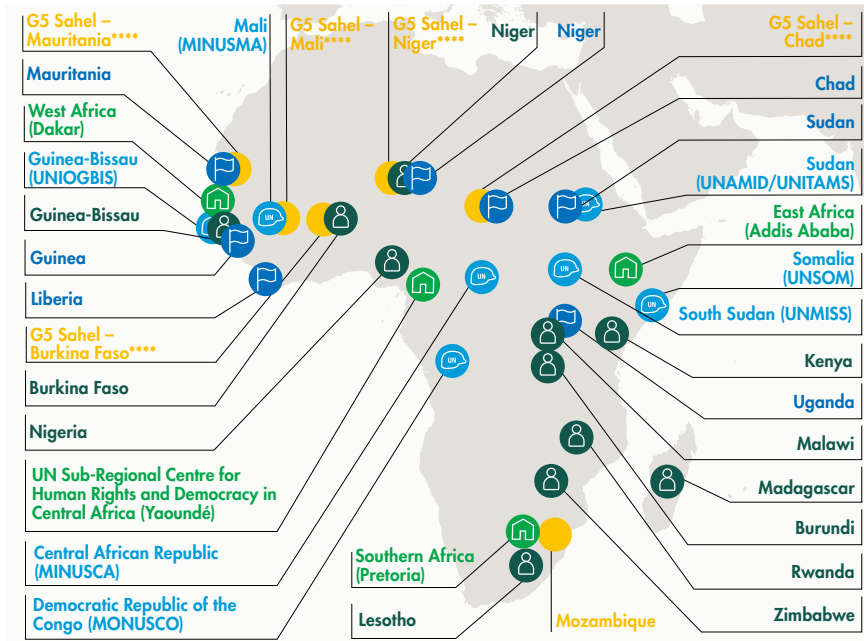
Furthermore, the Office played a significant role in inter-agency processes, including in the preparatory work for the review of the 2016 Inter-Agency Standing Committee Protection Policy; the development of a light guidance on collective outcomes across the humanitarian, development and peace pillars; the preparation of IASC key messages on food security; and the drafting of a companion piece on the triple nexus, which is part of the UNSDCF package for Resident Coordinators. As part of the GPC Strategic Advisory Group, OHCHR participated in the development of the GPC Strategic Framework 2020-2024, the GPC Advocacy Strategy and the GPC Operational Footprint.

At the country level, the Office assisted UNCTs and Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs) with integrating human rights protection into national and regional emergency preparedness and

response mechanisms. OHCHR integrated human rights into humanitarian action in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, CAR, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, the DRC, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Pacific Island Countries, Somalia, South Sudan, the State of Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela and Yemen. The Office continued to lead the Protection Cluster in the State of Palestine, co-led the Protection Cluster in Guatemala and advised the humanitarian leadership of the Syria response, undertaking remote monitoring and analysis on a range of key human rights themes and sending regular updates and infographics to UNCTs and HCTs.

OHCHR also participated in the response to Hurricane Eta and Hurricane Iota in Honduras, supporting the NHRI's engagement and ensuring that the human rights of vulnerable populations were prioritized. Through the deployment of surge capacity, the Office supported the inter-agency preparedness and response to the post-election situation in Côte d'Ivoire and the inter-agency response to the conflict in the Tigray region in Ethiopia. Moreover, OHCHR contributed to the Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework for Lebanon. The Framework was developed by the World Bank, the UN and the European Union, in cooperation with the Government and CSOs, as part of the comprehensive response to the explosion in the Port of Beirut in August.

UN Human Rights in Africa



TYPE OF PRESENCE

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

LOCATION

Chad, Guinea, Liberia, Mauritania, Niger, Sudan and Uganda
Central Africa (Yaoundé, Cameroon), East Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia), Southern Africa (Pretoria, South Africa) and West Africa (Dakar, Senegal)
Central African Republic (MINUSCA), Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO/UNJHRO), Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) ¹ , Mali (MINUSMA), Somalia (UNSOM), South Sudan (UNMISS) and Sudan (UNAMID/UNITAMS) ²
Burkina Faso*, Burundi, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar*, Malawi*, Niger, Nigeria*, Rwanda and Zimbabwe*
G5 Sahel Joint Force Compliance Framework Project ³ , Mozambique

* Human Rights Advisers deployed under the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group.
¹ The UN Integrated Peacekeeping Office in Guinea-Bissau completed its Security Council mandate on 31 December 2020.
² The Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2559 on 22 December 2020, which ended the mandate of UNAMID on 31 December 2020. Security Council resolution 2524, of 3 June 2020, established the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) with a strong human rights and civilian protection mandate. OHCHR has been taking steps to ensure the full implementation of the human rights mandate under Security Council resolution 2524 and under the Host Country Agreement. This will require the integration of the OHCHR Country Office within UNITAMS in 2021, in accordance with the OHCHR/DPKO/DPA/DFS Policy on Human Rights in UN Peace Operations and Political Missions of 2011.
³ Further to Security Council resolution 2391 (December 2017), OHCHR supported the G5 Sahel Joint Force with the establishment of a Compliance Framework to ensure that military operations to combat terrorism in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger comply with international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

LEGEND:

Spotlights:

- Disabilities
- Youth
- Women

Shifts:

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

SDGs:



In 2020, UN Human Rights increased its footprint in Africa, including through the establishment of fully mandated country offices in Niger and Sudan. Agreements were also concluded for the deployment of human rights advisers (HRAs) in Burundi, Guinea-Bissau and Lesotho. The OHCHR Africa programme covers 49 countries of Sub-Saharan Africa and consists of 26 field presences, including four regional offices in Central Africa, East Africa, Southern Africa and West Africa; seven country offices in Chad, Guinea, Liberia, Mauritania, Niger, Sudan and Uganda; 10 HRAs in the UN Country Teams (UNCTs) in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda and Zimbabwe; and seven human rights presences in UN peace missions in the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan (Darfur).

In Geneva, the Office provides support to five special procedures country mandates, namely, Somalia (1993), Sudan (1993)¹³, Eritrea (2012), Mali (2013) and CAR (2013) and to the work of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi (2016), the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan (2016) and the Team of International Experts on the situation in Kasai (2017).

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic posed a significant challenge for already fragile governance systems and economies in Africa. It had devastating effects on the region's economy and industrialization efforts. The resulting acute food insecurity and negative impacts on economic

and social rights triggered a severe economic contraction, risking a reversal of the progress made in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While governments generally responded effectively to the pandemic by implementing health measures, curfews and other restrictions, such measures were at times disproportionately used to restrict human rights. In some countries, this included arbitrary arrests and detentions, excessive use of force by law enforcement and military personnel, restrictions on freedom of expression, resulting in a shrinking civic space and an increased prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence. The pandemic also made it clear that when maximum available resources are not directed to progressively realize economic and social rights during periods of economic growth, conditions are created for increased poverty and inequality and retrogression in the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs) and the achievement of the SDGs.

In this context, OHCHR shifted the focus of its work to addressing the human rights impacts of the pandemic and supporting government responses. The Office worked with UNCTs, Member States, the African Union (AU) and its organs and with national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and CSOs to monitor the impacts of COVID-19 and government measures on human rights and to subsequently raise awareness. The information gathered by the Office was used to inform policy documents and guidelines for UNCTs and governments, ensure the integration of a human rights-based approach (HRBA) and a gender perspective into COVID-19 responses in Africa, including Socio-Economic Response Plans (SERPs).

In the East and Horn of Africa, ethnic violence and extreme poverty were major challenges in 2020. The region was affected by several separate and interrelated conflicts. Ethiopia experienced a new conflict in the Tigray region, with serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law committed by all sides, that spilled over to neighbouring countries. The conflicts in Ethiopia and Somalia resulted in thousands of people being displaced and refugees fleeing into neighbouring countries, with significant humanitarian and protection needs. Civic space and media freedoms were curtailed, with reports of arbitrary arrests and threats against human rights defenders (HRDs), political opponents, journalists and social media activists, in particular in the context of elections in Tanzania and Uganda.

In Southern Africa, which recorded over half of the number of cases of COVID-19 in Sub-Saharan Africa, pandemic-related restrictions had an acute impact on people's livelihoods. High rates of unemployment and limited social protection schemes affecting millions of people led to social unrest and protests. Drought, flash floods and cyclones increased food insecurity and the loss of livelihoods, especially in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

In Central Africa and the Lake Chad Basin, attacks by Boko Haram and other Islamic insurgents increased, resulting in insecurity for civilians and the displacement of thousands of people, with women and girls facing a heightened risk of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). General insecurity was at times compounded by excessive counter-terrorism responses. Climate change also adversely affected livelihoods, resulting in forced displacement and intensified conflicts between farmers and

¹³ The mandate of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan ended on 6 October 2020, in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 45/25.

herders, exacerbating existing fragilities and underlying conflict triggers. Political developments were influenced by elections in 2020 and those planned for 2021 and electoral preparations and funding that were impacted by COVID-19. This led to increased political tensions in several countries. In Cameroon, continued violence in the North-West and South-West regions led to increased human rights violations against civilians and forced displacement and hampered humanitarian access.

West Africa and the Sahel region continued to face several challenges, including terrorism, organized crime, climate change, extreme poverty and weakened State institutions. Terrorist activities became increasingly intertwined with intercommunity conflicts and clashes between farmers and herders, resulting in heightened insecurity and violence and compounding an acute humanitarian crisis in large parts of the region. Systematic attacks by violent Islamic extremists on civilian and military targets in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Nigeria posed serious threats to peace and security. In Nigeria, ongoing attacks by armed groups and criminal elements as well as farmer-herder clashes contributed to a degrading security environment in the country. The region faced complex challenges, including the holding of peaceful, transparent and credible elections, which were impacted by COVID-19 and fuelled political tensions. Excessive use of force by security forces in the region, which led to the #EndSARS protests in Nigeria and an overall climate of impunity, negatively impacted on respect for human rights and the rule of law.

UN Human Rights and the European Union developed a project to reinforce respect for the protection of human

rights by internal security forces in Chad, Mauritania and Niger, including by strengthening the capacity of NHRIs and CSOs to monitor and report on violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. The Office continued to provide technical assistance to the G5 Sahel Joint Force on the development of rules and regulations that are compliant with international human rights law and international humanitarian law and regarding the integration of human rights and protection of civilians into the planning and conduct of operations. This included capacity-building with a focus on human rights, humanitarian and refugee law, sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in situations of conflict.

The Office supported accountability mechanisms in Africa, including by providing assistance to the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan and the Team of International Experts on the situation in Kasai. OHCHR offered support to the AU-UN joint assessment missions in situations of crisis and to the deployment of surge capacity teams in the context of electoral violence in Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, Uganda and the conflict in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. The Regional Office in Southern Africa continued to work with its national counterparts in Mozambique by strengthening institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular in relation to accountability and the rule of law, and by responding to protection concerns in the northern part of the country.

Moreover, OHCHR engaged with regional economic communities and subregional organizations to strengthen their capacities in the area of human rights, such as the AU and its organs, the

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR). On 9 December 2019, the joint AU-UN Framework on Human Rights concluded at the technical level and, in February 2020, it received leadership-level approval. The Framework is expected to be signed by UN and AU Principals in 2021. OHCHR also supported regional organizations, particularly the AU, with the elaboration of laws and policies in the context of emerging human rights concerns, including on climate change, digital technology, inequalities, corruption and people on the move. In addition, the Office supported the AU in mainstreaming human rights into its early warning system, strengthened the capacities of civil society and NHRIs and helped to advance the agendas related to women, peace and security and youth.

UN Human Rights initiated the operationalization of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which was concluded with the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and the ICGLR. The Office supported the implementation of the UN Strategic Framework for the Great Lakes Region. OHCHR is the co-leader of Pillar 6 on justice and conflict prevention. OHCHR engaged with the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region and the ICGLR to strengthen the capacities of NHRIs, HRDs and CSOs in preventing and resolving conflicts and addressing political and electoral crises. In the context of implementing the Support Project for the Protection of Child Victims of Rights Violations (PAPEV), the Regional Office in West Africa collaborated with ECOWAS, through its Gender Development Centre, to encourage the

Governments of the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger and Senegal to include in their COVID-19 response plans the reintegration of children in street situations with their families, as these children constitute an important segment of the population that is frequently left behind.

OHCHR field presences supported the operationalization of transitional justice initiatives, in particular in the context of peace missions in CAR, the DRC and South Sudan. The Office also supported law reform, good governance and transitional justice, including by contributing to the UN strategic notes on the political transition in Mali and Sudan, and by supporting the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia.

Focusing on ESCRs and the right to development, the Office supported a landmark class action lawsuit, in Kenya, on the right to a healthy environment. In July, the Environment and Land Court ruled in favour of the 3,000 residents of the Owino Uhuru informal settlement, awarding them US\$13 million in compensation for the impacts on their health and environment caused by lead poisoning from an adjacent smelter. With regard to the PAPEV project, the Office provided support to 3,310 children in the context of COVID-19 in the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali and Senegal and supported authorities who are responsible for child protection to evaluate their national child protection strategies.

UN Human Rights supported governments, CSOs and other actors to effectively engage with the international human rights mechanisms, integrate human rights into their implementation of the SDGs and link the principle of prevention with the human rights framework

in order to guide UN responses in relation to civil unrest, political protests and other conflict triggers. The Emergency Response Team (ERT) in the Regional Office for Southern Africa strengthened the early warning and prevention agenda and operationalization of the regional Human Rights up Front (HRuF) Initiative by supporting the Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UNCTs on human rights risk analysis. This included the establishment of an integrated human rights monitoring and analysis platform in Malawi.

Finally, the Office advocated with partners to increase their awareness about the shrinking civic space in the region and the situation of HRDs. OHCHR strengthened the capacities of NHRIs and CSOs to monitor and analyse human rights violations in this context and assisted the ACHPR with developing a policy on reprisals.

BURKINA FASO

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
20.90 million	273,000 km ²	0.452 (rank: 182/189 in 2019) -	
Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser		
Year established	2020		
Field office(s)	Ouagadougou		
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2020		
Staff as of 31 December 2020	2		

XB requirements 2020**US\$364,000****Key OMP pillars in 2020**

Data sources and notes:

¹ UN (2020), *Statistical Yearbook 2020: Sixty-Third Issue*, UN, New York.² UNDP (2020), Human Development Report 2020, *The next frontier: Human development and the Anthropocene*.³ Sub-Committee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), *Chart of the Status of National Institutions*. Accessed 20 January 2021.**PILLAR RESULTS:****Peace and Security**

PS3 – Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection.

16

By providing advice to the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), OHCHR supported the integration of human rights into UN programmes.

The HCT adopted a Protection Strategy and a corresponding Plan of Action with strong human rights foundations. To contribute to this result, the HRA provided normative guidance, robust analysis based on data and advice on the application of an HRBA to protection.

PS6 – Support provided by the United Nations to national and regional security forces, law enforcement agencies and non-State actors integrates human rights and complies with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP).



Through advocacy and technical support, OHCHR aimed to establish an HRDDP Task Force in the UNCT to ensure the consistent application of the policy to all UN activities across the country.

The HRA facilitated training sessions on the policy with 11 Heads of agencies and led the process of developing the terms of reference for the Task Force. While the UNCT has not yet formally established the Task Force, selected projects were analysed in light of the policy.

**Participation**

P2 – The UN system and international, regional and national mechanisms provide increased, timely and effective protection to CSOs and individuals, including from reprisals.



OHCHR supported CSOs to increase their participation in public processes related to their areas of concern.

As part of the overall UN effort, UN Human Rights contributed to supporting civil society platforms to monitor the presidential and legislative elections that took place in November. In addition, a number of special procedures mandate holders raised concerns with the Government regarding the human rights implications of legislation that was adopted in 2019, which amended the Penal Code to criminalize the publication of information that could be perceived as damaging to the Government's efforts to fight terrorism. It is believed that this legislation threatens the work of HRDs and potentially restricts freedom of information and the freedom of the press.

BURUNDI

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
11.89 million	28,000 km ²	0.433 (rank: 185/189 in 2019)	"B" Status (2017)
Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser		
Year established	2020		
Field office(s)	Bujumbura		
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2019-2023		
Staff as of 31 December 2020	1		

XB requirements 2020**US\$1,560,000****Key OMP pillars in 2020**^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.229**PILLAR RESULTS:****Accountability**

A1 – The justice system and the judicial administration establish and apply laws, policies and practices that effectively address human rights violations, protect victims and others at risk and ensure that human rights complaints are investigated.

16

OHCHR contributed to the establishment and functioning of accountability and protection mechanisms that conform to international human rights standards by supporting mobile courts.

With technical support from UN Human Rights, the Independent National Human Rights Commission (INHRC) and the judicial administration of Burundi held seven mobile courts within the jurisdictions of Ngozi (north), Muyinga (north-east), Ruyigi (east), Rumonge (south-east) and Bururi (south). In addition to expediting 206 case files and

processing the trials, the mobile courts ordered the release of four teachers from Kagamba, in Cankuzo Province, who had been arbitrarily detained. In addition, from 25 to 27 November, OHCHR and the INHRC co-organized a national consultation workshop for representatives of the INHRC, government departments, CSOs and other stakeholders on the establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) under the OP-CAT. Burundi ratified the OP-CAT in 2013, yet it failed to establish an NPM within the required timeframe. The consultation workshop recommended the designation of the INHRC to host the NPM and the establishment of an ad hoc committee to draft the relevant governing provisions, which were submitted to the Government and the Parliament for consideration and adoption. The Government endorsed the recommendation and set in motion the process for the effective establishment of the NPM.

Peace and Security

PS3 – A range of international actors and constituencies are mobilized to prevent conflict in Burundi. Their interventions take into account the specific needs of women, individuals at risk and marginalized groups.

16

OHCHR contributed to the increased protection of women, individuals at risk and marginalized groups from human rights violations by participating in mechanisms that were put in place in cooperation with other stakeholders.

UN Human Rights continued to participate, primarily through videoconference, in informal discussions of the Early Warning Group that it established in 2017. The discussions were held to enhance collaboration between the diplomatic community and international organizations with a human rights mandate on issues related to human rights protection in Burundi. In 2020, the Group discussed a number of emblematic cases of human rights violations, which were addressed through advocacy with competent authorities, whenever possible. The engagement of the Group resulted in the release of four journalists from the Iwacu Media House, who had been sentenced, in January, to two and a half years in prison for attempting to threaten the internal security of the State. The ruling was widely regarded by the human rights community as politically motivated and in violation of the right to a fair trial.

Participation

P1 – A national mechanism is created to protect the rights of CSOs and individuals, supported by a clear legal framework that complies with international human rights standards.



By facilitating training workshops, OHCHR sought to contribute to the functioning of protection mechanisms for civil society actors.

From 10 to 12 March, UN Human Rights organized a workshop for young girls and women from the Association for Progressive African Youth, which brought together 40 participants from Burundi's 18 provinces. The workshop addressed issues such as protecting human rights in the context of elections, gender stereotypes and their consequences and the impact of women and girls' participation in the democratic process. The workshop contributed to raising the awareness of attendees about their right to participate in the management of public affairs and equipping them with the skills to do so.

CENTRAL AFRICA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Burundi, Cameroon, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tomé and Príncipe
Year established	2001
Field office(s)	Yaoundé, Cameroon
Staff as of 31 December 2020	15

XB income	US\$1,045,126		
XB requirements 2020	US\$1,076,000		
XB expenditure	US\$281,408		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴	
53%	36%	11%	
\$149,099	\$100,016	\$32,294	
RB expenditure	US\$1,448,240		
Personnel	Non-personnel		
73%	27%		
\$1,050,643	\$397,597		

Key OMP pillars in 2020



Data sources and notes:

⁴ OHCHR, as part of the UN Secretariat, charges 13 per cent of Programme Support Cost (PSC) on all direct costs, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/217 of December 1980. For activities implemented jointly with other UN partners, however, the related indirect PSC is reduced to seven per cent. This explains a lower PSC percentage average.

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

A2 – Protection mechanisms are in place and strengthened to ensure effective follow-up on human rights violations, including seeking redress on behalf of victims, in Cameroon and the Republic of the Congo.



OHCHR contributed to the functioning of national protection mechanisms in

increased conformity with international standards, including by providing technical support.

From 22 to 23 July, the ICGLR Secretariat, UN Human Rights and the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions co-organized a virtual workshop for NHRIs and other stakeholders of the Great Lakes region aimed at discussing and defining strategies to support the strengthening and effectiveness of NHRIs. A total of 43 participants

(17 women, 26 men) attended from ICGLR countries in which the NHRIs have not yet been accredited by GANHRI with “A” status, namely, Angola, Burundi, CAR and the Republic of Congo, as well as member countries of the Economic Community of Central African States, namely, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tomé and Príncipe. NHRIs from the DRC and Rwanda, which have been accredited with “A” status, were invited to share their experiences and good practices. Among other objectives, the workshop advocated for the creation of a platform through which NHRIs from the region can share their experiences and good practices and discuss how to strengthen their institutional and operational capacities with a view to becoming fully compliant with the Paris Principles. The workshop also enabled participants to draft road maps for the enhancement of their respective country’s NHRI.

In November, the OHCHR Regional Office held a high-level consultation with the Parliament of Gabon on the Paris Principles and good practices that have been implemented by independent and effective NHRIs in the region. This activity was instrumental in encouraging the strengthening of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). The 50 participating senators and the plenary of the National Assembly committed to the adoption of a draft law that would enhance the NHRC’s capacity and urged the Government to expedite the reform process. OHCHR will follow up with the Government to facilitate the submission of the draft law to the Parliament for consideration during the second quarter of 2021.



Peace and Security

PS3 – Regional bodies and national security authorities use information on conflict triggers and the impact of conflict on human rights to implement effective protection measures.

16

Either directly or by supporting targeted efforts of the international community, OHCHR increasingly advocated with relevant governments in the subregion regarding specific human rights issues.

UN Human Rights regularly engaged with UN entities and other actors to contribute to a number of prevention activities. In January, the Office participated in meetings of the Protection Cluster in Cameroon, during which human rights concerns were raised and strategies to address those concerns were discussed, leading to the development of an action plan. In addition, OHCHR participated in UN meetings related to the human rights impacts of COVID-19 in Cameroon, thereby contributing to the development of a communication and outreach strategy to inform local communities on preventive measures to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. In this context, OHCHR met with authorities and other stakeholders in the country to discuss actions being taken in detention facilities to prevent the spread of the virus. Following OHCHR’s advocacy and the adoption of Presidential Decree No. 2020/193, a total of 6,942 detainees were reportedly released.

PS5 – The UNCTs in Cameroon, the Congo and Gabon align their activities with the UN Secretary-General’s Human Rights up Front Initiative.

3 5 8 10 13 16 17

OHCHR contributed to the integration of international human rights norms, standards and principles into the humanitarian work of UN agencies in the subregion.

Based on the framework of collaboration with the Regional Office for Central Africa, UN Human Rights participated in regular meetings, during which human rights and other issues of concern were discussed. The Office contributed to the reports of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa, including on children and armed conflict, conflict-related sexual violence, strengthening human rights action in the field and the protection of civilians.



Participation

P6 – Marginalized groups participate more actively in political and public life, locally and nationally.



OHCHR trained rights-holders to support their meaningful participation in selected public processes.

On 20 June and 15 July, 105 media professionals (48 women, 57 men) from across Cameroon were trained on handling information during times of crisis. This activity helped to improve the way that journalists reported on the COVID-19 pandemic and enabled UN Human Rights to establish mechanisms for the rapid verification of COVID-19-related human rights concerns on the ground.

From 15 to 17 September, 28 representatives of law enforcement bodies and six representatives of media outlets in Cameroon were trained, resulting in the adoption of guidelines on working in the context of crises. The training led to the establishment of a collaboration framework that will enable journalists to more easily gain access to security and defence information sources.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: UNITED NATIONS MULTIDIMENSIONAL INTEGRATED STABILIZATION MISSION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (MINUSCA)

Population size¹ 4.83 million **Surface area¹** 623,000 km² **Human Development Index²** 0.397 (rank: 188/189 in 2019) **NHRI (if applicable)³** -

Type of engagement	Peace Mission
Year established	2000
Field office(s)	Bambari, Bangassou, Bangui, Berberati, Birao, Bossangoa, Bria, Kaga-Bandoro, Ndele, Obo and Paoua
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2021
Staff as of 31 December 2020	66

XB requirements 2020 **US\$98,000**

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229

PILLAR RESULTS:



Peace and Security

PS4 – A comprehensive national transitional justice strategy is developed and implemented and it is gender-sensitive.

16

OHCHR provided technical support to develop a comprehensive national transitional justice strategy.

Significant progress was achieved in the transitional justice process with the adoption, in February, of Law No. 20-009, which established the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission. On 30 December, 11 candidates, including five women, were officially confirmed as commissioners by Presidential Decree No. 20-435. The 11 commissioners are from various organizations and professional backgrounds,

including CSOs, academia, legal practices and associations of youth, women, victims and religious communities. The next steps will include supporting the capacity-development of the commissioners, recruiting technical staff and developing the Commission's programme of work. UN Human Rights and the HRD collaborated with UNDP and experts from the International Center for Transitional Justice to provide technical support to relevant authorities and institutions, including the Steering Committee, that were tasked with drafting the law on the Commission. As a member of the Selection Committee, the HRD strongly advocated for the respect of the selection criteria outlined in Law No. 20-009 to ensure that candidates have strong human rights profiles.

The HRD supported the implementation and fulfilment of the mandate of the Inclusive Commission, which is composed of representatives of national authorities and the armed groups that signed the Peace Agreement. In accordance with article 11 of the Peace Agreement, the Commission was tasked with developing recommendations on seeking justice for crimes committed in the context of the armed conflict in CAR with a view to transmitting them to the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission. With the support of the HRD, the Inclusive Commission drafted and submitted its final report to the Prime Minister in May.

Since November, the HRD, UNDP and UN Women have cooperated to contract two consultants to work on a study on reparations that will inform the work of the Commission once it is operational.

PS5 – National institutions and non-State actors increase their capacity to promote and protect human rights more effectively.

3 5 8 10 13 16 17

OHCHR contributed to the increased compliance of State institutions with international human rights standards by providing guidance to relevant authorities.

Within the context of the implementation of its early warning mandate, the National Committee on the Prevention of Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity and Discrimination organized 10 field visits, with technical and financial support from the HRD, to Boali, Berberati, Nola, Mbaiki, Obo, Ndele, Bossangoa, Bouar, Bangassou and Sibut. Following these visits, focal points were established in these locations to provide information

on human rights concerns linked to the presidential elections, in December.

The HRD continued to partner with and support the High Council for Communication to ensure the full implementation of its mandate on the prevention of hate speech and public incitement to violence. In April, the HRD and the High Council co-organized two workshops, in collaboration with associations of women, to prevent hate speech and incitement to violence in two districts of Bangui. Participants included 116 women and four men. The HRD was also involved in the delivery of seven workshops on the prevention of hate speech and misinformation relating to the COVID-19 outbreak in four districts of Bangui, which were attended by 124 women and 296 men. The workshops led to the establishment of community focal points to help prevent human rights violations, discrimination, stigmatization and misinformation related to COVID-19 in their respective communities. Finally, during the electoral process, the HRD supported field missions of the High Council for Communication to sensitize the population on the need to prevent electoral violence as a consequence of spreading hate speech.



Accountability

A1 – The actions of judicial institutions and defence and security forces increasingly comply with human rights.

16

OHCHR contributed to the improved compliance of State institutions with international human rights standards through technical and expert advice.

In collaboration with other components of MINUSCA and national authorities, UN Human Rights and MINUSCA's HRD jointly supported the Government's efforts in relation to security sector reform and the deployment of defence and security forces beyond the capital through the application of the HRDDP. The HRD led the HRDDP Secretariat and organized the HRDDP Task Force meetings, conducted 63 risk assessments and recommended mitigating measures to ensure that UN support to the national defence and security forces complied with the Policy. In addition, the HRD was closely involved with the vetting of eligible ex-combatants prior to their integration into socio-economic life. The HRD vetted a total of 2,807 candidates, 39 of which were excluded due to their alleged involvement in violations of human rights and domestic law.

The HRD regularly monitored the behaviour of national forces deployed in the region and documented every misconduct or human rights violation they committed. The HRD established a communication system with the Government to share reports, on a quarterly basis, on human rights violations that were primarily committed by the national defence and security forces. This helped draw the attention of relevant authorities, particularly the Minister of Defence, to these allegations and encouraged the Government to conduct investigations and implement disciplinary action in certain cases.

CHAD

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
16.43 million	1,284,000 km ²	0.398 (rank: 187/189 in 2019)	"B" Status (2009)
Type of engagement	Country Office		
Year established	2018		
Field office(s)	N'Djamena		
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2017–2021		
Staff as of 31 December 2019	10		

XB income	US\$999,152		
XB requirements 2020	US\$2,272,000		
XB expenditure	US\$1,340,967		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴	
64%	25%	11%	
\$856,690	\$338,218	\$146,059	

Key OMP pillars in 2020

^{1,2,3,4} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229 and p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:
Accountability

A1 – The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is established and functioning in conformity with the Paris Principles.



OHCHR contributed to the functioning of the NHRC, which is operating in increased conformity with the Paris Principles, by providing it with technical and financial support.

Following the 2018 adoption of the legislation for the functioning of the NHRC, the Commission was formally established in February, and its 11 members, including five women, took office. By the end of 2020,

the Commission had greatly improved its capacity and had begun acting in defence of human rights, with an emphasis on detention and the freedom of peaceful assembly. UN Human Rights contributed to these results by consistently advocating for the reform of the NHRC with government authorities and offering advice as the Commission commenced its work. Further, it provided additional financial support and training for NHRC staff members on human rights monitoring and reporting.

A3 – Judicial authorities and the NHRC act on at least half of the cases they receive regarding crimes associated with gender, including those that involve women and youth.



OHCHR sought to increase the proportion of human rights violations cases that were positively addressed by relevant actors, including through advocacy work.

UN Human Rights conducted six field monitoring missions in the provinces of Ouaddai, Lake Chad, Moyen-Chari, Mandoul, Logone Occidental and Logone Oriental. The missions were undertaken to monitor specific violations related to intercommunity conflicts, gender-based violence and child exploitation as well as the conditions in prisons and other places of detention. During the missions, UN Human Rights gathered information that formed the basis for its subsequent advocacy with authorities. As a result, five human rights violations were redressed in relation to the arbitrary arrest of journalists, HRDs, CSO leaders and alleged members of Boko Haram and the ill-treatment of detainees. Due to the overcrowding of detention centres, the Office advocated for the release of prisoners as an exceptional measure in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 3,050 prisoners were released within the framework of the Government's COVID-19 contingency measures. Among the 3,050 prisoners who were released, 21 were pregnant, 203 were over the age of 60, 225 were minors, 149 were ill and 518 had served three quarters of their sentences.

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 supported the Government of Chad in taking steps to implement its human rights commitments.

During Chad's third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the Government committed to abolishing the death penalty and ratifying ICCPR-OP2. In May, the President enacted anti-terrorism legislation, which abolished the previous dispositions that allowed the death penalty. The Government has not yet ratified ICCPR-OP2.

M1 – Chad submits the six reports to the human rights treaty bodies that are due, in compliance with reporting guidelines.

16 17 

OHCHR contributed to the Government's submission of quality reports to the human rights treaty bodies by delivering training sessions and supporting the drafting process.

With sustained support from UN Human Rights, the Government worked to reduce the delay in the submission of its periodic reports to the human rights treaty bodies, in 2020. UN Human Rights facilitated the drafting of the national reports under ICCPR and ICESCR. The latter was submitted, in August, and the adoption of the list of issues is scheduled for 2021.

Development

D7 – UN strategic programmes take account of human rights when they are drafted, implemented and evaluated.

5 10 16 

OHCHR provided substantial support, which contributed to the integration of international human rights standards into UN plans and programmes in Chad.

UN Human Rights regularly participated in inter-agency and Protection Cluster meetings. As a result, UN Human Rights succeeded in integrating human rights considerations into a number of common strategic and programmatic documents, such as the Common Country Analysis (CCA), the UN multisectoral strategy in support of the governmental response to COVID-19 and the COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA).

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO: THE UNITED NATIONS JOINT HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE (UNJHRO)

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
89.56 million	2,345,000 km ²	0.480 (rank: 175/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2018)
Type of engagement	Peace Mission		
Year established	2008		
Field office(s)	Bandundu, Beni, Bukavu, Bunia, Butembo, Dungen, Goma, Kalemie, Kananga, Kindu, Kinshasa, Kisangani, Lubumbashi, Matadi, Mbandaka, Mbuji-Mayi, Thsikapa and Uvira		
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2020-2024		
Staff as of 31 December 2020	96		

XB requirements 2020

US\$10,902,000

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229

PILLAR RESULTS:

Development

D7 – The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2020-2024 integrates relevant international human rights standards and principles and references recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

OHCHR contributed to the integration of international human rights standards and recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms into UN common country programmes.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) process was largely informed by reports from the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO).

Consequently, its outcome is fully aligned with the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in relation to the DRC and the SDGs. Following this key achievement, the UNJHRO continued its engagement with the UNCT to support the integration of human rights into the SDGs. For instance, the Office led the UNCT-DRC National Voluntary Assessment of the SDGs and systematically included an HRBA and key indicators in the UNCT's annual workplan.

In the framework of the COVID-19 response for the country, the Office worked on the elaboration of the National Response Plan and the UN Response Plan to ensure the integration of key human rights activities and indicators. Furthermore, within the context of the

UNSDCF, the UNJHRO engaged in the implementation of joint projects with UN agencies, funds and programmes, notably five projects that were funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) in the conflict-torn provinces of the Kasai, Kasai Central, Tanganyika and South Kivu.

Peace and Security

PS5 – DRC security forces adopt an increased number of mitigation and corrective measures based on risk assessments that comply with the HRDDP.

3 5 8 10 13 16 17

OHCHR supported the functioning of accountability and protection mechanisms in greater conformity with international human rights standards.

In 2020, the UNJHRO continued its follow-up of emblematic cases with the military justice system to enhance the protection of civilians and improve the fight against impunity. The UNJHRO's collaboration with the HRDDP Secretariat, MONUSCO and national partners led to increased compliance with the HRDDP and standard operating procedures (SOPs) on the ground, in particular regarding the prosecution of alleged perpetrators of serious human rights violations. In 2020, more than 20 meetings were organized with judicial authorities to discuss technical aspects of judicial cases. This included designing a proper prosecutorial strategy and developing and implementing judicial protection measures for the benefit of victims and witnesses. The Comités de suivi of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) held 28 sessions and the Comités de suivi of the Congolese National Police (PNC) held 32 sessions in the provinces of North and

South Kivu, Kinshasa, Ituri, Tanganyika, Kasai and Maniema. The committees addressed human rights violations committed by State security and defence forces and followed up on remedial measures. In addition, during the period of January to June, the UNJHRO undertook 14 monitoring activities, with an emphasis on the trial of Ntabo Ntaberi Sheka in the Operational Military Court of North Kivu, in Goma.

The UNJHRO participated in the drafting of the Peace Accord Agreement between the Government and the Forces de résistance patriotique de l'Ituri (FRPI) to ensure its alignment with international law standards, including the right to justice, truth and compensation for victims, and to provide the UNJHRO with the opportunity to screen armed militants identified for demobilization and reinsertion. The HRDDP Secretariat conducted the background and profile checks of 1,185 individuals and created and updated 389 new profiles. Some of the updates formed the basis of the UNJHRO's constructive dialogue with FARDC, PNC and national authorities and its cooperation with judicial actors for the investigation and prosecution of officers alleged to have committed serious human rights violations.



Accountability

A1 – The judiciary increases the number of convictions for human rights violations, including sexual and gender-based violence. Oversight mechanisms strengthen disciplinary measures for the same offences.

16

OHCHR contributed to the improved compliance of State institutions and

programmes with international human rights standards, with a focus on women's human rights.

In support of the fight against impunity, the UNJHRO collaborated with civilian and judicial military authorities to undertake and participate in a total of 114 field investigations or monitoring missions, mainly in the Kasai and Kasai Central, Ituri, North and South Kivu and Tanganyika provinces. A total of 14 mobile court sessions were organized, primarily to address emblematic cases, and a total of 127 detainees were released as a result of the UNJHRO's efforts (18 women, 87 men, 23 children). The UNJHRO continued supporting judicial authorities in handling cases of international crimes. A total of 369 convictions (161 from FARDC, 68 from PNC, 87 members of armed groups and 53 civilians) were recorded for serious human rights violations. Among the emblematic cases that were supported by the UNJHRO, in collaboration with the United Nations Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, was that of Ntabo Ntaberi Sheka, the former leader of the armed group Nduma Defense of Congo (NDC). Following a two-year trial, Ntabo Ntaberi Sheka was sentenced, on 23 November, by the Cour militaire opérationnelle, in Goma (North Kivu), to life in prison for war crimes, including murder, rape, sexual slavery and the recruitment of children.

In the fight against impunity, the UNJHRO funded the operationalization of four legal clinics operated by CSOs in conflict zones: one in Kigulube, one in Luvungi in South Kivu, one in Beni in North Kivu and one in Tshimbulu in the Kasai Central. The clinics provide assistance to victims of SGBV/CRSV. Out of 1,726 persons, 760 victims (330 women,

403 girls, 14 men, 13 boys) received legal, medical and psychosocial assistance, resulting in 80 judicial decisions, including 74 convictions (138 from civilian court, 40 from military court).

The UNJHRO cooperated with the Office of the Special Advisor to the Head of State on Youth and Gender-Based Violence and other partners to support the drafting and finalization of a road map in relation to gender, which covers all related FARDC and PNC action plans. The objective of the road map is to facilitate the implementation of the Addendum to the Joint Communiqué between the Government of the DRC and the UN on the fight against sexual violence in conflict. Support was also provided to establish a Call Centre for reporting gender-based crimes and domestic violence in the context of COVID-19 and to provide remote assistance to victims, in collaboration with partners.

Finally, the UNJHRO held monthly meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Justice and the Kinshasa Prosecutors' Office to follow up on cases of impunity and measures taken to reduce overcrowding in prisons, including in the context of the pandemic. Positive outcomes included the establishment of the Technical Group on Penitentiary Issues (Sub-group 2 on legislation), which is responsible for drafting texts on reform of the prison system and for ensuring the release of at least 3,288 prisoners from several prisons in the DRC.

EASTERN AFRICA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Djibouti, Ethiopia and Tanzania
Year established	2002
Field office(s)	Addis Ababa
Staff as of 31 December 2020	23

XB income	US\$4,121,768
XB requirements 2020	US\$7,381,000
XB expenditure	US\$2,354,319
Personnel	PSC ⁴
90%	10%
\$2,121,953	\$261,699
RB expenditure	US\$171,648
Personnel	
100%	
\$171,648	

Key OMP pillars in 2020



⁴ Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

A1 – Regional human rights mechanisms are increasingly accessible to all.

16

OHCHR contributed to enhancing the compliance with international human rights standards of the NHRI in Ethiopia.

UN Human Rights supported the strategic reform process of the Human Rights Commission in Ethiopia, including by outlining recommendations that were outlined in the new Ethiopian Human Rights Commission Establishment (Amendment) Proclamation No. 1224/2020.

Technical assistance was provided to the Commission for the investigation of alleged human rights violations that were committed in the wake of protests that occurred following the killing of a prominent musician.

A3 – Governments report, investigate and prosecute gender-related crimes more consistently.

5 10 16 

OHCHR contributed to strengthening accountability and protection mechanisms with a focus on women's human rights.

UN Human Rights engaged with judicial schools in the region to enhance their understanding of human rights in relation to harmful gender stereotypes. The Office developed specific training materials on the investigation of gender-related crimes that were included in the curricula of the International School of Judiciary Police, based in Djibouti.

In collaboration with the Centre for Reproductive Rights and the Institute of Judicial Administration Lushoto, the Office convened a webinar for judges from Africa and Asia to discuss access to justice and the protection of sexual and reproductive rights in the context of COVID-19. The webinar offered a platform to discuss the impact of State responses to COVID-19 in both regions.

OHCHR, UNODC and UN Women also organized a webinar on the criminal justice response to violence against women and girls in the context of COVID-19. Participants discussed some of the challenges faced by women and girls in Ethiopia during the pandemic.

Participation

P1 – CSOs, women human rights defenders (WHRDs) and other relevant stakeholders advocate for human rights, especially women's rights, more often and more effectively.

16 

OHCHR contributed to building the capacities of WHRDs and other stakeholders to improve the compliance with international human rights standards of selected State institutions and programmes.

UN Human Rights strengthened the capacities of WHRDs and other

stakeholders to advance the rights of women in the region. In collaboration with DefendDefenders, the Office provided training to 120 WHRDs in East and Southern Africa on secure ways to work online and how to navigate in the context of the pandemic. OHCHR also provided support for the creation of a national chapter of the East African Women Human Rights Defenders Network through the establishment of the Coalition for Women Human Rights Defenders in Tanzania.

To mark the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, the Office organized a webinar on WHRDs and how to address SGBV during COVID-19 in East and Southern Africa. A total of 127 WHRDs and CSO representatives discussed how COVID-19 had exacerbated instances of sexual and gender-based violence and how they had adapted their responses to protect survivors in light of movement restrictions. They also proposed solutions to protect survivors during the pandemic and prevent violence in the longer term.

The Office supported the launch by the Centre for Reproductive Rights of a report entitled *The conflict in north-east Nigeria's impact on the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls*. The report notes that women and girls affected by conflict are particularly vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence, including rape, sexually transmitted infections, sex trafficking, forced marriage and forced and unintended pregnancy.

In addition, the Office collaborated with the Federation of Ethiopian National Associations of Persons with Disabilities and the Ethiopian National Association of the Blind to increase their human rights awareness. A webinar was organized to validate a research paper on the impacts of COVID-19 on persons with disabilities

and was attended by approximately 25 CSO representatives. The Office provided financial and technical support to the Ethiopian National Association of the Blind to carry out the research, which identified gaps in laws, policies and practices in the protection of persons with disabilities and highlighted how the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the challenges they face. The research also provided recommendations to improve the protection of persons with disabilities.

In collaboration with CSOs in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region of Ethiopia, OHCHR conducted a radio programme on the impacts of COVID-19 on human rights, with a focus on vulnerable groups.



Peace and Security

PS3 – Regional and subregional bodies and individual States increasingly integrate human rights standards and policies into their conflict prevention and response strategies.

16

OHCHR ensured the integration of human rights into key strategies and action plans developed by UNCTs and regional actors on early warning and conflict prevention.

UN Human Rights significantly contributed to the development of the terms of reference, strategies and workplans of the Opportunity Issue-Based Coalitions (OIBCs) to ensure that human rights were at the forefront of strategic and operational frameworks. The Office was also a key partner in the implementation of the prevention strategy for the Horn of Africa.

The Office provided the AU with continuous support for the development of policies

and manuals, including a human rights training manual for AU human rights observers. OHCHR enhanced its collaboration with various components of the AU to strengthen their capacities to work on human rights, including through the finalization of the joint AU-UN Framework on Human Rights. The Office launched Phase II of the joint AU-OHCHR-World Bank Group (WBG) project on integrating human rights into the AU Continental Early Warning System.

Moreover, OHCHR supported the AU Gender, Peace and Security Programme (GPSP) and the AU Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) to develop an advisory opinion to inform and guide the work of AU member states on advancing efforts towards the meaningful participation of women in peace processes. The Office supported the organization of six civil society consultations on women, peace and security (WPS) and the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 across the African continent. These consultations brought together CSOs and WPS experts from all regions of the continent to identify key strategic recommendations and direction for member states on making Security Council resolution 1325 a reality for women in Africa.

Finally, the Office supported the integration of human rights into the UNCT's humanitarian preparedness plan, which was developed in response to the situation in Tigray, Ethiopia, including the principle of Leaving No One Behind. OHCHR played a key role in the development of the UNCT's strategy on the prevention of hate speech in Ethiopia.

Non-discrimination

ND4 – The decisions of national human rights and justice mechanisms increasingly promote gender equality and comply with international and regional human rights standards.



OHCHR contributed to raising awareness on SGBV and trafficking in women and girls.

UN Human Rights supported various activities to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, including a social media campaign that provided an overview of gender-based violence (GBV) in the context of COVID-19. Furthermore, it provided 10 recommendations on how to address the issue and organized a virtual policy dialogue under the theme “Ending violence against women and girls: Action to guarantee women’s safety in Africa,” which resulted in commitments from AU member states and others to integrate gender equality and women’s rights into COVID-19 recovery efforts. Participants included AU member states, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), development partners, CSOs, youth and media representatives.

The Office also offered support to the CEDAW Committee in the development of a general recommendation on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration by organizing a virtual regional expert meeting in Sub-Saharan Africa, in collaboration with UN Women and IOM. African experts and representatives of CSOs and UN entities discussed the root causes of the increased risk to trafficking faced by women and girls.

Development

D4 – Sexual and reproductive health policies in the region increasingly comply with international human rights standards.



OHCHR contributed to improving the level of compliance with international human rights standards of sexual and reproductive health policies and programmes.

UN Human Rights developed a tool for the AU to integrate the needs of women and girls into internally displaced persons (IDPs)/refugee situations under the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), in collaboration with the African Union Women, Gender and Development Directorate (AU-WGDD), UNHCR and UN Women, on the basis of a joint study entitled *Assessing the status of women’s rights in refugee and internal displacement settings in the context of AGA and APSA*. The tool seeks to ensure that the needs of displaced women and girls are at the forefront of decision-making at the political level and in all stages of the process, from the design to the implementation of policies, programmes and initiatives.

D7 – When they implement the SDGs, UNCTs and the Governments of Djibouti, Ethiopia and Tanzania fully take into account human rights principles, including the right to development, as well as recommendations that have been issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

OHCHR supported the integration of human rights in programmes and policies of UN and government partners.

UN Human Rights ensured that human rights were systematically integrated into

various documents that were developed in response to COVID-19 by UNCTs in Djibouti, Ethiopia and Tanzania. The Office also supported the development of strategic and technical documents by the AU and other regional actors, including the joint AU-UN Framework on Human Rights.

In Ethiopia, OHCHR facilitated a training on an HRBA for CSOs, with a focus on data collection and the measurement of progress in implementing human rights and achieving the SDGs.

The Office provided assistance to the AU in developing a policy on business and human rights, ensuring the application of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) to digital technologies, in the framework of the B-Tech Project.

OHCHR also coordinated the joint UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights expert consultation on the implications of digitalization of social protection systems in Africa.

GUINEA

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
13.13 million	246,000 km ²	0.477 (rank: 178/189 in 2019)	-
Type of engagement	Country Office		
Year established	2010		
Field office(s)	Conakry and Nzérékoré		
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2022		
Staff as of 31 December 2020	18		

XB income	US\$3,248,646	
XB requirements 2020	US\$4,172,000	
XB expenditure	US\$2,452,098	
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴
67%	22%	11%
\$1,630,842	\$539,400	\$281,855

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1,2,3,4} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229 and p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:

Participation

P1 – A law that protects human rights defenders has been adopted.



By facilitating training activities, OHCHR aimed to build the capacity of civil society actors to participate in public affairs.

Prior to the 2020 parliamentary and presidential elections, UN Human Rights trained 537 HRDs (253 women, 284 men) and disseminated a guidebook on human rights monitoring and reporting during the elections. The Office organized a major campaign against hate speech and electoral violence and produced short

videos and radio messages in the five main languages of the country, which were aired on national television, radio stations and community radios.

P6 – By 2021, the participation in public life of women and discriminated groups, including youth and people living with albinism, has increased. These groups are able to claim their rights.



OHCHR contributed to the meaningful participation of rights-holders in public processes, especially women and discriminated groups, including persons with

disabilities, by raising their awareness about relevant human rights principles and standards.

Following capacity-building training that was facilitated by UN Human Rights, WHRDs were involved in advocacy activities, in Nzérékoré, to tackle gender-based violence and maternal mortality. In addition, local authorities, community and religious leaders received a briefing on these concerns and participated in an awareness-raising radio programme to inform relevant communities about these matters.

Through a partnership with a local NGO, OHCHR supported the dissemination of the law on the promotion and protection of persons with disabilities and the drafting of its three enforcement texts. On the legislative front, legislation and policies were adopted and amended, including a new Civil Code, which improves gender equality and addresses the rights of women and children, and the Children's Act, which was amended and promulgated, in March.



Development

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



Through technical advice, OHCHR supported the integration of human rights approaches into development efforts.

At the request of the Government, UN Human Rights began implementing a project on the right to development with a view to enhancing its realization. In 2020, the focus of the project was on closing the knowledge gap related to the right to development within the Government, civil society and UN entities. This was primarily achieved through the organization of four workshops for these stakeholders and the production and dissemination of a publication on the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights.

In the context of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, OHCHR and WHO approached the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health and advocated for the release of detainees being held in overcrowded prisons. As a result, three men and 18 minors were released from detention facilities. Furthermore, OHCHR provided health kits and related materials to institutions caring for children who were released from prison and removed from street situations in order to support the efforts of the Ministry of Social Affairs to implement the country's strategic COVID-19 response plan.



Peace and Security

PS5 – Human rights are integrated into the UN contingency plan and UN Protection Clusters, particularly in the Forest region.



By providing technical advice, OHCHR contributed to the integration of international human rights norms, standards and principles into UN programmes.

UN Human Rights contributed to the integration of an HRBA into the UN's assistance to development planning through two workshops for programme officers and human rights focal points at UN agencies. The training focused on the fundamentals of the right to development, economic, social and cultural rights and the integration into UN programming of recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR.



Mechanisms

M1 – An interministerial committee that is mandated to prepare State reports to the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR is fully operational by 2021.



OHCHR continued to support the existing mechanism for integrated reporting and the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

UN Human Rights supported the Human Rights Interministerial Committee by facilitating a workshop to increase awareness about the responsibility for and commitment to implementing the recommendations from the UPR. Guinea's third UPR cycle was broadcast live in Conakry and Nzérékoré. During the webcast, the Minister of Justice emphasized the Government's commitment to ensuring accountability for the events of 28 September 2009. The wide dissemination of the videos of the two sessions were key to fostering a sense of ownership of the UPR process among State officials and CSOs. In addition, the Government submitted its long overdue periodic report under the ICESCR, which was reviewed by CESCR.

Finally, the Office pursued advocacy to encourage the Government to take the necessary steps to transform the Human Rights Interministerial Committee into a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF).

GUINEA-BISSAU: UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATED PEACEBUILDING OFFICE IN GUINEA-BISSAU (UNIOGBIS)

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
1.97 million	36,000 km ²	0.480 (rank: 175/189 in 2019)	-
Type of engagement		Special Political Mission	
Year established		2009	
Field office(s)		Bissau and Bafata	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Partnership Framework 2016-2020	
Staff as of 31 December 2020		2	

XB requirements 2020 **US\$4,140,000**

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

A1 – An NHRI is established that complies with the Paris Principles. Human rights training and education is institutionalized in the justice, health, education and defence and security sectors. The Government adopts a national policy on human rights, a strategic plan to combat impunity and a law that protects victims and witnesses.

16

OHCHR continued to implement activities aimed at institutionalizing human rights training in selected areas.

To facilitate the institutionalization of human rights training in the educational system, UN Human Rights and the Human Rights Section (HRS) of UNIOGBIS planned to implement a module on education for citizenship, human

rights and peace in 10 private schools and to support national authorities to implement the same initiative in 22 primary schools. Due to the political deadlock and COVID-19-related restrictions, it was not possible to realize these activities. The publications that were produced in 2019 to support these activities were printed in 2020 and over 4,000 copies of four pedagogical tools on education for citizenship, human rights and peace for children, teachers and schools were delivered to the Ministry of Education. The Ministry is expected to launch a pilot project using these tools in 2021.

With regard to the health sector, the HRS collaborated with the Medical Association to develop a series of trainings for members of the Medical Association, the Nurses Association, the Pharmaceutical Association, the Diagnostic Technicians

and Midwives Association and other health-related professional categories in the country. The initiative aimed to build the capacity of these actors to protect human rights as part of wider efforts to institutionalize human rights education in the health system. Nevertheless, no further progress was achieved in 2020 due to the political and health crises affecting the country.

A1 – The Government adopts a national policy on human rights, a strategic plan to combat impunity and a law that protects victims and witnesses.

10 16 

By providing technical and financial support to national actors, OHCHR sought to contribute to the functioning of prevention mechanisms that comply with international human rights standards.

UN Human Rights and the HRS provided technical and financial support to the Human Rights Defenders Network, which was established and formalized with the support of UNIOGBIS, to monitor the human rights situation and strengthen public awareness regarding the protection of their rights in the context of COVID-19. In particular, the Network and the Association of Youth for the Promotion and Defence of Human Rights developed and disseminated 20 radio programmes and media spots on human rights protection with a focus on the state of emergency and the role of law enforcement authorities during the emergency. Furthermore, the HRS supported a youth initiative to create a fact-checking team to trace and verify fake news related to COVID-19.

Participation

P6 – The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard.

OHCHR contributed to the meaningful participation of rights-holders, especially women and discriminated groups, in selected public processes.

To promote the meaningful participation of rights-holders, UN Human Rights and the HRS facilitated the organization of meetings between CSOs, including members of the Human Rights Defenders Network, to promote their political participation and inform contributions to the review of the reform agenda (constitutional, military justice and related reforms) and the review of the women, peace and security agenda. In this context, civil society actors agreed to establish a common platform, strategy and plan of action.

In partnership with the Federation of Associations for the Defence and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Guinea-Bissau, the HRS conducted a training of trainers on human rights, in Bubaque, Bolama region, for 11 women and 19 men. The three-day training concluded a series of trainings that were conducted in four regions to enable a pool of trainers to deliver capacity-building and sensitization activities on human rights and the rights of persons with disabilities.

Non-discrimination

ND3 – Laws are passed that ensure women's equality. They include a quota system for women's political participation and representation and prohibit early and forced marriage. Laws are passed that guarantee land rights and prohibit forced begging.

5 9 10

By providing technical advice, OHCHR aimed at supporting the increased compliance of legislation/policy with international human rights standards.

With the technical and financial support of UN Human Rights and the HRS, draft bills on forced marriage and forced begging were developed. In addition, the HRS continued to contribute technical expertise to the development of a Comprehensive Child Protection Code.

KENYA

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
53.77 million	592,000 km ²	0.601 (rank: 141/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2014)
Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser		
Year established	2008		
Field office(s)	Nairobi		
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2022		
Staff as of 31 December 2020	6		

XB requirements 2020**US\$1,709,000****Key OMP pillars in 2020**^{1 2 3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229**PILLAR RESULTS:**

Accountability

A2 – The Kenyan authorities strengthen and enforce measures to prevent human rights violations, including SGBV, by police and other security agencies. Those responsible for violations are held accountable and prosecuted.

10 16

OHCHR contributed to the enhanced capacity of the Office of the Public Prosecutions (ODPP), the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) and the National Police Service (NPS) in the investigation and prosecution of serious human rights violations.

UN Human Rights continued to provide technical and financial support to the Tripartite Task Force (TTF), composed of the ODPP, the IPOA and the NPS. With OHCHR's support, the TTF developed

standard operating procedures regarding the investigation and prosecution of serious human rights violations committed by police officers. Investigators and prosecutors worked together to investigate allegations of serious human rights violations, such as killings, physical assaults, sexual violence and inhuman treatment, including during the enforcement of COVID-19 curfew regulations and in the context of electoral processes. Several officers were charged with committing serious human rights violations, including murder and serious assaults.

Following OHCHR's support to the TTF and civil society organizations on police reforms, a Rapid Reference Guide was produced on the investigation and prosecution of cases under the Prevention of Torture Act, 2017. The Guide contains the elements of proof of the offences under the Act and the sample charge sheets for each offence that is described in the Act.

The Guide was used to support the first charge in court of a police constable for assaulting his colleague under the Act.

The Directorate of the National Police Service Reforms Office invited OHCHR and UN Women to participate in the governmental Police Reforms Working Group, following the launch of *Breaking cycles of violence: Gaps in prevention of and response to electoral-related sexual violence in Kenya*. Four workshops were held to disseminate the report, which enabled OHCHR to strengthen linkages between duty-bearers and rights-holders in four counties (Nairobi, Kisumu, Bungoma and Vihiga). It also provided duty-bearers with a deeper understanding of the barriers that survivors face while accessing essential services. Participants expressed a commitment to eliminating those barriers and undertaking a structured engagement with the Survivors' Network to hear their perspectives and enhance the delivery of services in relation to GBV. The members of the Survivors' Network from Vihiga County and Bungoma County were asked to join the respective GBV County Technical Working Groups. The partnership between OHCHR, UN Women and the Working Group will be instrumental in advancing OHCHR's work on prevention and accountability for human rights violations. As a result of advocacy efforts by OHCHR and UN Women, the NPS Reforms Office agreed to dedicate efforts and resources to ensure that the establishment of a gender unit is included in the Police Gender Policy, which is currently under development.

Development

D1 – Two landmark litigation cases are successfully completed and remedies are provided to victims.

2 3 5 8 16 17

OHCHR supported efforts to ensure that oversight, accountability and protection mechanisms conform to international human rights standards in Kenya.

As part of UN Human Rights' mandate to support the implementation of the UNGPs and protect civic space, OHCHR has been providing technical and financial support since 2016 for a case on environmental rights to ensure that oversight, accountability and protection mechanisms in Kenya conform to international human rights standards. The Centre for Justice, Governance and Environmental Action (CJGEA) litigated a case in which two companies and the Government were sued for polluting the environment. In what is being called a positive milestone for environmental justice, the Owino Uhuru settlement in Kenya won the equivalent of US\$13 million in compensation for damage to the environment and the negative health of the community. In July, the Land and Environment Court in Mombasa awarded the compensation to the Owino Uhuru community for the deaths and health impacts caused by lead poisoning from a nearby smelter that recycled batteries. The ruling declared that the community's rights to a healthy environment, the highest attainable standard of health, clean and safe water and life had been contravened. It ordered the Government and two companies to pay compensation and clean up the surrounding soil, water and waste.

D3 – Kenya implements the judgments of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Endorois and the Ogiek cases relating to the right to adequate housing and the right to land of indigenous peoples.

1 11

OHCHR supported efforts to strengthen Kenya's compliance with international human rights standards relating to indigenous peoples.

UN Human Rights worked with and supported indigenous HRDs as intercommunal tensions and violence flared in the Eastern Mau forest. The HRA engaged with the Regional Commissioner to support efforts to defuse the situation.

The OHCHR Surge Initiative enabled the HRA to undertake a scoping initiative on the human rights impacts of the COVID-19 crisis in indigenous communities in order to guide the implementation of COVID-19 response and recovery plans. The HRA collaborated with 49 indigenous HRDs and the Defenders Coalition to operationalize the scoping initiative in seven counties. The HRA also provided inputs to the OHCHR Guidance Note on COVID-19 and indigenous peoples.

D7 – The UNDAF 2018-2022 integrates human rights norms, standards and principles into its design and implementation.

OHCHR successfully integrated human rights into the UN common country programme and COVID-19 response plan.

UN Human Rights continued to participate in the implementation of the UNDAF, including through mainstreaming human rights and building the capacity of UNCT agencies. OHCHR was instrumental in

monitoring the implementation of the Strategic Result Area (SRA) 1 workplan for 2019-2020 by leading the outcome area on human rights and rule of law. The HRA also coordinated reporting and the development of the SRA 1 workplan for 2020-2022 with the Government and the UNCT.

OHCHR participated in the UNCT COVID-19 Emergency Appeal, which recognized human rights monitoring and documentation and addressing SGBV as key elements of the COVID-19 response. As a result of OHCHR's input to the development and finalization of the COVID-19 SERP, human rights are now an integral part of the Plan for the UNCT and are linked to the UNDAF monitoring and evaluation framework and indicators.



Peace and Security

PS4 – The reparation policy and framework are finalized and reparations are provided to survivors of SGBV.

16 

OHCHR advocated for the inclusion of GBV in transitional justice mechanisms.

UN Human Rights partnered with the NPS, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Independent Policing Oversight Authority, the State Department of Gender Affairs (SDGA) and county governments to advocate for the prioritized establishment of gender units in their respective offices and to enhance the capacity of police officers in relation to the prevention of and response to gender violence. On OHCHR's recommendation, the SDGA County Gender Directors agreed to involve survivors in the SDGA County Gender Committee on GBV.

The HRA engaged in advocacy activities with the SDGA to address the need for the prioritization of GBV within the response to the COVID-19 crisis, particularly in light of the sharp increase in GBV. As a result, the SDGA submitted an advisory note to the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government and the NPS on the creation of specific measures that would enable individuals to report incidents of GBV during the pandemic. The NPS rolled out a dedicated GBV toll-free hotline to enhance reporting of GBV. Further, the SDGA broadened the membership of its weekly Gender Working Group to include police officers and CSOs providing legal aid and psychosocial support to GBV survivors. These meetings facilitated rapid responses by the actors and strengthened GBV referral pathways.

In order to implement the recommendations outlined in the report on Breaking cycles of violence, OHCHR developed the capacity of WHRDs and members of the Survivors' Network to address instances of GBV. This support led to the assistance of 555 GBV survivors (477 women, 78 men) in four counties who reported cases to police stations and accessed safe shelters and medical and psychosocial services. The HRA also developed the capacity of 42 HRDs within the SGBV Network and CSOs (31 women, 11 men) on county budgeting processes and strengthened linkages for engagement with duty-bearers who are working on the prevention of and response to GBV. These linkages will be critical for enhanced SGBV prevention and responses during the electoral period.

Accountability in relation to prevention, mitigation and responses to electoral-related sexual violence was strengthened following the incorporation into the

SOPs of accountability measures for electoral-related sexual violence perpetrated by police officers. The standard operating procedures are being developed by the ODPP, the IPOA and the NPS, with OHCHR's support.

PS5 – UN early warning and advocacy initiatives regularly integrate human rights principles and analysis. The Government finalizes a reparations policy and framework, which covers survivors of SGBV.



Through engagement with the international community and the Government, UN Human Rights strengthened a shared commitment to prevention, sustained peace and human rights.

UN Human Rights worked closely with the UNCT's Peace and Development Adviser (PDA) to expand work on prevention within the UNCT. The UNCT Prevention and Integrated Analysis Platform was revitalized and expanded to reflect that shared commitment to prevention, sustaining peace and human rights. Its membership now encompasses all UNCT members, represented by a Prevention and Human Rights Focal Point. The HRA collaborated with the PDA to prepare quarterly reports on prevention and integrated analysis reports that analyse past and evolving trends and outline recommendations on prevention and human rights considerations. The Assistant Secretary-General of the Development Operations Coordination Office (ASG DOCO) and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG) cited the reports as innovative and examples of good practice.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, OHCHR partnered with the PDA to

undertake analyses and develop scenarios related to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Kenya, with the aim of developing a UNCT shared assessment/integrated analysis to guide programmatic interventions and support the Government during the crisis. OHCHR and the PDA prepared a joint update on the pandemic and presented an integrated analysis of human rights, political and peacebuilding perspectives on the crisis and ramifications for the UN's engagement in the country. Furthermore, as advisers to the RC, OHCHR and the PDA collaborated on other initiatives relating to human rights, risk analysis and prevention. A round-table discussion was held on prevention in the context of the COVID-19 crisis to facilitate discussions between UN agencies and external experts in the fields of human rights, political and socio-economic analysis on strategies to prevent and mitigate risks.



Mechanisms

M2 – The Government, the NHRI, CSOs and the UNCT regularly submit reports to the international human rights mechanisms.

OHCHR supported CSOs in their engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

OHCHR engaged with CSOs and HRDs to document the forced evictions of thousands of families in Kariobangi and Ruai (Nairobi), in May, during the COVID-19 curfew. Through this engagement, information on the forced evictions and threats to HRDs was provided to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances, the Special

Rapporteur on the right to food, the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, the Special Rapporteur on human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation and the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls. The special procedures issued a joint urgent appeal to the Government, which raised concerns about the forced evictions and threats against an HRD working with the residents of Kariobangi, who were forcefully evicted from their homes. The urgent appeal was followed by a joint public statement that highlighted concerns regarding the manner in which the evictions took place during the COVID-19 pandemic.

UN Human Rights also engaged with CSOs and HRDs to compile information on increased cases of extrajudicial killings during the enforcement of the COVID-19 curfew and other emergency measures. This informed a confidential communication that was sent, on 6 July, by the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions.

The UNCT increased its engagement with the special procedures. OHCHR and UN Women prepared a joint UNCT report on COVID-19 and domestic violence, with inputs from other UN agencies. The report was prepared in response to a call from the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences for submissions to inform the preparation of her upcoming report to the General Assembly. The report is intended to be used by UN agencies to analyse GBV interventions that are undertaken in the context of COVID-19 and to identify existing gaps and challenges that may arise in their coordinated interventions.



Participation

P1 – The Kenyan authorities institute measures to protect civic space, including the Public Benefits Organizations Act. The measures and policies on public participation comply with international human rights standards.

16



OHCHR contributed to the full participation of civil society in national processes.

UN Human Rights continued to ensure the full participation of civil society in national processes, including through the provision of support to CSOs and HRDs to prepare and make submissions to the Building Bridges Initiative process, which includes proposals for amending the Constitution. The HRA mobilized and supported civil society efforts around the tenth anniversary of the Constitution and Bill of Rights to highlight various perspectives on priorities for implementation.

OHCHR supported the process for developing the Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the SDGs. The HRA worked closely with the Government, CSOs and the NHRI and submitted inputs to the Government's report and the alternative report by CSOs.

Landmark judgment in Kenya in favour of victims of sexual violence

Human Rights Day in 2020 represented a milestone for victims of post-election sexual violence in Kenya. On 10 December, the High Court delivered a landmark judgment, holding the Government responsible for the violations of the rights of victims of sexual violence that occurred during the 2007-2008 post-election violence. The Court ruled that the Government had failed to investigate and prosecute perpetrators or to provide victims with effective remedies. Four of the eight victims were each awarded KES4 million (approximately US\$40,000) in compensation.

“After more than seven years of litigation and delays, some justice has finally been served,” said Naitore Nyamu, Head of Physicians for Human Rights in Kenya. The organization is one of four CSOs that filed the petition, along with the Independent Medico-Legal Unit, the International Commission of Jurists and the Coalition on Violence Against Women. “This is an historic day for the survivors of the rampant sexual violence perpetrated in the aftermath of the 2007 election, who have waited for accountability for far too long. The Court’s decision will reverberate widely for the prevention, investigation and prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence in Kenya and around the world,” Naitore Nyamu continued.¹⁴

¹⁴ See “[Court Delivers Justice for Several Survivors of Post-Election Sexual Violence in Kenya](#),” 10 December 2020.

In recent years, UN Human Rights supported the work of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) and the National Police Service Internal Affairs Unit (NPS-IAU), with the aim of advancing accountability for human rights in Kenya. Following a needs assessment, a Civil and Human Rights Division and a Tripartite Task Force (ODPP, IPOA and NPS-IAU) were established, in 2019 and 2020, respectively. The objective was to strengthen the investigation and prosecution of human rights violations committed by the police. In accordance with the recommendations outlined in a [joint report on electoral-related sexual violence](#) by UN Human Rights, UN Women and Physicians for Human Rights,¹⁵ the Office worked closely with the ODPP on the prosecution of cases of sexual violence committed by police officials.

The fight for justice continues.

“By granting compensation to four of the eight petitioners in the case, the court partially fulfilled the reparation principle of compensation. But this is not enough,” noted Kevin Mwangi, Programme Officer at the Independent Medico-Legal Unit. “We had hoped that the case would establish the reparations’ principles of non-repetition, to deter the perpetration of electoral-related sexual violence, and rehabilitation, to ensure the provision of

¹⁵ *Breaking Cycles of Violence*, issued in December 2019.



Cover page of the Breaking cycles of violence report. © OHCHR

comprehensive medical and psychosocial support to the survivors,” he continued. The Independent Medico-Legal Unit plans to institute a partial appeal on behalf of the four victims who did not receive compensation.

LIBERIA

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
5.06 million	111,000 km ²	0.480 (rank: 173/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2017)
Type of engagement	Country Office		
Year established	2018		
Field office(s)	Monrovia		
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2020-2024		
Staff as of 31 December 2020	8		

XB income	US\$2,906,226
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XB requirements 2020	US\$6,770,000
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XB expenditure	US\$2,539,657
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Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴
50%	39%	11%
\$1,273,361	\$996,196	\$270,100

Key OMP pillars in 2020

^{1,2,3,4} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229 and p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

A1 – The Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) increases its capacity to fulfil its mandate in accordance with the Paris Principles.

16

OHCHR supported the implementation of the INCHR mandate through monitoring, reporting and issuing recommendations to redress human rights concerns.

UN Human Rights supported the INCHR, four CSOs and the Human Rights and Protection Department of the Ministry of Justice to monitor human

rights in Liberia's 15 counties. This support enabled partners to conduct monitoring and document the impacts of the COVID-19 emergency measures on economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights across the country. In line with OHCHR's COVID-19 guidance, partners monitored the implementation of the Government's COVID-19 response plan. With support from OHCHR, the INCHR sensitized law enforcement agencies (police, immigration and corrections) through examples of good practices wherein human rights were respected in responses to public health emergencies, such as COVID-19. The Office reminded the Government of its obligations to

promote and protect human rights, including in emergencies.

In collaboration with the INCHR and the Civil Society Human Rights Advocacy Platform, OHCHR conducted regional consultations with traditional leaders on transitional justice processes in the western region of Liberia. More specifically, the consultations focused on accountability for past crimes committed during the Liberian civil war and the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia (TRC).

A2 – The INCHR commences the national Palava Hut Hearings on memorialization and reparations.

10 16

OHCHR ensured that transitional justice mechanisms are in place and operating in conformity with international human rights standards.

UN Human Rights supported the Transitional Justice Working Group to mobilize civil society in the campaign for accountability. With financial support from the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund and technical support from OHCHR, the INCHR Transitional Justice Unit was established and began to effectively fulfil its mandate. The recommendations of the 2019 National Colloquium on the Implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission continue to have an impact as advocacy and demands increase for ensuring accountability for past atrocities. The colloquium raised public awareness about the core relationship between peace and accountability and generated public support for accountability and the full implementation of the TRC's recommendations. In partnership with the INCHR, the Office supported a study

to map existing peace infrastructures in five counties (Bomi, Bong, Grand Bassa, Grand Gedeh and Lofa) and to assess their gender-responsiveness. The research analysed the mechanism of coordination and intersection between the Palava Huts, the Peace Huts and other decentralized peace infrastructures. The findings and recommendations of this research, which will be validated by stakeholders, will inform the implementation of the TRC's recommendations and will be used for policymaking purposes and future programming actions.

A3 – CSOs and HRDs improve their capacity to assist marginalized and vulnerable groups to seek redress and accountability for human rights violations.

5 10 16

OHCHR provided support to increase the conformity of oversight and accountability mechanisms with international human rights standards.

UN Human Rights supported the INCHR to conduct visits to national prisons and conduct advocacy on pretrial detention and to sensitize the judiciary, the Ministry of Justice and prison services on access to justice. In commemoration of World Day against the Death Penalty, OHCHR supported All Christians against Torture (ACAT), a local human rights-based CSO, to visit the Monrovia Central Prison to monitor the conditions of death row inmates. The engagement of CSOs with the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation and death row inmates provided an opportunity to determine if the prison conditions and treatment of death row inmates are in accordance with international human rights standards.

A4 – The INCHR assists and advises members and committees of the legislature and the Human Rights Legislative Association on human rights to prepare relevant bills, for example on domestic violence and female genital mutilation.

UN Human Rights supported a number of selected policy areas, resulting in a significant improvement in the compliance of legislation and policy with international human rights norms and standards.

UN Human Rights supported the development of a human rights and gender checklist to facilitate the alignment of draft bills with international human rights standards and principles before being submitted to the President of the Republic of Liberia for approval. UN Human Rights supported the Liberia Law Reform Commission to propose a human rights-based legal reform, resulting in the identification of two laws for amendment. Amendment acts were drafted for validation and submitted to the Legislature of Liberia for enactment. The objective of the checklist and amendments is to ensure that promulgated legislation mainstreams human rights and a gender perspective. These documents will be reviewed by legislators prior to their adoption. The following laws were identified for possible alignment with international human rights standards and will be tabled before the Parliament when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted: 1) the New Elections Law; 2) the Aliens and Nationality Laws; and 3) the Act to Govern the Devolution of Estates and Establish Rights of Inheritance for Spouses of Both Statutory and Customary Marriages.

A5 – The INCHR will implement the TRC's 2009 recommendations to ensure accountability for past crimes.

16

By providing technical and financial support to national mechanisms, OHCHR contributed to integrated reporting and the implementation of outstanding recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR.

UN Human Rights provided technical and financial support to the Ministry of Justice in relation to the NMRF. This initiative revived the Liberia NMRF, known as the National Body on Treaty Obligations (NaBTO) and built the capacity of technical experts to conduct national consultations, collect data and prepare Liberia's State Party reports to the human rights treaty bodies and the State reports to the UPR.

In collaboration with UPR Info, the Office provided technical and financial support to organize preparatory pre-sessions for Liberia's delegates to the third UPR cycle. The sessions enhanced the knowledge of delegates and prepared them for the UPR session. Since the delegates were unable to travel to Geneva due to COVID-19 restrictions, OHCHR offered financial assistance to enable them to present their opening statement and engage in a dialogue with the UPR Working Group through live videoconferencing. This assistance also ensured that the general public was able to access the broadcast of the proceedings.

OHCHR provided additional technical and financial support to the technical committee, which is composed of representatives from various ministries and agencies, to review the recommendations issued by the UPR. The technical

committee disaggregated and categorized the recommendations in accordance with the relevant mandates of Liberia's ministries, agencies and commissions and proposed other actions that the Government needs to take to implement the recommendations. In February 2021, the Government notified the UPR Working Group that of the 218 recommendations it had received, it had accepted 166 and taken note of 52.

Non-discrimination

ND1 – Protection mechanisms, including the INCHR and the Ministry of Justice Human Rights Protection Division, monitor and report on efforts to strengthen access to justice, the rule of law and the justice system. They give particular attention to impunity and discrimination against marginalized groups.

5 10 16 

OHCHR supported targeted protection mechanisms to improve the implementation of their respective mandates.

UN Human Rights supported the Ministry of Justice Human Rights Protection Division to monitor the human rights situation in the context of COVID-19. Broad public discussions about SGBV and three days of anti-rape protests took place following advocacy efforts that were undertaken by CSOs and the Human Rights Protection Division, with support from OHCHR. The Government convened a conference entitled “A national call to action: Inclusive involvement to fight rape and sexual and gender-based violence in Liberia” to validate the National Road Map on Rape and SGBV. The President declared rape and all forms of SGBV as a national emergency.

OHCHR supported the review of customary law in Liberia to identify laws that are discriminatory and fail to take gender into account and to raise the public's awareness about the availability of laws to protect and claim their rights. OHCHR and its partners engaged with the Law Reform Commission (LRC) and the Legislative Drafting Bureau (LDB) to integrate a human rights-based approach into legislative reform and to simplify three laws, namely, the Rape Law, the Domestic Violence Act and the Inheritance Law. The Office convened stakeholder consultations to identify gaps and propose amendments to address the concerns of women, girls and vulnerable groups, including LGBTI communities. OHCHR enhanced the capacity of 750 stakeholders (449 women, 301 men) on human rights and these three laws, in three counties (Grand Cape Mount, Lofa and Nimba). OHCHR also provided support to CSO partners to conduct a one-day working session in Montserrado County with 125 participants (51 women, 74 men), including traditional and religious leaders, representatives from women's groups, advocates and representatives of CSOs. The session was a landmark event in the fight against violence against women and girls.

ND3 – The INCHR assists the Government and the Ministry of Justice Human Rights Protection Division to draft and implement the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP), fulfil its UPR and human rights treaty body obligations and strengthen legal and policy reforms to advance gender mainstreaming and prohibit discrimination, especially with regard to women and marginalized groups.

5 9 10 

OHCHR supported the development of rights-based approaches in areas related to harmful practices, gender-based violence and the appropriate use of criminal law from a women's rights perspective, in conformity with international human rights standards.

UN Human Rights trained 104 (43 women, 61 men) monitors from INCHR and other entities to investigate, document and report on allegations of human rights violations related to sexual and reproductive health rights/harmful practices. Participants included representatives of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the judiciary, the Ministry of Education and CSOs.

OHCHR and other partners supported the drafting of the Law Reform Policy, which was validated and is pending submission to the Cabinet. A total of 125 representatives (51 women, 74 men) of traditional religious leaders, women's groups and CSOs engaged in the process. They indicated their full commitment to actualizing relevant legal frameworks and using the law to combat all forms of violence against women and girls.



Development

D7 – The UNDAF One Programme promotes human rights objectives, particularly protection of the most vulnerable, and assists Liberia to implement its NHRAP and the UPR recommendations that it has accepted.

OHCHR supported the integration of human rights into SDG implementation and the mainstreaming of an HRBA into UN common country programmes.

The OHCHR Surge Initiative enabled the Office in Liberia to support consultant-led research on the economic context in Liberia and how the pandemic affected the communities left behind. The research reviewed the situation in Liberia from the post-conflict to the development phase and considered the impacts of COVID-19 in relation to the SDGs. The research was undertaken in collaboration with major national partners, stakeholders and rights-holders.

This also supported the implementation of the Government's Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), which highlights issues related to ESCRs and SDGs mainstreaming. The objective of the PAPD is to strengthen the capacity of people to thrive and to encourage all Liberians living in-country and abroad to participate in the national development process over a five-year period. The PAPD incorporates a road map for the domestication of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063. The road map outlines key steps to translate the SDGs and Agenda 2063 into practical plans, policies and programmes, while also recognizing that Liberia is a fragile State.

OHCHR focused on the formulation and implementation of recommendations

under Pillar 3 of the PAPD, Sustainable Peace, which aims to create a more peaceful and unified society that provides opportunities for economic transformation and sustainable development. The primary outcomes under this Pillar include ending fragility and identifying the root causes of conflict, improving the justice system and human rights protection and enhancing national defence and security.



Mechanisms

M1 – Liberia complies more fully with its international human rights obligations, including by reporting to the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR and implementing their recommendations. To this end, the Government ratifies more human rights instruments, creates an NHRAP and appoints a drafting committee and NHRAP steering committee.

Through targeted assistance, OHCHR contributed to an enhanced framework for the implementation of treaty body obligations and UPR recommendations.

UN Human Rights supported the elaboration of the State report and the inputs from other stakeholders and the UNCT in anticipation of Liberia's third UPR cycle. In addition, OHCHR facilitated a workshop, led by UN Info, to prepare the delegation for the interactive UPR dialogue and organized a public viewing of the proceedings.

The Office revived the NMRF and built the capacities of its members. The NMRF is composed of technical experts dedicated to drafting Liberia's reports to the human rights treaty bodies, the UPR Working Group and the special procedures. It provided support in drafting and submitting Liberia's State report to the UPR and

its State Party report to CRPD. It also assisted the INCHR and the Civil Society Organizations Human Rights Advocacy Platform to draft a stakeholders' report prior to Liberia's third UPR cycle.

MADAGASCAR

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
27.69 million	587,000 km ²	0.528 (rank: 164/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2019)
Type of engagement		Human Rights Adviser	
Year established		2011	
Field office(s)		Antananarivo	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2019-2023	
Staff as of 31 December 2020		4	

XB requirements 2020

US\$1,157,000

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

A1 – The Independent National Human Rights Commission (INHRC) is fully operational by 2020.

10 16

OHCHR contributed to the functioning of the INHRC, in compliance with the Paris Principles, by strengthening the capacity of its members and providing technical support for institution-building.

After being accredited with “A” status by GANHRI, in 2019, the INHRC received ongoing technical advice from UN Human Rights to enable it to operate in compliance with the Paris Principles. In 2020, OHCHR supported the INHRC’s membership renewal process through technical and financial assistance that ensured its compliance with international human rights standards. This resulted in

the nomination of 11 new commissioners (six women, five men). The HRA will facilitate capacity-building workshops for the new commissioners on organizational development, human rights and the functional aspects of NHRIs.

A1 – Law enforcement officials comply more fully with international human rights norms and standards when they fulfil their functions. An effective accountability mechanism has been established.

16

By implementing training programmes, OHCHR contributed to the improvement of selected State institutions in their compliance with international human rights norms and standards.

UN Human Rights provided technical support to strengthen the capacity of 25

human rights trainers (one woman, 24 men) of the National Gendarmerie. Human rights modules were integrated into the curricula of the Gendarmerie academies. The trained Gendarmerie instructors provided human rights training to thousands of officers within the country’s 22 regions to promote respect for international human rights standards and norms in the discharge of their functions.

In addition, OHCHR provided technical and financial support to the Members of the High Council for the Defense of Democracy and the Rule of Law to conduct in situ human rights monitoring and investigations and to promote their mandate and mission in three of the 22 regions. This resulted in a substantial increase in submitted complaints from the regions to the Council.

Participation

P2 – National and international mechanisms are established to protect civil society and human rights defenders. They are sustainable and supported by the UN.



Protection mechanisms that conform to international human rights standards are in place and functioning, with support from OHCHR.

The new National Disability Inclusion Plan is being developed with the technical and financial assistance of UN Human Rights. With the support of the Ministry of Population, Social Protection and Promotion of Women, the UNCT and OHCHR, the Platform for People with Disabilities conducted a series of consultation workshops in different regions of the country. The objective of the workshops was to assess the previous National

Disability Plan and gather recommendations from national key stakeholders to inform the drafting and validation of the new Plan.

Mechanisms

M1 – The government committee in charge of drafting State reports to the international human rights mechanisms is effective. It has established a monitoring mechanism.

16 17

OHCHR aimed at supporting the establishment and functioning of a national mechanism for integrated reporting and the implementation of outstanding recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

With the support UN Human Rights, a draft plan for the implementation of recommendations issued by the UPR, the human rights treaty bodies and the special procedures is being developed by an intragovernmental committee in charge of drafting of national reports and the follow-up to recommendations, the INHRC and CSOs. The draft plan will be presented to the Government for validation in 2021. Once it is approved, the Office will support the establishment of a database that is dedicated to monitoring recommendations within the Ministry of Justice Human Rights Department.

OHCHR actively participated in UN working groups on the socio-economic response to COVID-19 to ensure that human rights are at the heart of the response. To this end, the HRA contributed to the drafting and dissemination of the UNCT's Advocacy Note on Gender and COVID-19 and provided input to the drafting of the Madagascar Emergency

Appeal, which was launched by the RC. Furthermore, the UNCT and OHCHR advocated with the Minister of Justice for the adoption of concrete measures to decrease the number of people in detention, thereby reducing the potentially devastating impacts of COVID-19 in overcrowded prisons. This advocacy contributed to the implementation of a number of measures by the Government, including the closure of all courts and tribunals, the suspension of prison visits, instituting mandatory, regular temperature screening for inmates and penitentiary officers and consistently disinfecting the prisons. As a result of OHCHR's advocacy, the President issued a decree, on 24 June, granting presidential pardons to 1,695 detainees, including 89 juveniles and 55 women inmates.

In May, OHCHR met with the President of the National Assembly to discuss health and human rights. The HRA stressed the importance of placing human rights at the centre of the national response to COVID-19. The Parliament subsequently adopted a resolution reiterating that the right to health is a fundamental right and called upon the Government to allocate at least 20 per cent of the national budget to improve and support the health sector. The Government agreed to consider the Parliament's recommendation in 2021.

MALAWI

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
19.13 million	118,000 km ²	0.483 (rank: 174/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2016)
Type of engagement		Human Rights Adviser	
Year established		2019	
Field office(s)		Lilongwe	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2019-2023	
Staff as of 31 December 2020		1	

XB requirements 2020 **US\$482,000**

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

A2 – NHRIs and other national protection systems are established that comply with international human rights standards.

10 16 

OHCHR contributed to the functioning of the Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC), in increased compliance with the Paris Principles, by strengthening the capacity of its members and through targeted advocacy.

UN Human Rights provided technical assistance to the commissioners and staff of the MHRC, resulting in increased knowledge and a better understanding of the international human rights system and how to apply international human rights standards in their daily work. This was of particular importance in the context of the COVID-19 response.

Following OHCHR's guidance, the MHRC undertook a comprehensive analysis, monitoring and advocacy programme on the human rights implications of COVID-19. In addition, the HRA collaborated with the MHRC on addressing the requirements of persons with disabilities during the pandemic.

OHCHR coordinated the advocacy efforts of the Resident Coordinator and the UNCT on the alleged rape and sexual assault of 18 women and girls by police officers in October 2019. Through engagement with civil society, the MHRC and the Women Lawyers Association representing the survivors, the Office provided the Resident Coordinator and the UNCT with regular updates. These efforts contributed to effective advocacy, including through private dialogue with senior officials, the issuing of press releases, the suspension of engagement with the police

by several agencies and the adoption of a UNCT risk analysis with mitigating measures under the HRDDP. The HRA coordinated the delivery of assistance from UN agencies and NGOs to ensure that survivors had access to essential support services.


Development

D7 – All UNDAF roll-out countries adopt a human rights-based approach to programming and link the SDGs to international human rights standards.



By providing technical guidance, OHCHR aimed at ensuring that UN common country programmes integrated international human rights standards and the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

In 2020, UN Human Rights was a co-drafter of the revised CCA for Malawi. While the document has not been finalized, human rights will form an important part of the analysis. In November, Malawi underwent its third UPR cycle. In preparation for the review, the HRA engaged with UN agencies to update the UNCT progress report, which was used to advocate with various embassies in Malawi to ensure that the UPR recommendations would be comprehensive. In 2021, OHCHR will collaborate with UN Malawi, the MHRC and the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to develop a strategy for their implementation.

Non-discrimination

ND1 – The country adopts legal and policy measures, aligned with human rights, that prevent discrimination against women, migrants, persons with albinism and persons with disabilities.



Technical advice, capacity-building and coordination by OHCHR aimed to contribute to the increased compliance of legislation and policy with international human rights norms and standards.

In 2020, UN Human Rights promoted the rights of persons with disabilities by undertaking activities on several fronts. For instance, as part of the global UN pilot roll-out of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy accountability scorecards in seven countries, the HRA led the roll-out process in Malawi. More specifically, a UN disability team was established, with designated focal points in each agency, that worked together to develop and implement the scorecard indicators.

OHCHR also supported the UN's engagement with organizations of persons with disabilities. A consultation was held between UN technical staff from eight agencies and seven organizations of persons with disabilities, resulting in recommendations for their enhanced inclusion in UN programmes. The Government and the MHRC were observers at the consultation and both undertook commitments to facilitate the increased engagement of persons with disabilities in order to promote and protect their rights. This was a first step towards a greater integration of disabilities into all aspects of UN programming, in line with achieving the UN Global Disability Integration Strategy.

ND7 – Public support increases for equal, inclusive and diverse societies, without discrimination.



Through training and advocacy, OHCHR contributed to processes seeking to prevent violent conflict by promoting equality, diversity and inclusiveness.

In the south of Malawi, increased tension and violence between Muslim and Christian communities occurred when some Christian-managed schools refused to educate girls wearing a hijab. The ensuing violence resulted in severe injuries and the burning of churches, mosques and schools. Five schools were closed, putting more than 10,000 children out of school. Given the sensitive and powerful role of religious organizations in Malawi, the Government asked the Public Advisory Committee (PAC), an NGO of religious leaders, to mediate between the religious leaders and negotiate an agreed dress code for schools to resolve the issue.

Together with PAC, UN Human Rights delivered a series of workshops and dialogues with Malawi Muslim and Christian leaders in the south that focused on international human rights standards relating to the rights to freedom of religion or belief, the rights of minorities, the rights of the girl child to equality and education and the right of women and girls to be free from discrimination. As a result of the workshops, the religious leaders used international human rights principles to frame their dialogue, which was reflected in their report to the President of Malawi and their draft outcome statement. The dialogue on a common dress code for schools, which seeks to accommodate all religions and beliefs, is ongoing and

it is anticipated to yield concrete results in 2021. By end of 2020, four of the five closed schools were re-opened to include girls wearing a hijab.

Peace and Security

PS5 – In at least four countries, the UNCTs integrate human rights into their early warning, prevention, preparedness and response plans.



OHCHR contributed to the increased integration of prevention and rights-based approaches into specific UN programmes.

The Malawi Prevention Platform and the UNCT Prevention Strategy, drafted by UN Human Rights in 2019 and updated in 2020, played an important role in informing the UNCT throughout the pre- and post-election process, which was marked by rising levels of protests and civil unrest. The Prevention Platform, managed by the HRA, facilitated the regular collection of data that indicated trends in human rights violations and violent conflict. This informed weekly and monthly reports to the UNCT, which identified early warning indicators and prevention actions. Through this process, the RC ensured that human rights were mainstreamed into the UNCT response to the mass protests that occurred in 2020, thereby contributing to a strategic and targeted UN response that helped to calm civil unrest. With the increasing impacts of COVID-19 on the population and economy in Malawi, the Platform was adjusted to identify trends and provide early warning guidance on civil unrest and human rights violations triggered by the pandemic.

While responding to a serious child smuggling situation in the country during

COVID-19, OHCHR mobilized national and regional UN agencies, the MHRC and local authorities to intervene on the basis of human rights principles. Consequently, a multi-agency project that was designed and implemented to address increased trafficking during the COVID-19 period, between August and December, integrated a human rights framework.

MALI: UNITED NATIONS MULTIDIMENSIONAL INTEGRATED STABILIZATION MISSION IN MALI (MINUSMA)

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
20.25 million	1,240,000 km ²	0.434 (rank: 184/189 in 2019)	"B" Status (2012)
Type of engagement		Peace Mission	
Year established		2013	
Field office(s)		Bamako, Mopti, Gao, Kidal, Ménaka and Timbuktu	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2020-2024	
Staff as of 31 December 2020		69	

XB requirements 2020

US\$853,000

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229

PILLAR RESULTS:

Peace and Security

PS1 – Violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law are monitored, documented and reported. Particular attention is given to abuses by armed groups and violations by State actors, especially in the Central and Northern regions of Mali. Perpetrators and those responsible are identified.

5 16

Through reporting and advocacy, OHCHR aimed to contribute to the increased proportion of human rights violations cases that were positively addressed by authorities.

In 2020, UN Human Rights and MINUSMA's Human Rights and Protection Division (HRPD) published two quarterly notes on trends of human

rights violations and abuses attributed to Malian Defence and Security Forces (MDSF), G5 Sahel forces as well as armed groups. In the first note, covering the period from 1 January to 31 March, the HRPD documented 598 human rights violations and abuses, representing an increase of 61 per cent compared to the number reported in the previous quarter. This upward trend was observed in the second quarter of 2020, the period covered by the second quarterly note, during which the HRPD documented 632 human rights violations and abuses. The HRPD brought these documented cases to the attention of relevant authorities and provided recommendations on how they should be addressed. The HRPD had several formal and informal meetings with the former Minister of Justice and Human Rights to discuss 129 of these cases. As a result, investigations were opened in 35 cases.

Within the framework of the information-sharing mechanism established with the Malian Armed Forces Chief of General Staff, the HRPD met with the Chief of General Staff and his legal adviser on several occasions to follow up on cases of human rights violations involving the MDSF. The HRPD shared a list of 43 alleged human rights violations involving the MDSF. The military authorities consequently opened investigations into 17 of these cases and, in some instances, statements were issued condemning the attacks that led to the alleged violations.

PS4 – The Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC) fulfils its mandate and issues its final report. The Malian authorities implement their key recommendations and prioritize victims’ rights, in accordance with Mali’s international obligations.

5 16

With technical support from OHCHR, transitional justice mechanisms in Mali increasingly operate in line with international human rights norms and standards.

The TJRC made progress towards the fulfillment of its mandate. UN Human Rights and the HRDP provided the Commission with technical and logistical support for the organization of a second public hearing, which took place on 5 December. During the hearing, 12 victims, including three women, testified regarding the abuses they suffered during armed attacks in 2019. The event was broadcast on national television and covered by international media outlets. The HRDP is supporting the TJRC in the drafting of its final report.

PS5 – UN-led prevention and protection strategies more fully integrate human rights information and standards.

3 5 8 10 13 16 17

OHCHR contributed to the increased integration of international human rights norms, standards and principles into the work of the Peace Mission through technical support and advocacy.

In 2020, the Director of MINUSMA’s HRPD participated in 12 meetings of the UNCT, during which he provided recommendations and strategic advice on how to better integrate a human rights-based approach into UN projects and programmes. The HRPD also participated in 32 Protection Cluster coordination meetings to provide technical guidance and share information, which prompted early warning and early responses to human rights-related incidents. As a result, six protection projects were implemented by the HRPD, resulting in the safe relocation of 253 victims and/or witnesses of human rights violations (35 women, 218 men). Malian investigation police officers were supported during their interviews of complainants. These projects enabled the HRPD to conduct more than 50 in-depth investigations into allegations of serious human rights violations.

PS6 – National and regional security forces, law enforcement agencies and non-State actors seeking support from the United Nations implement mitigation measures in accordance with the HRRDP, most notably in programmes that are assessed to be high or medium risk.

5 16

In order to facilitate the implementation of the HRDDP, OHCHR took steps to establish procedures that would contribute to protection from human rights violations.

During the reporting period, UN Human Rights and the HRPD conducted 68 risk assessments on MINUSMA’s support to non-UN security forces. The HRPD established a mechanism to follow up on mitigation measures that were recommended in cases that were reviewed between October 2019 and December 2020. To date, the HRPD has reviewed 50 per cent of those recommended mitigation measures.

Accountability

A2 – Criminal courts increasingly process human rights-related cases promptly and in compliance with international due process standards. Serious violations that occurred after 2012 are prosecuted, regardless of whether they involved members of armed groups or members of the MDSF.

10 16

OHCHR monitored the trial of human rights violation cases to ensure their compliance with international human rights standards.

In 2020, UN Human Rights and MINUSMA’s HRPD monitored 38 trials that were before the Court of Assizes in

Bamako and Mopti to assess the extent to which they conformed to international fair trial standards. A total of 325 cases were tried, including 10 cases of human trafficking and 50 cases of terrorism. The HRPD identified a number of concerns regarding the respect for certain procedural rights, particularly the right to effective assistance of counsel and the duration of pretrial detention. Moreover, the HRPD met with the Prosecutor of the Pôle Judiciaire Spécialisé on five occasions, during which it shared a list of cases that failed to comply with international human rights standards and advocated for immediate compliance. In addition, the HRPD collaborated with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism to co-organize a training of trainers course on respect for human rights during counter-terrorism operations in Mali. The five-day training was delivered to 16 law enforcement officers, security officials and judges. It was held within the framework of the third phase of a broader training programme that began in 2017. The objective of the programme is to develop training tools and materials that are adapted to the Malian context and to cultivate a pool of trainers with expertise in human rights and counter-terrorism.

MAURITANIA

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
4.65 million	1,031,000 km ²	0.546 (rank: 157/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2020)
Type of engagement		Country Office	
Year established		2010	
Field office(s)		Nouakchott	
UN partnership framework		Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development 2018-2022	
Staff as of 31 December 2020		14	
XB income		US\$661,055	
XB requirements 2020		US\$1,980,000	
XB expenditure		US\$1,254,858	
Personnel		Non-personnel	PSC⁴
66%		23%	11%
\$824,002		\$292,519	\$138,337

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1,2,3,4} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229 and p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

A1 – Prison conditions increasingly comply with international standards due to monitoring and the coordination of assistance efforts.

16 

Through monitoring, technical support and advocacy activities, OHCHR contributed to the improved compliance with international human rights standards of detention facilities.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, UN Human Rights and its partners engaged with the Directorate of Penal Affairs and Prison Administration, the Commission on Human Rights, Humanitarian Action

and Relations with Civil Society and the Ministry of Justice to advocate for a reduction in the number of detainees to counter the spread of COVID-19 in prisons. A number of detainees were consequently released. The Directorate of Penal Affairs and Prison Administration reviewed its visits protocol, restricted visitation at various prisons and equipped detention facilities with the necessary tools to decrease the risk of contamination. The Office also monitored arbitrary arrests and detention during the COVID-19 period and consistently advocated for the release of children, vulnerable individuals and those awaiting trial for minor offences.

The Office continued to work with the National Commission on Human Rights (CNDH) and the NPM to reinforce their respective mandates and provide them with technical assistance. With the reshuffling of the NPM, OHCHR provided new members with an induction training on the international human rights mechanisms and international human rights law.

In May, the Office released a public report on the treatment of detainees in prisons in Mauritania, which was the result of work undertaken in 2019 and 2020. The report provided an opportunity for further advocacy by stakeholders at the national level to promote respect for human rights in detention.



Participation

P1 – When the Government develops and implements human rights-related national action plans and legislation, it adopts processes that enable meaningful participation by civil society.



Rights-holders, especially women and discriminated groups, increasingly participated in selected public processes, due in part to OHCHR's advocacy.

In July, a decree was adopted regarding the establishment of an observatory on the rights of women and girls. The decree came about following ongoing engagement between UN Human Rights and the Ministry of Social Affairs, Children and Family Affairs, various actors and civil society. UN Human Rights also delivered a technical workshop and undertook a study in 2020. Moreover, the Office and UNFPA produced a joint study on the impacts of COVID-19 on gender-based violence, which mapped specific vulnerabilities and informed the UN response on this issue.

P1 – The law on civil associations and the law on public assembly are applied in compliance with international human rights standards.

16

OHCHR sought to contribute to the improved compliance of legislation with international human rights norms and standards through advocacy and technical assistance.

UN Human Rights participated in workshops that were organized by the Commission for Human Rights,

Humanitarian Action and Civil Society Relations to consult with civil society actors about the draft law on civil society. OHCHR worked closely with the Commission and the Ministry of Justice to ensure the draft's compliance with international standards. It also collaborated with other UN agencies to coordinate advocacy efforts. Concerns were raised with the Government regarding the law on fake news. The Office prepared a review and identified areas where the law fails to comply with international human rights standards.



Non-discrimination

ND6 – Human rights institutions establish a monitoring mechanism on the detention of migrants.



By providing recommendations and support, OHCHR supported the establishment and functioning of protection mechanisms that comply with international human rights standards.

Through the Task Force on Migration, a paper was produced on migration challenges being faced in the country. Subsequently, the Task Force engaged with the Administration of Immigration and working groups were set up to align the national strategy with the Global Compact for Migration. UN Human Rights participated in the working groups and provided recommendations on legislative revisions that are needed in relation to migration and the protection of migrants.



Development

D7 – Communities in the regions, women, local authorities and the central Government are more knowledgeable about economic, social and cultural rights.

OHCHR contributed to the enhanced integration of international human rights norms, standards and principles into the work of UN agencies and other actors.

Through its leadership of the Protection Working Group, which was set up under the social and economic pillar of the UN COVID-19 response, UN Human Rights contributed to the national Intersectoral Action Plan on COVID-19 and drafted the section on human rights and humanitarian action. As a result of the Working Group's work and advocacy, the Action Plan now incorporates a comprehensive human rights-based approach and promotes activities aimed at protecting women and girls and vulnerable groups, such as marginalized populations, migrants and children. The Action Plan was developed in coordination with a technical committee that is comprised of representatives from various ministries and included the participation of civil society and other partners in Mauritania.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, the Office has enhanced its work around economic, social and cultural rights by monitoring and documenting violations in relation to these rights during periods of lockdown and stay-at-home orders. More specifically, OHCHR interacted with communities on the ground, partnered with various NGOs to document cases of human rights violations and engaged in advocacy with relevant ministries. This work began in June and the results are expected to be published in a report in 2021.



Peace and Security

PS3 – The host populations that are affected by the presence of Malian refugees and victims of other humanitarian emergencies are increasingly involved in the development and implementation of response strategies.



OHCHR supported the increased participation of rights-holders, especially women and discriminated groups, in selected processes to prevent conflicts between host populations and refugees. This was primarily done through capacity-building and awareness-raising activities.

UN Human Rights continued to build the capacities of the women's network in host communities, in Bassikounou, while also organizing training sessions for women's organizations throughout the country, including in the Adrar and Inchiri regions. In Bassikounou, a meeting was held with local authorities to discuss the challenges and solutions relating to the region.

In February, OHCHR and other UN agencies participated in a border mission to Fassala, where large numbers of newly arrived Malian refugees are located. The Office conducted an assessment in the settlement, which was set up by UN agencies and NGOs to provide temporary accommodations. It produced an internal report that highlights protection and human rights risks and outlines recommendations to address those risks.

MOZAMBIQUE

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
31.26 million	799,000 km ²	0.456 (rank: 181/189 in 2019) -	-

Type of engagement	Project (Other type of field presence)
Year established	2019
Field office(s)	Maputo
Staff as of 31 December 2020	2

XB requirements 2020	US\$1,865,000	
XB expenditure	US\$272,157	
Personnel	Non-personnel*	PSC ⁴
98%	-10%	11%
\$267,281	-\$26,410	\$31,286

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1 2 3 4} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229 and p. 231

* Includes prior period expenditure adjustments.

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

A2 – NHRIs and other national protection systems are established that comply with international human rights standards.

10 16

Through the provision of technical advice, OHCHR contributed to the establishment and functioning of NHRIs, which conform to international human rights standards.

In February, UN Human Rights supported a five-day capacity assessment of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), with the participation of the Secretariat and members of the Network of African NHRIs, the Portuguese Ombudsperson's Office and UNDP. The event aimed at evaluating the capacities, needs and operational challenges

of the National Commission. Further to the assessment, a draft review of the Commission's legislation was undertaken, which reflected some of the elements raised by participants in the assessment. UN Human Rights is working to ensure that the draft is aligned with the Paris Principles before it is submitted to the Council of Ministers and the Parliament for review.

OHCHR provided financial and technical assistance to the NHRC to enable it to more effectively monitor emblematic human rights cases and consolidate and advance its role as the NPM, including by mapping all detention institutions in the country and building partnerships. The Office also contracted a consultant to support the Commission in developing monitoring checklists as part of its NPM mandate.

Mechanisms

M1 – Three countries strengthen or legally establish NMRFs.

16 17

OHCHR advocated for the establishment of an NMRF on the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

Through the part-time deployment of a staff member to the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs, UN Human Rights provided the Ministry with guidance on the preparation of 12 submissions that address questions raised by the special procedures mandate holders and the human rights treaty bodies. At the same time, the Office advocated for and supported the efforts of authorities and stakeholders in reporting to the human rights mechanisms, including broad consultations for submissions to the UPR, and the institutionalization of an ad hoc inter-ministerial committee for reporting on human rights and humanitarian law obligations to render it the permanent NMRF.

M2 – More NGOs and NHRIs engage with the international human rights mechanisms.

17 

With OHCHR's guidance, CSOs and other actors increased their engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

UN Human Rights delivered targeted training to organizations of persons with disabilities and older persons to encourage their increased engagement with the international human rights mechanisms. As a result, and for the first time, the two main

umbrella organizations for persons with disabilities and the rights of older persons, representing over 30 organizations, had the opportunity to consult with local stakeholders and prepare two dedicated reports on the situation of these groups in anticipation of Mozambique's third UPR cycle. The organizations indicated that OHCHR's support enabled them to gain better access to authorities and the UN to express their concerns and appeal for resources.

OHCHR and the Swedish faith-based development organization, DIAKONIA, organized a six-week online training series for 35 civil society representatives (17 women, 18 men) from across the country. The representatives were members of a network of key organizations working on civil and political rights, freedom of the press, environmental and business and human rights and the rights of women and youth. In particular, the training developed the capacity of participants in relation to the protection mechanisms and referral pathways that are available at the national level and through the AU and the UN. Following the training events, at least three entities sought follow-up engagements with the special procedures and developed submissions to the UPR.

The Office also coordinated the drafting of the UNCT joint submission to the UPR, in collaboration with 11 UN entities. The collected inputs are informing the development of the CCA.



Participation

P6 – CSOs are able to participate in public affairs and advocate for democratic space.



By engaging with CSOs, OHCHR aimed at increasing the level of their meaningful participation in selected public processes.

At the end of 2020, UN Human Rights supported the establishment and launch of a national network of HRDs. In 2021, OHCHR will provide guidance to help define working modalities and will facilitate capacity-building sessions for its members. OHCHR continued to reach out to a broad range of stakeholders to identify relevant local human rights organizations and determine their capacity needs at the national and provincial levels, in particular in Cabo Delgado, Niassa, Nampula and Tete.

NIGER

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
24.21 million	1,267,000 km ²	0.394 (rank: 189/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2017)
Type of engagement	Country Office and Human Rights Adviser		
Year established	2019 (CO) and 2008 (HRA)		
Field office(s)	N'Djamena		
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2017–2021		
Staff as of 31 December 2020	3		

XB requirements 2020**US\$859,000****Key OMP pillars in 2020**^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.229**PILLAR RESULTS:**
Accountability

A2 – The action plan of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is updated and fully implemented.



OHCHR contributed to the functioning of the NHRC, in increased conformity with international human rights standards, including by providing technical support to the NHRC.

The NHRC was designated as Niger's NPM through the adoption of Law No. 2020-02 on 6 May. UN Human Rights provided technical support for the drafting process, in particular during the drafting of the section relating to the role, powers and mission of the NPM as well as the protection of its members.

Mechanisms

M1 – Niger submits reports promptly to the UPR and to the human rights treaty bodies, engages with and responds to the special procedures and implements their recommendations.



OHCHR provided technical support to Niger to encourage the timely submission of its reports.

In 2020, Niger continued to submit outstanding reports to the international human rights mechanisms. As a result, two interim reports on the implementation of priority recommendations relating to CEDAW and ICESCR as well as the State report for Niger's third UPR cycle were prepared and validated. UN Human Rights trained the members of the interministerial committee on the reporting guidelines for preparing these documents and built their capacity to prepare quality reports.

M2 – UN agencies, civil society organizations, the NHRC and other key actors prepare and submit at least one contribution or alternative report each year to the UPR, the human rights treaty bodies or the special procedures.

17

Technical guidance was provided by OHCHR to civil society actors to increase their substantive submissions to the UPR, the human rights treaty bodies and the special procedures.

UN Human Rights provided guidance to the CSO network Collectif des Organisations de Défense des Droits de L'Homme et de la Démocratie in its preparation of an alternative report on the implementation of CED and a CSO report in anticipation of Niger's third UPR cycle. OHCHR also coordinated the drafting of the contribution of the UNCT to the UPR.

NIGERIA

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
206.14 million	924,000 km ²	0.539 (rank: 161/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2016)
Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser		
Year established	2014		
Field office(s)	Abuja and Makurdi		
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework 2018-2022		
Staff as of 31 December 2020	1		

XB requirements 2020**US\$1,012,000****Key OMP pillars 2020**^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229**PILLAR RESULTS:****Accountability**

A2 – Nigeria domesticates at least one human rights treaty and accepts at least two additional individual complaints and inquiry procedures by 2021.

10 16

Through technical support that was provided to the Resident Coordinator, OHCHR sought to influence the passage of legislation that complies with international human rights standards.

UN Human Rights prepared position papers and notes to support the RC's advocacy efforts to encourage the adoption of the draft Gender Equality Bill by the National Assembly. The draft Bill, which complies with international human rights standards, is currently under consideration by the Assembly. The HRA further supported the RC in his advocacy campaign in five states of the country to urge the domestication of the Child Rights Act, the

Violence against Persons (Prohibition) Act and the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act. The states of Yobe and Bauchi domesticated the Violence against Persons (Prohibition) Act in late 2020.

**Peace and Security**

PS2 – Oversight and accountability mechanisms, including the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the National Committee against Torture and the internal oversight mechanisms of the security agencies (the Human Rights Desk and court martials), are in place and functioning.

16

Through technical and financial support, OHCHR contributed to the functioning of the NHRC in increased compliance with international human rights standards.

The NHRC made substantial progress in the implementation of its monitoring mandate by deploying 15 human rights monitors to Benue state, which is one of the states that is most affected by clashes between herders and farmers. The NHRC monitors, who were deployed in conjunction with OHCHR human rights officers, conducted a total of 2,208 monitoring missions to IDP camps and host communities. The monitors reported 8,131 human rights violations and referred 6,002 cases to community Heads, the Benue State Emergency Management Agency, the police, the military, the State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, the Benue State Action Committee and the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons. As a result, 4,972 cases were managed by relevant government agencies and a total of 3,691 cases were positively resolved.

RWANDA

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
12.95 million	26,000 km ²	0.543 (rank: 160/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2018)
Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser		
Year established	2007		
Field office(s)	Kigali		
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Plan 2018-2023		
Staff as of 31 December 2020	3		

XB requirements 2020**US\$284,000****Key OMP pillars in 2020**^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.229**PILLAR RESULTS:**

Development

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



Through the provision of technical support, OHCHR sought to increase the integration of rights-based approaches into the programmes of UN entities.

UN Human Rights chaired the One UN Rwanda Human Rights Task Force and contributed to the inclusion of a section on human rights in the reviewed CCA. In addition, under the coordination of OHCHR's HRA, the Task Force developed and validated indicators for assessing

and monitoring the impacts of COVID-19 on human rights by the UNCT.


Mechanisms

M2 – NGOs and UN agencies have increased their engagement with the UPR and the human rights treaty bodies.



OHCHR aimed at supporting CSOs and UN entities in preparing submissions to the international human rights mechanisms by facilitating training and advice.

UN Human Rights provided technical support to the Government of Rwanda in the preparation and validation of its State report in anticipation of its third UPR cycle. With the participation of the HRA, the One UN Rwanda Task Force on Human Rights prepared the UN State report for Rwanda's third UPR cycle, which was submitted to the Human Rights Council in July.

G5 SAHEL JOINT FORCE COMPLIANCE FRAMEWORK PROJECT

Type of engagement	Project (Other type of field presence)
Year established	2018
Field office(s)	Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger
Staff as of 31 December 2020	23

XB income	US\$11,267,326
XB requirements 2020	US\$12,502,000
XB expenditure	US\$8,910,235

Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴
75%	17%	7%
\$6,714,683	\$1,547,343	\$648,209

Key OMP pillars in 2020



⁴ Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:



Peace and Security

PS2 – The G5 Sahel Joint Force has established mechanisms for the arrest, detention, interrogation and transfer of those apprehended during operations, in accordance with international human rights and international humanitarian laws and standards.

16



Through the provision of technical advice, OHCHR contributed to the establishment and functioning of oversight, accountability and protection mechanisms, which conform to international human rights standards.

In June, the G5 Sahel Joint Force Commander approved the Directive of the Joint Force Police Component, which outlines its missions and functioning, however, it has not yet been approved

by the G5 Sahel Defence and Security Committee. The Force Commander also adopted the SOP on the conduct of internal investigations, representing an important step towards accountability as it provides for internal investigations when members of the Joint Force are suspected of violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. It also requires that OHCHR be informed when a commission of inquiry is constituted and any results. OHCHR supported the G5 Sahel Joint Force in establishing internal procedures and mechanisms to implement the Compliance Framework and integrate human rights and international humanitarian law standards into legal documents, rules and regulations.

OHCHR led the work on the creation of a dedicated training for the Police Component of the G5 Sahel Joint Force. The structure and training modules

were developed through a Technical Committee that was composed of key partners, including the European Union-Regional Advisory and Coordination Cell, MINUSMA, UNODC, INTERPOL and AFRIPOL. The Committee's work culminated in a validation workshop that was held from 16 to 19 November, in Niger, and was attended by 38 participants from the G5 Sahel countries. A pilot training session based on the validated modules is planned for 2021 in Nouakchott.

PS2 – The G5 Sahel Joint Force has established monitoring, accountability and response mechanisms and procedures.

16

With substantive support from OHCHR and other partners, significant progress was made by the G5 Sahel Joint Force towards the establishment of monitoring, accountability and response mechanisms and procedures that comply with international human rights norms and standards.

UN Human Rights and the Centre for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC) supported the Joint Force to establish its internal Civilian Casualty and Incidents Tracking and Analysis Cell (CITAC) mechanism. This will enable the Joint Force to ascertain the circumstances of and responsibility for casualties and violations. Since the establishment of the CITAC and the nomination of Joint Force personnel to serve as members of the cell, OHCHR and CIVIC have conducted trainings for Joint Force personnel on the functioning of the mechanism and undertook three sensitization visits with key CITAC members. The first two missions were to Dori, Burkina Faso, followed by missions to Bankilaré and Téra in Niger. The goal of the missions was to reinforce the capacities of

officers, teams and group leaders of the respective battalions operating in the border region of Mali and Niger on civilian harm mitigation and the CITAC. In December, a third mission took place in Mauritania. Additional visits to the battalions in Chad and Mali will take place in 2021 and SOPs will be developed on the functioning of the CITAC.

PS2 – UN Human Rights provides ongoing political and strategic support for the implementation and maintenance of the Compliance Framework.

16

Through advocacy and outreach, OHCHR helped to ensure that critical human rights issues were raised and taken up in international forums in a timely manner.

UN Human Rights continued to engage with Member States, international organizations and other partners to advocate for the sustained political, technical and financial support to the G5 Sahel Joint Force Compliance Framework. Numerous meetings were organized to update all stakeholders on the operationalization of the Compliance Framework and to seek sustained political support. The meetings were organized by the High Commissioner with the European Union's Special Representatives for Human Rights and the Sahel, in December, and by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights with the European Union's Political and Security Committee, in October. The participation of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights at the high-level segment of the Ministerial Round-Table on Central Sahel, co-organized by Member States, the European Union and the United

Nations, on 20 October, was an additional occasion to echo the message about the importance of compliance by security forces with international human rights law and international humanitarian law. As a result of this advocacy, support was expressed for maintaining the Compliance Framework approach in the Joint Force's counter-terrorism operations, including through the integration of relevant language in Security Council resolutions and the Secretary-General reports pertaining to UN support to the Joint Force.

The Office strengthened its engagement with partners in the region to ensure that adequate international human rights and international humanitarian standards are put in place across new security initiatives in the Sahel, in line with the Compliance Framework. Following a series of credible reports about serious human rights violations committed by the G5 Sahel Joint Force and national armies against civilians in the course of counter-terrorism operations, OHCHR engaged with the G5 Sahel countries and other partners with concrete operational recommendations aimed at facilitating the full investigation of the allegations and seeking justice and redress for the victims.

PS6 – United Nations support to the G5 Sahel Joint Force complies with the HRDDP.

16

Through technical advice and training, OHCHR contributed to the increased compliance of relevant actors with the HRDDP.

Since Security Council resolution 2531 (2020) formally requested MINUSMA to expand the provision of its life support consumables to G5 Sahel Joint Force contingents operating outside of Malian territory, in compliance with the HRDDP, the Joint Force has submitted 16 support requests to MINUSMA. In turn, MINUSMA has responded favourably and within the timeframe set by the technical agreement to 14 of these requests. Following each request, MINUSMA undertook a comprehensive risk assessment and subsequently identified a series of mitigation measures. Throughout the year, OHCHR increased its technical and substantive support to MINUSMA and to its HRDDP Task Force and Secretariat to help facilitate the implementation of the Policy.

Following a request by the Resident Coordinator in Burkina Faso, OHCHR provided assistance to the UNCT to enhance the implementation of the HRDDP and ensure a coherent and collective approach by all stakeholders. The Office worked with the UNCT to draft standard operating procedures on the HRDDP and to establish a Task Force. Finally, OHCHR worked on the creation of a regional HRDDP coordination structure in the Sahel region, which is planned to begin operating in 2021.

SOMALIA: UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION IN SOMALIA (UNSOM)

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
15.89 million	638,000 km ²	-	-
Type of engagement	Peace Mission		
Year established	2008		
Field office(s)	Mogadishu, Jubaland, Puntland, Hirshabelle, Somaliland and South West State		
UN partnership framework	United Nations Integrated Strategic Framework 2017-2020		
Staff as of 31 December 2020	20		

XB requirements 2020

US\$580,000

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229

PILLAR RESULTS:

Participation

P6 – Human rights violations and abuses against IDPs, minorities, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups that suffer discrimination are monitored, documented and reported for purposes of advocacy and protection.

Through capacity-building activities, OHCHR contributed to the increased participation of rights-holders, especially women and discriminated groups, in selected public processes.

Somalia's 2019 ratification of CRPD facilitated the increased engagement of persons with disabilities in public processes regarding the protection of their rights. In Somaliland, UN Human Rights and the Human Rights and Protection Group (HRPG) of UNSOM supported civil society in conducting consultations on crafting a disability law from the Somaliland

Disability Policy that is compliant with CRPD. In Mogadishu, the HRPG supported the Federal Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development to conduct consultations with relevant stakeholders on the Persons with Disabilities Bill, which is compliant with international standards and is ready to be tabled before the Cabinet.

In addition, the HRPG carried out an assessment of the capacities of CSOs to monitor, report and advocate on human rights in Somalia. A total of 67 CSO networks were identified and approximately 75 per cent of them unite organizations that are involved in similar human rights thematic areas. The assessment showed that although CSOs are engaged in monitoring and reporting on human rights, their capacity to effectively discharge these functions requires strengthening. As a result, the HRPG took steps to enhance their capacities to better monitor and report on human rights. This will continue in 2021.

Non-discrimination

ND2 – Formal justice institutions increasingly address cases of sexual violence and positive measures and legislation are adopted that protect equality and the inclusive participation of vulnerable groups in political, social and economic spheres.

5 10 16

OHCHR advocated for the increased compliance of legislation with international human rights norms and standards.

In Mogadishu, UN Human Rights, the HRPG and the United Nations Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict supported the Somali Women and Child Care Association and the Somali Women and Child Cluster in organizing a high-level meeting to urge the Federal Parliament to withdraw the Sexual Intercourse-Related Crimes Bill and instead table the 2018 Sexual Offences Bill. Participants included representatives from the Office of the President, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development, women and youth groups, religious leaders, the Office of the Attorney General, traditional elders, academia, media and other stakeholders. As a result, adoption of the Sexual Intercourse-Related Crimes Bill has been put on hold.

In Somaliland, the HRPG raised concerns with the Somaliland National Human Rights Commission (SLNHRC) regarding the Somaliland Rape, Fornication and Other Related Offences Bill, which does not comply with international human rights standards, particularly in relation to the rights of women and girls. The SLNHRC is spearheading advocacy with government institutions, senior officials and members of the Somaliland

Upper House of Parliament to prevent the approval and enactment of the controversial Bill in its current format.

Development

D7 – The National Development Plan and the UN Integrated Strategic Framework for Somalia integrate relevant human rights norms, standards and principles and recommendations.

By engaging with the UNCT, OHCHR aimed at integrating international human rights standards as well as recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms into UN common country programmes.

UN Human Rights and UNSOM's HRPG collaborated with UN agencies in Somalia to ensure the centrality of human rights in all humanitarian and protection interventions. It contributed substantive inputs to the CCA and the UNSDCF and helped to identify economic and social rights priorities and entry points to advance the implementation of the SDGs and the Leave No One Behind principle.

Peace and Security

PS1 – A total of 10,000 members of the Somali National Army (SNA) are trained, including through training of trainers sessions. A new Human Rights Cell is established in the SNA and one of its responsibilities is to ensure that the SNA mainstreams human rights and training on international humanitarian law.

5 16

With the technical support of OHCHR, training on key human rights areas was institutionalized for security forces.

During 2020, a total of 789 members of the SNA, including 20 women, were trained on international human rights law and international humanitarian law. UN Human Rights and the HRPG also trained 29 Hirshabelle State Police officers on international human rights law and international humanitarian law to enhance their knowledge about the promotion and protection of human rights. Furthermore, the HRPG conducted a verification mission on the training of 600 army troops at the General Gordon Military Training Centre, in Mogadishu. The objective of the mission was to assess their proficiency and knowledge about the application of international human rights and international humanitarian standards ahead of their deployment to Lower Shabelle operations. The mission found that the troops had good knowledge about international human rights and humanitarian standards and their obligations to respect and protect human rights.

PS1 – At least six laws and policies relating to security institutions, including laws and policies on counter-terrorism, are adopted or revised and improve compliance with international human rights standards.

5 16

OHCHR advocated for the compliance of laws, accountability and protection mechanisms with international human rights standards.

In Jubaland, regular engagement and technical assistance provided to the Ministry of Women, Family Affairs and Human Rights led to the finalization of the Sexual Offences Bill. The HRPG's inputs were incorporated into the Bill which, when adopted, will help to increase the protection of victims of sexual violence.

With the support of the HRPG, the Somali Police Force is in the process of drafting a disciplinary policy and code of conduct. The goal of these efforts is to build effective and efficient institutions at the federal and state levels with a strong foundation for combating crimes against women and children, including sexual violence.

PS6 – Six risk assessments are conducted and at least 40 per cent of mitigation measures are implemented.

16

OHCHR contributed to the integration of international human rights norms, standards, principles and recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms into the work of the Peace Mission.

UN Human Rights and UNSOM's HRPG provided technical support to the implementation of the HRDDP through the finalization of three risk assessments and the implementation of mitigation measures regarding the Somali Police Mobile Vehicle Checkpoint Project, the Custodial Corps and the National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA). The HRPG provided support to the roll-out of identified prevention measures for the Somali Police Force, which was led by UNMAS, by training five UNMAS staff and six contractors. It also provided advice on the development of key tools, including an HRDDP risk matrix and a logical framework, for monitoring compliance. Furthermore, the risk assessments and mitigation measures related to NISA were developed and shared with the two UN entities providing support to NISA.

In order to provide support to the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM), the HRPG convened three HRDDP

technical meetings to review AMISOM's implementation of prevention and response measures. The technical meetings discussed a variety of issues, including allegations contained in the UNSOM/OHCHR report on the Protection of Civilians, AMISOM's draft SOPs for the Boards of Inquiry, the provision of joint support to the Somali Security Forces to strengthen their compliance in the context of Somalia's security transition and updates on actions undertaken by AMISOM to address their alleged violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. The HRPG provided inputs to AMISOM's draft SOPs for the Boards of Inquiry, which are currently being finalized and will serve as a key accountability mechanism for AMISOM forces.

Mechanisms

M1 – Support is provided for an annual visit by the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia. Somalia submits one UPR report and at least one periodic report to the international human rights mechanisms.

16 | 17

OHCHR supported the increased engagement of the Federal Government of Somalia and civil society with the international human rights mechanisms.

The Federal Government of Somalia submitted its mid-term UPR report and is currently preparing its final report to account for the commitments it made during the second UPR cycle in 2016. UN Human Rights and the HRPG provided extensive support to the Federal Government to prepare and submit, in October, the State Party report under ICCPR, which was overdue by nearly 30 years.

The HRPG also advised on the preparation and submission of a CSO report in relation to Somalia's third UPR cycle.

The report was produced as a result of collective and participatory efforts, with contributions from 126 CSOs from across the country.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe
Year established	1998
Field office(s)	Pretoria, South Africa
Staff as of 31 December 2020	9

XB income	US\$1,030,286		
XB requirements 2020	US\$3,424,000		
XB expenditure	US\$571,976		
Personnel	Non-personnel*	PSC ⁴	
99%	-10%	11%	
\$255,512	-\$56,222	\$60,900	
RB expenditure	US\$161,548		
Personnel	100%		
\$166,653			

Key OMP pillars in 2020



⁴ Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 231

* Includes prior period expenditure adjustments.

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability (A)

A2 – NHRIs and other national protection systems are established that comply with international human rights standards.

10 | 16 

OHCHR increased the capacity of NHRIs and relevant stakeholders to promote and

protect human rights with a focus on accountability and economic, social and cultural rights.

UN Human Rights continued to provide support to NHRIs in Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique to ensure their compliance with the Paris Principles.

Following the Cabinet's approval of the amended Human Rights Commission Act, in Lesotho, OHCHR collaborated

with the National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section (NIRMS) to facilitate a workshop with government ministries, CSOs, the media and the UNCT to sensitize district administrators about the mandate of the National Human Rights Commission and its relationship with various national strategies, such as Lesotho's National Strategic Plan and the SDGs. Contentious provisions in the Act, including on the recruitment, appointment, tenure and removal of the Chair and commissioners, were amended, as were other internal procedures pertaining to investigations. The Act will be submitted to the Parliament for promulgation. In collaboration with the UNCT, OHCHR committed to providing ongoing technical support towards the establishment and strengthening of the Commission.

In **South Africa**, OHCHR focused on supporting the establishment of an NPM under the OP-CAT and an independent monitoring mechanism (IMM) under CRPD. A recent constitutional court decision confirmed the authority of the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) to oversee the NPM.

OHCHR engaged in significant work on COVID-19 regulations, law enforcement and human rights in the subregion. The Office produced guidance on COVID-19 and the alignment of legislation with international human rights standards and provided technical assistance with the integration of human rights into SOPs that were adopted by the **Zambia** Police Service. In partnership with UNDP and the United Nations Standing Police Capacity, the Office delivered virtual training to the Zambia Police Service and the **Angola** Ministry of Interior on international human rights standards in relation to law enforcement and

non-discrimination, vulnerable groups, arrest, detention, the use of force and accountability. In both countries, the training was rolled out to all law enforcement officials with COVID-19 policing responsibilities. OHCHR also engaged with the SAHRC, which has an MoU with the **South African** Police Service (SAPS), to discuss working together to review the curriculum for the Police Academy and to deliver training on human rights to SAPS officials. OHCHR also provided inputs to the South Africa COVID-19 needs assessment regarding the human rights implications of the actions of law enforcement officials during the pandemic.



Participation

P6 – CSOs are able to participate in public affairs and advocate for democratic space.



OHCHR ensured the meaningful participation of rights-holders, especially women and discriminated groups, in selected public processes.

UN Human Rights enhanced its advocacy and monitoring of civic space through partnerships and engagement with CSOs and promoted a global constituency for human rights. Continued support to the Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (SAHRDN) enabled the Office to indirectly influence the development of strategies for the protection of HRDs and promote the legitimacy of SAHRDN as a representative sub-regional network for HRDs. OHCHR also supported the initial steps taken towards the formal establishment of the Southern Africa Women Human Rights Defenders Network (SAWHRDN) and convened several meetings with the East

African Women Human Rights Defenders Network to share experiences and provide technical support.

OHCHR continued to monitor and report on civic space and participation issues in three priority countries, namely, **Eswatini**, **Zambia** and **Zimbabwe**. Specifically, the Office engaged with CSOs in each country to follow up on strategies to ensure a safe and enabling environment for HRDs, including the submission of communications to special procedures mandate holders. It also established an advocacy tool, which it used to highlight the key findings of a 2019 study on civic space in Southern Africa. In addition, the Office published a report on civic space, outlining trends that demonstrate the key legal, policy and operational challenges that HRDs face and the opportunities available to CSOs to engage in the SDG Decade of Action. Furthermore, OHCHR enhanced its cooperation and partnership with CSOs by organizing a virtual meeting with regional CSOs, based in **South Africa**, to gain an understanding of their COVID-19-related activities and to explore opportunities for collaboration on civic space issues. CSOs submitted a joint open letter to the Heads of State and governments of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) regarding the impacts on human rights of restrictive COVID-19 regulations.

In **Eswatini**, OHCHR enhanced the capacity of 30 CSO representatives to effectively engage with the international human rights mechanisms in order to protect civic space. The training included practical exercises on how to prepare a communication to the special procedures mandate holders.

OHCHR provided support to global civic space monitoring efforts through the monitoring and collection of data

on the killings of HRDs, journalists and trade unionists, based on SDG Indicator 16.10.1. The Office reached out to CSOs, HRAs and UNCTs in the subregion to verify reports of killings. At least 12 cases of enforced disappearances and killings of HRDs were added to OHCHR's database.

OHCHR undertook strategic research, analysis and advocacy regarding laws and policies that shrink civic space and limit participation in the subregion, particularly in the context of COVID-19. This analysis led to the development of guidance notes for the country engagement of RCs in Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The RCs focused on addressing the impact of legal measures that unduly restrict freedom of expression, such as laws on disinformation and misinformation. OHCHR's work also included three referrals to special procedures mandate holders in relation to cases in South Africa and Zimbabwe.

As part of the Office's effort to promote a global constituency for human rights, OHCHR collaborated with the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria to host a webinar on the impacts of COVID-19 on the right to freedom of peaceful assembly in Southern Africa, which was attended by at least 150 participants. Moreover, the Office provided support to the UNCTs in Southern Africa to enhance their engagement with CSOs on COVID-19.

Finally, UN Human Rights developed an internal information note for the UNCTs in Southern Africa on protecting civic space in the context of elections, which will be used for the first time in the context of the August 2021 general elections in **Zambia**.

Non-discrimination

ND1 – At least three countries adopt legal and policy measures, aligned with human rights, that prevent discrimination against women, migrants, persons with albinism and persons with disabilities.



OHCHR continued to work towards advancing the protection of women in Southern Africa from gender-based violence and femicide by providing technical support to governments, the judiciary, law enforcement, NHRIs, CSOs and other stakeholders.

UN Human Rights contributed to the United Nations Gender Theme Group (GTG) in South Africa by integrating human rights into various assessments, action plans and reports and formed part of a technical team on gender-based violence under the auspices of the GTG. The Office provided technical support to a focused situational analysis of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional support was extended to the Government of South Africa in the implementation of its Emergency Response Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence, including the 100 Days Rapid Results Challenge to eliminate the backlog of cases relating to gender-based violence and femicide in the South African justice system.

OHCHR intensified its collaboration with the South African Judicial Education Institute (SAJEI) and provided financial and technical support to SAJEI-organized workshops. The workshops strengthened the capacity of the South African judiciary to be sensitive towards gender stereotypes and to promote and protect freedom from discrimination and violence as well as the right to health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights

(SRHR). OHCHR worked closely with CSOs, NHRIs and other stakeholders to advocate for changes in laws, policies and practices on SRHR. More specifically, the Office conducted a survey following the regional workshop on “Promoting human rights standards and guidance on sexual and reproductive health and rights in Southern Africa,” which was jointly organized by OHCHR and UNFPA.

Furthermore, OHCHR, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNESCO, WHO and UN Women agreed to jointly develop two advocacy papers on promoting the sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescents in East and Southern Africa. This initiative will enable relevant UN agencies to advocate on issues related to the age of consent for sexual and reproductive health services in a coordinated and harmonized manner. In addition, the papers will serve as a foundation for all interactions and communications that the contributing UN agencies will undertake in the East and Southern Africa region on this thematic area.

Development

D7 – All UNDAF roll-out countries adopt a human rights-based approach to programming and link the SDGs to international human rights standards.



OHCHR continued to support the integration of human rights into international human rights norms, standards and principles and the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

UN Human Rights successfully integrated human rights and recommendations issued by the international human rights

mechanisms into the CCA and UNSDCF documents of **Eswatini** and **South Africa**. Eswatini's UNSDCF includes an outcome area on “accountable governance, justice and human rights” and South Africa's UNSDCF builds on the CCA and includes two relevant priority areas, namely, “effective, efficient and transformative governance” and “human capital and social transformation.” These Cooperation Frameworks provide an opportunity for the UNCTs to develop joint programmes and advance the realization of human rights in Eswatini and South Africa until 2025.

OHCHR continued to provide technical support to the UNCTs in Eswatini and South Africa for the development of joint workplans (JWPs) by applying a human rights-based approach to development and ensuring the integration of a human rights marker into all workplans. The Office committed to the delivery of trainings to UN colleagues on the application of an HRBA to development, the international human rights mechanisms and human rights markers. It also nominated several CSOs to take part in the development of JWPs to ensure the inclusion of voices from marginalized communities.

In South Africa, OHCHR supported UN agencies, the Department of Social Development and other partners to incorporate human rights, ILO standards and the principle of Leaving No One Behind when implementing the programme on integrated social protection, which is supported by the joint SDG Fund. To facilitate this result, the Office collaborated with ILO to develop a human rights checklist that can be used in relation to studies and activities that are undertaken within the programme.

The Office reviewed and submitted comments on the draft VNRs of the **Seychelles**

and **Zambia** and provided guidance to the UNCT and government officials in **Comoros** on the synergies between human rights and the SDGs. Finally, OHCHR conducted a mapping of SDG coordination structures in Southern Africa, at the country level, in order to record which ministry is leading the coordination of each SDG.



Peace and Security

PS5 – In at least four countries, UNCTs integrate human rights into their early warning, prevention, preparedness and response plans.



OHCHR supported the incorporation of human rights-based approaches into the programmes of UN entities.

Through its Emergency Response Team, UN Human Rights provided human rights inputs and risk analysis to various CCAs and VNR processes, including early warning, food insecurity and democratic space, with a focus on the most vulnerable groups.

Following a mission to **Malawi** to assess the effectiveness of the Prevention Platform, which was established in the run up to the 2019 general elections, the Office issued recommendations and provided technical support on the relaunching of the Platform for use in a post-electoral and deteriorating socio-economic context.

The Office provided human rights inputs regarding specific country situations in **Madagascar, Zambia** and **Zimbabwe**, including through its participation in regional Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) meetings. Discussions primarily focused on food insecurity in Southern Africa and the adverse impacts

of COVID-19 on already vulnerable groups in the subregion, particularly migrants. Moreover, the Office contributed to the draft Regional Framework for Action to Address Disaster Displacement in Southern Africa and provided the RCs in Zambia and Zimbabwe with analytical updates on human rights concerns in relation to the respective political situations.

OHCHR supported the preparation of a Protection Strategy for the UN in **South Africa** and provided comprehensive feedback on the establishment of a UN Social Protection Theme Group. OHCHR participated in the Theme Group to ensure the integration of human rights. In addition, the Office liaised with the UNCT in South Africa during the development of a COVID-19 needs assessment and a Humanitarian Response Plan and incorporated information relating to vulnerable groups.

OHCHR produced two country risk assessments for **Zambia** to inform the Regional Monthly Review (RMR) Regional Scan on Sub-Saharan Africa. It also prepared an overview document and risk assessment for the RMR on Southern Africa, with a focus on the human rights and humanitarian situation in the subregion before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. It further highlighted risks in relation to climate change, food security and agriculture as well as economic stability, poverty, inequality and access to social services. Underlying risks related to democratic space, good governance and the rule of law were also identified. The risk assessment included a section on strategies and entry points for prevention and early action.

In the **Seychelles**, the Office produced two situational reports (pre- and post-election) in relation to the presidential and legislative elections and issued a post-election

update on the outcome of the first and second round of the National Assembly elections in **Comoros**.

UN Human Rights produced 19 situation reports on the impacts of COVID-19 on human rights in 14 countries of the Southern Africa region and an advocacy brief on the state of emergency measures adopted in various countries of the sub-region. This brief was shared with both UN and non-UN stakeholders. The Office also produced two reports on South Africa

Moreover, participation in the South Africa UN Protection Working Group and its Advisory Group enabled the Office to share a number of guidance notes and press statements that were issued by the international human rights mechanisms in relation to COVID-19, with a focus on the human rights of migrants.

The work of UN Human Rights on hate speech progressed and a pilot project with UN Global Pulse was established to investigate the use of AI in monitoring incitement and xenophobic speech in the South Africa context. It is envisaged that this type of analysis could feed into a wider UN strategy in South Africa on hate speech and the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund project that is slated to begin in 2021.

The Office continued to strengthen its information management capacity and use of open source information and data by developing more structured methods of monitoring, information gathering and analysis. The Office worked on the development of new tools for visualizing human rights violations, trend analysis and the establishment of integrated UN information and risk analysis, including in electoral contexts.



Mechanisms

M1 – Three countries strengthen or legally establish NMRFs.

16 17

OHCHR strengthened reporting to the international human rights mechanisms.

With technical support and guidance from UN Human Rights, national capacity was enhanced in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia to report effectively to the human rights treaty bodies. In collaboration with UNFPA, UN Human Rights assisted Eswatini, Namibia and the Seychelles with the preparation of their State reports to the UPR through focused trainings and consultative workshops.

In cooperation with the Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme and UNDP **Botswana**, UN Human Rights continued to promote the implementation of the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in relation to Botswana, including through the provision of technical support on the use of the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD) and the development of a plan for the implementation of recommendations. Furthermore, the Office provided technical support to the Namibia National Disability Forum (NDF) on the implementation of CRPD, in collaboration with the UNCT in **Namibia**.

In **South Africa**, OHCHR focused on strengthening the NPM, in collaboration with SPT, and provided technical guidance on the role of CSOs in the South Africa NPM. UN Human Rights worked closely with SPT to support a research paper by the African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum (APCOF) entitled *Promoting the effectiveness of the South Africa National Preventive Mechanism:*

The case of civil society collaboration. The research highlights the strategic benefits of integrating CSOs into the operations of the South African NPM, outlines the legal and practical rationale for the establishment of NPMs and reflects on the functioning of NPMs in other jurisdictions. The paper is intended to inform the engagement of OHCHR and other partners to strengthen the NPM and advance the role of CSOs in its work.

M2 – More NGOs and NHRIs engage with the international human rights mechanisms.

17

OHCHR intensified its efforts to provide technical support to CSOs regarding their engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

To enable CSOs to engage effectively with the international human rights mechanisms, UN Human Rights provided technical support to organizations of persons with disabilities in **Namibia** for the preparation of an alternative report to CRPD.

In **Eswatini**, OHCHR assisted CSOs to enhance their capacity to engage effectively with the international human rights mechanisms. Specifically, it provided technical guidance to CSOs and the UNCT in Eswatini on the preparation of a stakeholders' report for submission to the UPR. It also collaborated with UNDP in Eswatini and the Coordinating Assembly of Non-Governmental Organizations (CANGO) to deliver a virtual training on civil society engagement with the international human rights mechanisms, with a focus on alternative reporting under ICESCR. The training was attended by various CSOs from across the country.

In Zambia, OHCHR promoted the engagement of the Zambia National Human Rights Commission (ZNHRC) with the international human rights mechanisms through technical support and guidance. This resulted in the preparation of alternative reports to CRPD and the Human Rights Committee.

Support and guidance were provided to the UNCTs in Eswatini, Mozambique, Namibia, the Seychelles and Zambia in the preparation of their submissions to the UPR.

SOUTH SUDAN: UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SOUTH SUDAN (UNMISS)

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
11.19 million	659,000 km ²	0.433 (rank: 185/189 in 2019)	-
Type of engagement		Peace Mission	
Year established		2011	
Field office(s)		Aweil, Bentiu, Bor, Juba, Kuajok, Malakai, PiBOR, Rumbek, Torit, Wau, Yambio and Yei	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Cooperation Framework 2019-2021	
Staff as of 31 December 2020		88	

XB requirements 2020

US\$238,000

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

A1 – South Sudan authorities release individuals who are arbitrarily detained or held incommunicado, provide information on disappeared persons and grant access to rule of law institutions, including detention facilities.

5 | 10 | 16

State institutions sought to improve their compliance with international human rights norms and standards with the support of OHCHR.

In 2020, UN Human Rights and the Human Rights Division (HRD) of UNMISS regularly investigated cases of prolonged and arbitrary detention in civilian detention facilities across South Sudan, undertaking a total of 1,250 monitoring visits. When in-person visits were

not possible due to COVID-19 restrictions, human rights officers conducted remote monitoring and engagement with police, prison and security service officials. Following the monitoring visits, the HRD advocated with actors from the justice system to secure the release of detainees who were subjected to arbitrary arrest and detention and to ensure compliance with international human rights standards. Between March and October, the HRD documented the release of 3,322 individuals (2,774 men, 432 women and 166 children) from police and prison facilities in the context of efforts to decongest prisons in response to the COVID-19 crisis. In addition, the HRD monitored and documented cases of arbitrary arrest and detention related to COVID-19 restrictive measures and advocated with relevant authorities. The HRD's documentation

of these cases informed the drafting of a legal analysis on the lawfulness of restrictive measures that were introduced by the Government and supported advocacy efforts with national authorities.

South Sudan's imposition of the death penalty continued to be a serious concern. In addition to its engagement with relevant stakeholders on the establishment of a de facto moratorium on the use of the death penalty, the HRD provided technical and financial support to national CSOs and legal aid providers. The objective of this support was to strengthen their capacities to protect the rights of death row inmates, support reconciliation efforts as alternatives to the imposition of death sentences and to assist with the submission of information to the international human rights mechanisms. As a result, 18 individuals (two women, 16 men) who had been convicted, sentenced to death and served a minimum of nine years on death row were released under the reconciliation approach.

A3 – Monitoring, investigating, verifying and reporting abuse and violence against women, including CRSV, are strengthened. Formal justice institutions increase their capacity to address cases of sexual violence. The proportion of sexual violence cases they address increases.

5 10 16 

Through reporting and advocacy, OHCHR contributed to the functioning of accountability and protection mechanisms.

In 2020, UN Human Rights and the HRD reported and verified 146 incidents of CRSV affecting 218 survivors, including 54 girls and women and eight men. UN Human Rights and the HRD and the

Office of the Senior Women's Protection Adviser (OSWPA) in the Peace Mission regularly raised cases of CRSV with parties to the conflict. Advocacy undertaken with the Chief of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (SSPDF) and the Minister of Defence, in May, regarding concerns over the continued prevalence of sexual violence perpetrated by the SSPDF in the Yei-Lasu area, was instrumental in the deployment of the District Court Martial to the area. In September, the District Court Martial handed down a landmark ruling in which 26 suspects were convicted and received sentences ranging from seven to 14 years in prison for the rape of six women and five girls. The HRD monitored the two-month-long trial and worked with CSOs to support and accompany the victims and their families before, during and after the trial. The HRD also engaged with the judges to address issues and concerns observed during the initial stages of the trial.

The OSWPA engaged with field commanders to advocate for the release of women and girls who were held against their will by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-in-Opposition (SPLA-IO) in Western Equatoria. As a result, in January and February, over 80 women and girls were handed over to the Catholic Diocese of Nzara for two weeks, during which they had access to medical and psychosocial care.

The HRD and the OSWPA provided technical support to the SSPDF for the drafting of a comprehensive training manual on CRSV, including images that were tailored for illiterate security forces. The manual was launched during a training of trainers workshop for 25 SSPDF instructors on 20 October. The OSWPA supported the unification of the SSPDF and SPLA-IO action plans to address

CRSV. In October, a Joint Committee on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence was established, composed of 11 representatives from the SSPDF, the SPLA-IO, the South Sudan Opposition Alliance and the Ministry of Defence and Veterans' Affairs. The drafting of the unified action plan was finalized, at the end of December, with support from the OSWPA and the UN Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict. The membership of the Joint Committee was inclusive, in line with the revitalized peace agreement.

Peace and Security

PS5 – Human rights data contribute to early warning mechanisms and responses and to decision-making strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate and respond to emerging crises in South Sudan.

3 5 8 10 13 16 17

By tracking and generating reports on casualties, OHCHR advocated with authorities for their compliance with human rights and prevention norms and standards.

Through its tracking system of incidents, UN Human Rights and the HRD generated weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual analyses on casualty trends. In 2020, the HRD documented at least 2,421 civilians who were killed, 1,531 who were injured and 1,655 who were abducted in the context of conflict-related violations and abuses in South Sudan. These numbers represent a substantial increase over the previous year. Furthermore, the HRD published a major thematic report on access to health for CRSV survivors and three quarterly briefs on violence affecting civilians. Additionally, the Division

developed monthly hotspot maps identifying major areas where conflict-related violations took place, including in Central Equatoria, Warrap, Lakes, Unity, Jonglei and Upper Nile.

The HRD also established coordination mechanisms to integrate human rights approaches and share relevant information with government stakeholders and NGOs, primarily through weekly and monthly meetings and joint working groups. This included weekly Humanitarian Country Team briefs on COVID-19-related human rights and protection issues. The briefs mapped conflict-related and socio-economic human rights situations across South Sudan to enhance advocacy with stakeholders on human rights concerns. In order to streamline information-sharing between the Protection Cluster and the HRD, two separate databases were developed to track incidents in the cantonment sites and other protection-related issues in the context of COVID-19. The dashboards created from the databases provided real-time information, which was shared with the UNCT and the diplomatic community in South Sudan.

PS6 – UNMISS and UN agencies apply the standards set out in the HRDDP when they provide support to national security forces, the SPLA-IO, the police and other security forces.

16

OHCHR led the HRDDP Task Force and supported the integration of international human rights norms, standards and principles into the work of the Peace Mission.

As Secretariat of the HRDDP Task Force, UN Human Rights and the HRD reviewed

51 risk assessments relating to the support provided to non-UN security forces and facilitated their clearance by the Task Force and endorsement by the Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General. The HRD developed a tracking mechanism regarding the level of implementation of mitigating measures. The HRD also supported and promoted

the consistent implementation of the HRDDP by all UN entities through the development of a new draft SOP, which has not yet been approved by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for South Sudan.

Justice and reparations for victims of sexual violence in South Sudan

In July, the Chief of the South Sudan People's Defence Forces established a District Court Martial, the first of its kind in Yei, to try members of the armed forces who were accused of sexual violence, looting of civilian property and other offences that were committed in the context of armed conflict in the country. On 7 September, the Court handed down a landmark ruling in which 26 suspects were convicted and sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from seven to 14 years for the rape of six women and five girls. The pronouncement of this verdict was a positive step towards combating the rampant culture of impunity within the security forces. This process also underscored the critical role played by civil society actors and grassroots associations in advancing demands for justice.

The Human Rights Division of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan monitored the two-month-long trial and worked with CSOs to support and accompany the victims and their families before, during and after the trial. In addition, the Division engaged with the judges of the Court to address issues and concerns observed during the initial stages of the trial. To ensure the sustainability of the gains made during the Court Martial process, the Division organized a series of human rights training sessions for the South Sudan People's Defence Forces in Yei. This contributed to enhancing the engagement between the Defence Forces with local authorities and civilians, thereby improving the civil-military relationship that has been significantly soured by a years-long conflict. Finally, the Human Rights Division continued to advocate for the deployment of a court martial to other regions of South Sudan, where serious human rights violations have been committed by members of security forces.

After the verdict was announced, the mother of a 16-year-old survivor stated: "When I saw the judges in military uniform, I thought they would be on the side of the soldiers. I am happy with the conviction. I never thought the perpetrators would face justice. The judge told us that the perpetrators would pay 500,000 South Sudanese Pounds and two bulls as compensation. This will help us rebuild our life."

SUDAN

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
43.85 million	-	0.510 (rank: 170/189 in 2019)	-
Type of engagement		Country Office	
Year established		2019	
Field office(s)		Khartoum	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2021	
Staff as of 31 December 2020		15	

XB income	US\$4,560,623
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XB requirements 2020	US\$4,919,000
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XB expenditure	US\$1,877,096
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Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴
66%	22%	11%
\$1,240,158	\$422,081	\$215,667

RB expenditure	US\$648,630
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Personnel	Non-personnel
79%	21%
\$510,014	\$138,616

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1,2,3,4} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229 and p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:**Accountability**

A1 – The new Independent National Human Rights Commission (INHRC) is established and effectively complies with the Paris Principles.

16

Through technical advice and advocacy, OHCHR supported the establishment of an NHRI that is in conformity with international human rights standards.

UN Human Rights conducted advocacy efforts to raise the awareness of national

authorities, including the National Human Rights Commission and the Ministry of Justice, on the importance of establishing an NHRI that is compliant with the Paris Principles. More specifically, OHCHR advocated for a transparent and participatory drafting process and provided comments and recommendations to ensure that the draft law establishes a broad mandate of the NHRI, a guarantee of independence, representativeness and autonomy. In July, the Ministry of Justice finalized the first draft and agreed to submit it for public consultation in four regions, with the

support of the Office. OHCHR will continue supporting the drafting process and the creation and operationalization of the new NHRI.

A1 – Domestic legislation and policy increasingly comply with international human rights standards.

16

Technical assistance provided by OHCHR sought to improve the compliance of selected legislation and policies with international human rights standards.

UN Human Rights provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice in drafting key legislation that ensures accountability for human rights violations. Through more than six joint working sessions with the Ministry's Department of Legislation, the Office contributed to the drafting of the laws establishing the Transitional Justice Commission (TJC) and the NHRI, which included many of the comments provided by the Office. OHCHR also facilitated public consultations with civil society on the draft laws.

In July, following the Government's historical step to reform provisions of the Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Law on Combating Cybercrimes, the Office analysed the proposed provisions in light of international human rights standards and highlighted significant concerns regarding their potential impact on the safety of journalists and online civic space. This prompted the Office to raise its concerns with CSOs and the international community in Sudan.

A2 – Transitional justice mechanisms that conform to international human rights norms and standards and are victim-centred are established and have the capacity to deliver on their respective mandates.

10 16 

OHCHR provided technical support to governmental institutions to contribute to the creation of transitional justice mechanisms that conform to international human rights standards.

UN Human Rights strongly advocated for the swift establishment of the TJC and provided the Ministry of Justice with technical advice to lead a participatory process to draft the TJC law. In December, the Ministry adopted a final draft that addresses the concerns raised by civil society and incorporates OHCHR's recommendations related to the independence and composition of the TJC. The draft is currently being discussed with the armed groups that signed the Peace Agreement. OHCHR played an important role in supporting the meaningful participation of CSOs in this process by facilitating consultation meetings that brought together the Ministry of Justice, representatives of CSOs, academia and national and international lawyers.

The Office established a strong partnership with the Sudan Bar Association, through which it has built the capacity of 28 defence lawyers, including six women, on engagement with the International Criminal Court. The partnership also led to the mapping of ongoing accountability initiatives to address past human rights violations and inform a joint plan for monitoring trials.

Participation

P6 – Rights-holders meaningfully participate in the design of public policy and processes, in compliance with international standards.

16 

By facilitating capacity-building sessions, OHCHR encouraged the meaningful participation of rights-holders, especially women and discriminated groups, in selected public processes.

In cooperation with the Regional Centre for Training and Development of Civil Society, OHCHR facilitated a four-day training, in September, to enhance the capacities of 18 CSO representatives (10 women, eight men) from across Sudan to monitor and document human rights violations. The training included sessions on the international human rights mechanisms, monitoring and documentation and the integration of a gender perspective, interview principles and techniques, analysis of information and reporting, protection of victims and witnesses and how to access information on human rights protection and mechanisms on the Internet.

The Office also facilitated the establishment of a network of CSOs on monitoring economic, social and cultural rights in Sudan, composed of 30 organizations, to promote the sharing of experiences, cross-learning and collective advocacy and engagement with the Government and other actors for the protection of these rights and the implementation of the SDGs.

Non-discrimination

ND3 – Legal and social frameworks increasingly comply with international human rights norms and standards regarding the autonomy and choices of women and girls and their protection from violence.

5 9 10  

OHCHR worked towards increasing the compliance of legislation with international human rights norms and standards through advocacy and building the capacity of national actors.

From 30 November to 1 December, UN Human Rights worked with UNDP and UN Women to co-organize a workshop on mapping necessary legal reforms in accordance with a gender perspective and non-discrimination and in light of the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms with regard to Sudan. The workshop was attended by 24 participants (23 women and one man) from CSOs whose organizations operate across Sudan and focus on women's rights. The participants developed a series of concrete recommendations, which were shared with relevant authorities, to align Sudan's legal framework with its international human rights commitments and discussed a strategy to fully implement these recommendations, including by using the UPR process.

Development

D8 – National stakeholders apply a human rights-based approach to data collection and the monitoring and implementation of the SDGs.



OHCHR pursued the objective of institutionalizing human rights approaches in data collection efforts through advocacy and technical support.

UN Human Rights continued to support the Government and other national stakeholders in their efforts to integrate a human rights-based approach into data collection, disaggregation and analysis. A strategic partnership was established with the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) and OHCHR participated in an expert group to review and update the CBS strategy for data collection. To this end, the Office advocated for the integration of human rights considerations into the national census planned for 2021, shared international standards and commissioned a consultancy to apply a human rights-based approach to data and the design of training sessions and modules for CBS staff.

Peace and Security

PS6 – The HRDDP is systematically applied when UN entities support national or regional security forces, law enforcement agencies and non-State actors.



By liaising with its partners, OHCHR advocated for the integration of rights-based approaches into specific programmes of UN entities and national actors.

To follow up on the High Commissioner's call to Member States to decongest prisons as a way to help prevent COVID-19 outbreaks in detention facilities, UN Human Rights intensified its monitoring of the Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its engagement with relevant national stakeholders. OHCHR sought to ensure that the Government's response and engagement applied a human rights-based approach, particularly in relation to vulnerable groups and detainees. OHCHR actively engaged with the Office of the Attorney General to advocate for the provision of health care and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in prisons. A total of 7,700 detainees were released, due in part to these advocacy efforts.

Mechanisms

M1 – Increased engagement by Sudan with international and regional human rights mechanisms.



OHCHR advocated with national authorities for the country's increased engagement with the international human rights mechanisms, including by providing support for the establishment of an institutionalized structure to facilitate reporting on and the implementation of recommendations issued by these mechanisms.

UN Human Rights engaged with the Ministry of Justice to advocate for the establishment of an NMRF that is in compliance with international standards. In 2020, OHCHR met with the Head and staff of the Consultative Council of Human Rights (CCHR), the national body that is responsible for reporting and follow-up. During the meetings, OHCHR provided technical advice to overhaul the CCHR, including by reviewing its legal statute and sharing good practices and comparative experiences with other NMRFs. With the support of the Office, a draft ministerial decree on the NMRF and a road map to support its establishment were developed, in July. It is anticipated that they will be approved in 2021.

SUDAN: AFRICAN UNION-UNITED NATIONS HYBRID OPERATION IN DARFUR (UNAMID)/UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATED TRANSITION ASSISTANCE MISSION IN SUDAN (UNITAMS)

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
43.85 million	-	0.510 (rank: 170/189 in 2019)	-
Type of engagement	Peace Mission		
Year established	2008		
Field office(s)	Addis Ababa, El Fasher, Khartoum, Nyala, Port Sudan and Zalingei		
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2021		
Staff as of 31 December 2020	27		

XB requirements 2020

US\$89,000

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229

PILLAR RESULTS:

Mechanisms

M1 – Sudan ratifies more international and regional human rights instruments.

16 17

Through the provision of technical advice, UN Human Rights and the Human Rights Section (HRS) of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) sought to contribute to the increased ratification of treaties by Sudan and its increased implementation of the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

The Government of Sudan signed a Framework of Cooperation with the United Nations on addressing CRSV, banned female genital mutilation and expressed its intention to ratify CEDAW. In addition, the Government introduced

new bills and proposed major amendments to existing laws that negatively impact on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of civilians in Darfur, in compliance with recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies. For instance, laws and policies which restricted freedom and impeded women's rights for decades, including the crime of apostasy punishable by death, were abolished through amendments of the Criminal Code 1991. The HRS advocated with the Government for the reform of legislation in line with international standards and contributed to building the capacity of government officials, CSOs and community leaders in Darfur on combating violence against women.

Peace and Security

PS3 – The UNCT integrates human rights considerations into its policies and programmes for humanitarian action, early recovery and security in Darfur.

16

UN common country programmes increasingly incorporated international human rights standards, with support from the HRS.

Through capacity-building and awareness-raising activities, and in the context of the Cooperation Framework between UNAMID and the UNCT to jointly implement programmes on peace-building, the HRS enhanced the capacity of State authorities, including judicial and law enforcement personnel, as well as civil society actors on human rights and protection approaches. Financial support was provided for the construction of office space and the acquisition of equipment for a regional office of the National Commission for Human Rights. The construction was completed in November 2019 and was inaugurated in January 2020. The Commission's regional office will contribute significantly to the Commission's strategic plan to decentralize its activities and enhance operational presence in Darfur.

UGANDA

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
45.74 million	242,000 km ²	0.544 (rank: 159/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2018)
Type of engagement	Country Office		
Year established	2005		
Field office(s)	Kampala, Gulu and Moroto		
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2016-2020		
Staff as of 31 December 2020	30		

XB income **US\$2,973,156**

XB requirements 2020 **US\$4,831,000**

XB expenditure **US\$3,172,192**

Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴
59%	30%	11%
\$1,864,655	\$952,728	\$354,810

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1,2,3,4} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.229 and p.231

PILLAR RESULTS:



Accountability

A1 – State and non-State actors enhance their capacities to institute legal and policy reforms and implement and enforce existing laws. They improve the investigation and adjudication of cases that entail human rights violations, including within their own ranks.

16

With technical support from OHCHR, selected policies were amended to enhance their compliance with international human rights standards.

UN Human Rights co-organized a human rights workshop with the Wakiso District

Human Rights Committee, which is the local entity that addresses human rights issues with authorities from the district. A total of 21 participants (13 women, eight men) improved their skills in relation to human rights and received IT and telecommunication equipment to strengthen the Committee's capacity to perform virtual human rights monitoring and reporting tasks during the electoral processes of 2020 and 2021 and in the context of COVID-19.

At the beginning of the 2020-2021 electoral process, OHCHR and the Resident Coordinator co-organized a high-level meeting that brought together leaders of four of Uganda's political parties

and the representatives of the Electoral Commission. During the meeting, the participants agreed to contribute to a peaceful environment in the context of the electoral process.

A2 – National justice and human rights mechanisms, including the Uganda Human Rights Commission and the judiciary, provide redress and accountability to victims in an increased number of reported cases.

16

Through advocacy and technical cooperation, OHCHR contributed to strengthening national accountability and protection mechanisms to ensure that they are functioning in increased compliance with international human rights standards.

UN Human Rights engaged with UN Women during the lockdown period to follow up with security officers on the increasing number of cases of gender-based violence. As a result of advocacy efforts undertaken by OHCHR, women who were assaulted by security forces in the enforcement of curfew guidelines, in Elugu, received medical assistance from UN Women. The Office engaged in advocacy efforts with other partners at the national level, which resulted in the identification of District Community Development Workers as "critical staff," enabling them to move more freely and effectively carry out their work. Although the security officers are essential to following up on cases of gender-based violence, they were immobilized by the Government's directives to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

OHCHR finalized the *Citizens' Handbook on Law and the Administration of Justice*, which will enable the general public to better understand the Justice, Law and Order Sector. OHCHR also worked with the Judicial Service Commission to print 3,000 copies and formally launch the Handbook. Dissemination activities are underway, including the widespread distribution of the Handbook and interviews on regional radio talk shows.



Participation

P5 – National human rights institutions, in particular the Uganda Human Rights Commission, increasingly monitor and raise concerns about restrictions of civic space.

16

OHCHR took steps to increase the meaningful participation of rights-holders in selected public processes, including by delivering training sessions.

In September, UN Human Rights organized two workshops to build the capacity of 84 human rights defenders (50 women, 34 men) from the Kampala, Wakiso, Kasese and Bundibugyo districts. The participants enhanced their capacity to observe, report and advocate on human rights issues and to apply a gender perspective. They also formed a wider civil society human rights reporting network to share information and monitor and report on human rights violations during the electoral period. In November, OHCHR organized two workshops for journalists in Kampala, which included the participation of 37 journalists (24 women, 23 men). As a result, the journalists have increasingly used human rights and gender perspectives in their reports and articles, particularly those related to the general elections.



Non-discrimination

ND1 – National laws, policies and practices increasingly comply with international human rights norms and standards on equality and non-discrimination, in particular with regard to persons with disabilities, minorities and the rights of women.

5 10 16

Through advocacy and building the capacity of relevant stakeholders, OHCHR sought to contribute to the improved compliance of selected legislation and policies with international human rights norms and standards.

UN Human Rights planned to hold a meeting with representatives of government ministries, departments and agencies to validate the draft National Action Plan on Albinism, which was developed by CSOs in 2019, and to outline an advocacy plan to secure its funding and ensure its implementation. The onset of the pandemic delayed work in this area, which will be resumed in 2021.



Development

D4 – Government offices increasingly apply a human rights-based approach to maternal health when they formulate and implement policies and programmes.

3 5

Policies and strategies in the area of health were more compliant with international human rights standards. OHCHR contributed to this result by providing technical guidance and facilitating consultations with all stakeholders.

The Ministry of Health has not approved the 2019 multisectoral strategy to reduce preventable maternal mortality, which was drafted by the Ministry of Health with the technical support of UN Human Rights. The emergence of COVID-19 shifted the Ministry's focus to responding to the pandemic.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, WHO, UN Women, UNFPA, UNAIDS and UNDP, UN Human Rights convened a consultative meeting on a human rights-based approach to sexual and reproductive health and rights for women living with HIV/AIDS, in February. The meeting was attended by 25 women from across Uganda and enabled participants to share their experiences, identify concerns and develop advocacy messages. They also delivered a joint statement with concrete recommendations for duty-bearers and service providers, who joined the meeting. Participants called for improved access to medicines to treat sexually transmitted infections and raised concerns about the lack of integrated HIV services and gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health services at public health centres. Duty-bearers and service providers, including the Ministries of Health and of Gender, Labour and Social Development, the Uganda AIDS Commission, the Uganda Human Rights Commission and the Equal Opportunities Commission committed to following up on their recommendations.

OHCHR finalized and launched a case digest on maternal health, in September, which provides national and regional jurisprudence related to the advancement of the right to health in the country. The digest was distributed to the Ministries of Health and of Local Government.

D8 – The State’s statistical frameworks, including the National Standards Indicator Framework (NSIF) and the Results and Resources Framework (RRF), increasingly comply with international human rights norms, standards and principles with respect to data for national development.



To support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, OHCHR sought to improve the compliance of selected State programmes with international human rights standards, including by facilitating technical advice on the application of a human rights-based approach.

In September, UN Human Rights supported a technical meeting to share an update on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on human rights-based approach to data and to develop a road map for moving the MoU forward. The MoU was signed, in 2019, by the Office of the Prime Minister, the Uganda Human Rights Commission, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics and the National Planning Authority in order to Leave No One Behind in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Uganda. The road map will serve as an important monitoring and accountability tool between the four institutions.

Furthermore, the Office engaged in the development of the UNSDCF and the third phase of the National Development Plan (NDPIII). Both documents were formally launched and, as a result of OHCHR’s efforts, reflected human rights considerations, including through enhanced references to the linkages between human rights and the SDGs,

a human rights-based approach and business and human rights. OHCHR contributed substantively to the CCA, ensuring the inclusion of references to

marginalized and vulnerable groups, and advocated for the disaggregation of data so that every effort is made to implement the Leave No One Behind principle.

WEST AFRICA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo
Year established	2007
Field office(s)	Dakar, Senegal
Staff as of 31 December 2020	16

XB income	US\$1,278,762		
XB requirements 2020	US\$7,735,000		
XB expenditure	US\$787,614		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴	
77%	6%	17%	
\$605,110	\$45,041	\$137,464	
RB expenditure	US\$810,942		
Personnel	Non-personnel		
96%	4%		
\$779,493	\$31,449		

Key OMP pillars in 2020



⁴ Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:

Peace and Security

PS3 – National policies and programmes comply with international human rights standards and principles and integrate the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

16

OHCHR contributed to early warning and risk analysis, improving levels of

compliance of legislation/policy with international human rights standards.

The UN Human Rights ERT in the Regional Office for West Africa played a key role in gathering and analysing information on potential human rights violations in the context of COVID-19 that informed OHCHR’s regional reports and snapshots. The ERT created an [interactive dashboard](#) to maintain an

almost real-time overview of COVID-19-related developments in the region. In particular, the Team engaged with the regional working groups on operational coordination, risk communication and community engagement, for instance in Benin, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Togo, ensuring that COVID-19 responses in West Africa are guided by a human rights-based approach.

OHCHR's ERT used the RMR process and the CCAs to enhance the understanding of the Resident Coordinator's Offices (RCOs) and the UNCTs about human rights-sensitive approaches to risk assessment and early warning. In April, the ERT carried out a stocktaking exercise and risk analysis in anticipation of Benin's RMR. It also undertook a multidimensional risk assessment of the CCA process in the Gambia. In addition, the Team contributed to OHCHR's early warning products and the products of other entities, such as the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), the IASC and the UN Operations and Crisis Centre (UNOCC), facilitating the systematic inclusion of human rights-based approaches in all products.

In the context of the 2020 presidential election in Côte d'Ivoire, the ERT engaged in a human rights risk assessment within the UN's prevention processes. Following an RMR recommendation, OHCHR deployed a team for two months to support the RCO with human rights analysis and monitoring prior to the elections. Information collected on key human rights concerns provided the basis for two public statements that were issued by the Office and included recommendations for follow-up action.

Moreover, the ERT created an information management system to enable up-to-date human rights analysis to

inform UN decision-making at various levels. To this end, it accessed information gathered through the daily media monitoring of nine countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Guinea, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo) and categorized that information in accordance with the RMR risk framework. The ERT then produced a monthly early warning media analysis that included a regional overview of trends and patterns. After one year of daily media monitoring (December 2019 to November 2020), OHCHR produced an infographic to demonstrate the main risk areas and factors that were identified during the analysis of 2,260 media articles. Most of the noted risk areas were related to political stability (559 or 24.7 per cent), followed by justice and the rule of law (438 or 19.4 per cent). Due to concerns regarding the use of hate speech in the region, both online and offline, the ERT began monitoring hate speech through the Mediatoolkit platform.



Non-discrimination

ND1 – In one country, the number of selected policy areas that comply with international human rights norms and standards has significantly improved. In ECOWAS countries, national laws, policies and programmes increasingly protect children from abuse and exploitation.

5 10 16

OHCHR contributed to strengthened legal, political and institutional frameworks for the protection of the rights of the child.

In partnership with ECOWAS, UN Human Rights continued to implement the Support Project for the Protection of Child Victims of Rights Violations in

six West African countries. The studies that were undertaken in 2019 to assess the legal and institutional frameworks for child protection were finalized in 2020. Various activities were initiated in the six countries. In **Guinea**, technical support was provided for the drafting of the Government's periodic reports on the implementation of the recommendations issued by CEDAW. In **Guinea-Bissau**, OHCHR supported a constitutional reform process through a study on the integration of the rights of the child in the new Constitution. The initial draft failed to include specific provisions on the promotion and protection of those rights. In **Niger**, the Office supported the review of legal texts on the acquisition of nationality and advocated with authorities on the issue. In **Senegal**, the Office supported the preparatory process in view of the adoption of legal reforms to fight the exploitation of children, including in relation to forced begging and children in street situations. In the **Gambia**, a report that outlines the results of the 2019 studies on the legal and institutional frameworks for child protection was validated by a technical committee.

The Regional Office advocated for an integrated system for the protection of child victims of abuse and exploitation in the ECOWAS region, with a focus on children in street situations. OHCHR also ensured that the issue was included in national response plans to COVID-19. Moreover, it contributed to the provision of equipment and materials to 39 shelters (22 in Mali, 10 in Guinea, five in Senegal and one in the Gambia), two spaces for minors in the civil prison of Niamey and Conakry and 14 orphanages in Conakry. As a result of its work, 118 Koranic schools engaged in the promotion of children's rights. In total, OHCHR supported the delivery of assistance to 3,310

children in the context of the pandemic, including 34 Gambian children who were removed from the streets in Senegal and placed in quarantine; 250 Nigerian children who were expelled from Algeria; and 54 children who were reintegrated into their families in the Gambia and Guinea-Bissau.

Through support from OHCHR, two national steering committees were established, in **Mali** and in **Senegal**, for consultation and dialogue on the rights of the child. OHCHR's technical assistance enabled the committees to elaborate national action plans for the withdrawal of children from the streets, in compliance with international human rights standards, and to integrate the recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies on the protection of children in street situations in Senegal. During his address to the nation, on 17 September 2020, the President of the Republic of the Gambia praised OHCHR's contributions to combating COVID-19.

ND6 – Legal frameworks and protection mechanisms promote and protect the human rights of migrants in their countries of origin and in transit.



OHCHR supported participatory processes to contribute to the functioning of oversight, accountability and protection mechanisms, including on the human rights of migrants.

UN Human Rights took up a leading role in the development of the workplan of the Regional UN Network on Migration, which it co-chairs. Significant progress was made in enhancing regional-level

coordination and information-sharing to promote and protect the human rights of migrants. This was primarily accomplished through processes that engage representatives of CSOs, migrant associations and NHRIs, such as the Regional Review of the Global Compact for Migration.

While the implementation of the regional UNODC-OHCHR migration project, “PROMIS,” was severely affected by the COVID-19 crisis, progress was made at different levels. In **Niger**, OHCHR supported the finalization of the National Action Plan against Smuggling of Migrants, which was officially validated, in March, to ensure that human rights were fully mainstreamed into the draft. The Office conducted an in-depth analysis of Law No. 2015-36 on the smuggling of migrants and proposed an amendment to the Ministry of Justice to increase its conformity with international human rights standards. In **Senegal**, OHCHR and other partners assisted the Ministry of Justice and the National Unit for Combating Trafficking in Persons to support over 80 women victims of trafficking. Through the PROMIS project, the Office provided grants to six CSOs and one NHRI to enhance access to justice for migrants in the West Africa region. OHCHR provided mentoring to assist the grantees with the implementation of activities that were affected by the pandemic. This included capacity-building in relation to remote monitoring of migrant rights and the planning of awareness-raising campaigns on how to prevent the spread of the virus.

With the technical support of the OHCHR Surge Initiative, the Regional Office collaborated with the Mixed Migration Centre to collect specific data on the economic and social rights of migrants in **Niger** in the context of the pandemic.

The survey reached 527 migrants and refugees and the collected information informed analyses on the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on migrants in the Agadez Region, in particular their access to health services, sanitation, housing and education. Furthermore, in collaboration with UN Women and UNICEF, OHCHR carried out a number of surveys on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in selected countries in West Africa to build the analytical capacity of the UNCTs concerned and to provide accurate, quality data to inform the adoption of sound policies.

Reuniting children with their families: A new start for Amadou

Amadou, a 13-year-old Gambian child, was sent to Senegal by his father to receive a religious education in an Islamic school and to become a talibé child. His Koranic master, however, forced him to beg in the streets of Dakar. If the boy did not gather CFA750 a day – the equivalent of US\$1.50 – he was beaten. Amadou decided to run away and began living in the streets, where he faced exposure to violence and COVID-19 infection.

In the context of the pandemic, UN Human Rights and local partners advocated with the Government to provide support to talibé children who are in street situations or are forced to beg. The Office highlighted the importance of including

these children in COVID-19 response plans. With support from UN Human Rights, the Government undertook operations to remove them from the street. As a result, young Amadou was placed in a centre where he received health care and psychosocial assistance.

A team of social workers investigated Amadou's case and actively listened to the child. Amadou expressed his desire to be reunited with his family and return to the home of his parents, in Banjul.

A total of 174 children like Amadou, including 34 from the Gambia, were removed from the streets in 2020. The Senegalese ministry that is responsible

for child protection requested the assistance of UN Human Rights, through the Support Project for the Protection of Child Victims of Rights Violations (PAPEV), to facilitate their reintegration into their families or their placement in appropriate childcare facilities.

Following an agreement between the Governments of the Gambia and Senegal, UN Human Rights cooperated with the West African Network for the Protection of Children, a transnational mobility management mechanism, to launch a family reintegration process for the 34 Gambian children who were removed from the streets, including Amadou. The boy's family was identified and prepared for his return. After three months in reception centres in the Gambia and Senegal, Amadou was finally reintegrated into his family, in early October.

In November, a UN Human Rights team visited Amadou as part of its monitoring activities. His parents indicated that they were happy to see him again, as they had not heard from him for a long time. Amadou was also content to be near his family. He said that he did not want to return to the streets, where he faced high levels of violence, and instead preferred to continue the apprenticeship in mechanics that his father arranged at a garage. Finally, Amadou's new guardian committed to looking after him and ensuring that he learns the necessary skills to help him resettle with his family.



UN Human Rights staff with Amadou, who has been reunited with his family and is learning mechanics. © OHCHR

ZIMBABWE

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
14.86 million	391,000 km ²	0.571 (rank: 150/189 in 2019)	A" Status (2016)
Type of engagement		Human Rights Adviser	
Year established		2018	
Field office(s)		Harare	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2016-2020	
Staff as of 31 December 2020		1	

XB requirements 2020**US\$229,000****Key OMP pillars in 2020**^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229**PILLAR RESULTS:**
 **Participation**

P6 – CSOs are able to participate in public affairs and advocate for democratic space.



OHCHR provided technical support to empower rights-holders to participate in public processes and engage with the international human rights mechanisms to claim their rights.

The UN Human Rights HRA in Zimbabwe took advantage of the briefings conducted for CSOs on human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to strengthen the capacities of CSOs to monitor and report on ESCRs. Following the outbreak of COVID-19 in the country, the HRA provided technical advice and information on applicable human rights standards to enable CSOs to monitor, report and conduct advocacy on the

impacts of COVID-19 and related restrictions. As a result, several NGO networks issued regular reports on the impacts of and responses to the pandemic from a human rights perspective.

 **Development**

D7 – All UNDAF roll-out countries adopt a human rights-based approach to programming and link the SDGs to international human rights standards.



UN common country programmes integrated international human rights norms, standards and principles resulting from technical advice provided by OHCHR.

UN Human Rights provided technical support to the UNCT and the Humanitarian Country Team. This resulted in the integration of human

rights and protection concepts into the various responses and contingency plans and activities developed by the UNCT to support the public health measures that were put in place to contain the pandemic and reduce its negative impacts. Measures included the Addendum to the Zimbabwe Humanitarian Response Plan 2020 (on COVID-19); the Global Protection Cluster Contingency Plan and Guidance on COVID-19; and the Framework for Integrated Policy Analysis and Support for the Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19. UN Human Rights prepared a checklist of international human rights standards to inform the preparation of COVID-19 responses in Zimbabwe, which was made available in accessible formats for persons with disabilities. With support from the HRA, guidance was developed on ensuring that COVID-19 responses in Zimbabwe address the needs and human rights of older persons to assist the UN in implementing COVID-19 responses and activities that are compliant with human rights.

Finally, by the end of the year, the UNCT had begun drafting the new CCA and the UNSDCF. The HRA actively engaged in this process with a view to mainstreaming human rights into the UNCT's analysis and programming.

Accountability

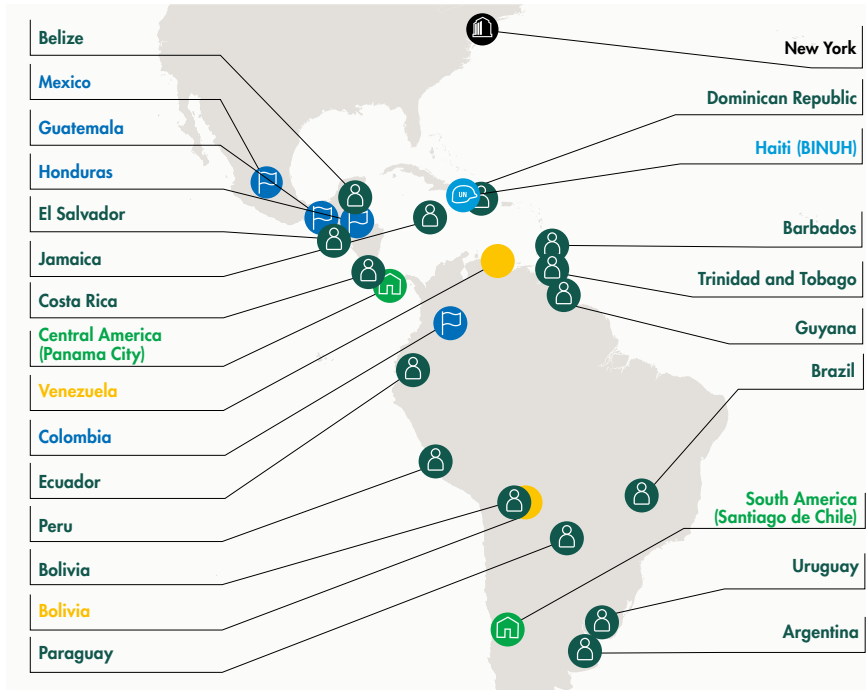
A2 – NHRIs and other national protection systems are established in compliance with international human rights standards.



Following technical guidance and briefings from OHCHR, NHRIs worked in conformity with international standards.

UN Human Rights continued to strengthen the capacities of the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission and the Zimbabwe Gender Commission by providing technical support and delivering targeted briefings for the members and staff of the respective commissions. As a result, both commissions conducted monitoring of the human rights situation and issued at least 15 public statements touching on various human rights concerns in the country.

UN Human Rights in the Americas



TYPE OF PRESENCE

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

LOCATION

New York
Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico
Central America (Panama City, Panama) and South America (Santiago de Chile, Chile)
Haiti (BINUH)
Argentina*, Barbados*, Belize*, Bolivia*, Brazil*, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador*, El Salvador, Guyana*, Jamaica*, Paraguay, Peru*, Trinidad and Tobago* and Uruguay*
Bolivia and Venezuela

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

LEGEND:

Spotlights:

- Disabilities
- Youth
- Women

Shifts:

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

SDGs:



In 2020, UN Human Rights' work in the Americas region covered 35 countries and consisted of 24 field presences: two regional offices (in Panama and Santiago de Chile); four country offices (Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico); one human rights component in a peace mission (United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH)); a technical mission in Bolivia; a team under the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) in Venezuela; and 15 human rights advisers (HRAs): three international HRAs in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica and 12 national HRAs deployed in Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted underlying structural human rights challenges, including profound inequalities and fragile democratic systems. By the end of the year, new cases and deaths in the Americas accounted for nearly half of all new cases globally and over one third of all new deaths. The Americas faced the greatest negative economic impacts of COVID-19, which underscored pervasive levels of inequality in accessing economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs) in the region and the overall weakness of public health systems. Social protests that erupted across the region, including in relation to claims for access to basic services and demands for better management of resources, were at times met with discriminatory and excessive use of force by the police. Across the region, the pandemic highlighted the longstanding social exclusion of indigenous peoples and people of African descent, exacerbating the structural barriers to the enjoyment of their individual and collective rights. Social movements highlighted challenges related to systemic racism, especially against people of African descent. The

disproportionate impacts of the pandemic on women were particularly felt by women working in the informal sector, domestic workers, indigenous women and women of African descent and were accompanied by a surge in sexual and gender-based violence, including femicide. LGBTI persons were more at risk of violence and discrimination.

UN Human Rights led monitoring efforts on the impacts of COVID-19 on the human rights situation in the region. It conducted advocacy and strengthened its alliances with UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and key partners, focusing on vulnerable populations and highlighting the need to ensure respect for civic space and accountability to guarantee non-recurrence. The Office observed significant restrictions imposed on civic space due to the pandemic, including limitations to the rights of freedom of movement, association and assembly, freedom of expression and opinion. Arbitrary detentions for a lack of respect for lockdown and curfew measures were also reported. Declared states of emergency were at times contrary to relevant international standards. The impacts of COVID-19 on persons deprived of their liberty was a serious concern, particularly due to an absence of containment protocols and protective equipment in many countries of the region. This situation sparked protests and riots in numerous detention centres, resulting in the death of inmates in some countries.

Human rights defenders (HRDs) and journalists continued to face some of the highest risks of deadly attacks in the world. In particular, defenders of land and environmental rights and the rights of indigenous peoples, people of African descent, peasants and LGBTI persons were at the greatest risk of becoming victims of homicide, attacks, threats,

harassment, stigmatization and criminalization. In addition, comments expressed by high-level authorities contributed to a heightened risk of attacks against those working in the media. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, OHCHR continued to monitor the situation of HRDs, both in-country and remotely. It provided technical support to authorities to enhance prevention, protection and accountability mechanisms.

The pandemic exacerbated the vulnerable situation of persons on the move in the region. Migrants were hindered from crossing international borders. At the same time, the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic and natural hazards, such as Hurricane Eta and Hurricane Iota, in November, contributed to an increase in movements of people, including in the form of "migrant caravans" in Central America. UN Human Rights monitored the situation, issued press statements and thematic subregional overviews and provided technical support to authorities. The Office enhanced its capacity to monitor the situation of Venezuelan migrants and refugees and to address key human rights issues as a member of the UN Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela.

Furthermore, OHCHR continued supporting State institutions, CSOs and national human rights institutions (NHRIs) to adopt a human rights perspective and strengthen accountability systems, improve access to justice and reparations for victims of gross human rights violations, expand civic space and support technical cooperation and institution-building.

The Office responded to emerging crises by strengthening its early warning and prevention responses. Surge capacity was provided to respond to electoral processes in Bolivia and Guyana (UN light team) and in the context of protests in Peru. OHCHR actively contributed to prevention mechanisms under the umbrella of the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, which builds on and incorporates the Human Rights up Front (HRuF) Initiative, including in Regional Monthly Reviews (RMRs), meetings of the Deputies and Executive Committee and meetings of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC).

In 2020, Venezuela's continued political, economic and social crises were compounded by the pandemic and sectoral sanctions. The High Commissioner for Human Rights presented two reports and three oral updates on the human rights situation in Venezuela to the Human Rights Council (HRC). In September, the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, established under HRC resolution 42/25, presented its report. During the Council's forty-fifth session, two resolutions were adopted on the situation in Venezuela, extending OHCHR's mandate on reporting and providing technical assistance and extending the FFM's mandate for another two years. In September, the Letter of Understanding between OHCHR and Venezuela was renewed for an additional year, enabling the Office to triple its presence in the country and expand its technical cooperation. OHCHR gained unprecedented access throughout the country, formalized work mechanisms with authorities for more sustainability and continued its high-level dialogue with a view to ensuring a sustained presence in the country.

OHCHR strengthened the technical mission that was deployed to Bolivia in 2019. In August, the High Commissioner presented her report on the human rights violations that occurred in the aftermath of the 2019 national elections. The technical mission operates under the global OHCHR mandate and as part of the UN system's Peace Consolidation Initiative for Bolivia. It has also been contributing to conflict prevention and dialogue in the context of the October 2020 elections.

The Regional Office for Central America and the Caribbean continued to remotely monitor and report on the human rights situation in Nicaragua. In 2020, the High Commissioner presented three oral updates on the human rights situation in the country, as mandated by the HRC. Five bimonthly reports were also issued. The Council's forty-third session extended the mandate of the High Commissioner to report on the human rights situation in Nicaragua.

OHCHR continued to follow the human rights situation in the United States of America, in particular with regard to the implications of migration policies, the death penalty and challenges stemming from systemic racism. Following the death of George Floyd, the HRC mandated the Office to prepare a worldwide report on systemic racism, law enforcement and protests.

In November, the Office conducted a mission to Peru to gather information on human rights violations that were committed in the context of protests related to the impeachment of former President Vizcarra by the Congress. The mission's findings were published in January 2021.

Enhanced engagement in the English-speaking Caribbean subregion resulted in a regional strategy, the deployment of

three new HRAs and a dedicated Regional Coordinator. Following the deployment of a UN light team to Guyana in the context of the 2020 electoral crisis, OHCHR substantially increased its engagement with authorities and civil society, leading to the launch of a one-year capacity-building programme on identified human rights issues.

OHCHR continued to maintain close relations with regional organizations, especially the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. In the context of the Joint Action Mechanism to Contribute to Protection of Human Rights Defenders in the Americas, the close collaboration of the organizations improved the capacity-building of and exchange of information between HRDs in the region.

BARBADOS

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser for English-speaking Caribbean
Countries of engagement	Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago
Year established	2012
Field office(s)	Bridgetown (Barbados), Georgetown (Guyana) and Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago)
UN partnership framework	UN Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework (UN MSDf) in the Caribbean 2017-2021
Staff as of 31 December 2020	1

XB requirements 2020

US\$142,000

Key OMP pillars in 2020



PILLAR RESULTS:

Non-discrimination

ND1 – In at least three countries (Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago), laws and policies protect the rights of women, persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV, LGBTI persons and religious minorities.



OHCHR contributed to increasing the level of compliance of legislation and policy with international human rights standards in relation to the rights of migrants, women and persons with disabilities.

Throughout the year, UN Human Rights supported activities to enhance the protection of the rights of vulnerable groups, increase public awareness and strengthen

the capacity of UNCTs to address the situation of marginalized groups in the region. In Barbados, OHCHR collaborated with CSOs to conduct webinars on violence against persons with disabilities and the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on their lives. The Office also enhanced the knowledge of rights-holders on how to engage with the international human rights mechanisms in order to hold governments accountable through the delivery of workshops to civil society in Barbados, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

In Barbados and Guyana, OHCHR supported activities focused on protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. The HRA advised the UNCTs on the implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS)

and contributed to the development of a joint UNCT disability project. OHCHR also assisted with proposals that were submitted to the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UNPRPD MPTF) for initiatives to be implemented in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Guyana and Saint Kitts and Nevis. The initiatives will aim to improve data collection and develop policy and legislation to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. In Guyana, the HRA facilitated the inclusion of a UNV disability inclusion specialist in the RCO.

In partnership with CSOs and UNHCR, OHCHR monitored the situation of migrants in Guyana and in Trinidad and Tobago. The Office issued public statements on the detention and deportation of Venezuelan migrants from Trinidad and Tobago, including persons registered as asylum seekers, some of whom were children. In a number of cases, migrants were deported in small boats while judicial proceedings were pending. Following OHCHR's public statements, the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago indicated that the Government would continue to extend protection to over 16,000 Venezuelans that were registered to live and work in the country.

In parallel, OHCHR and IOM conducted a training on the IOM displacement tracking matrix on Venezuelans in Trinidad and Tobago, which measures the enjoyment of human rights by migrant populations. OHCHR also provided expert advice to the UNCT in Trinidad and Tobago by participating in its sub-working groups on detention and the human rights of migrants. In Guyana, OHCHR contributed to the efforts of IOM and UNHCR to address challenges faced by migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and victims of

human trafficking by raising the awareness of authorities about applicable international human rights standards and laws. OHCHR activities contributed to a joint UN approach on engaging with authorities about key concerns related to the situation of migrants and refugees.

Furthermore, the Office took steps to enhance the protection of women's rights. In order to assist the RCO in **Guyana** with the implementation of the Secretary-General's strategy to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), OHCHR supported the creation of a UNCT PSEA network. In **Barbados**, OHCHR facilitated the launch of the Spotlight Initiative Regional Programme Caribbean and the UNCT's subregional Spotlight Initiative Country Programme, which seek to address gender-based violence (GBV) and discrimination. The Office supported fieldwork by grassroots youth and women's organizations to gather information for the Caucus of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) regional study on good practices in violence prevention. It also facilitated the engagement in the study of the Governments of **Saint Kitts and Nevis**, **Saint Lucia** and **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**.



Accountability

A1 – At least three countries (**Bahamas**, **Grenada** and **Jamaica**) have begun to design or have established an NHRI that complies with the Paris Principles.

16

OHCHR contributed to engagement regarding the establishment of NHRIs that are compliant with international standards in two Caribbean countries.

UN Human Rights participated in discussions on establishing NHRIs in Guyana and in Trinidad and Tobago, however, these activities were curtailed due to the COVID-19 crisis. In both countries, the governments reiterated their commitment to creating an NHRI and requested OHCHR's support. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, the Government asked the RCO and the Office to support the transition of the country's Equal Opportunity Commission (EOC) into an NHRI that is fully compliant with the Paris Principles. A needs assessment was initiated, in coordination with authorities, to identify areas for technical assistance and capacity-building that will be required to realize this transition in 2021. In **Guyana**, OHCHR supported the Government's efforts to reform the country's constitutional commissions on ethnic relations, women and gender equality, the rights of the child, indigenous peoples and human rights. The creation of an NHRI is part of the reform initiative. OHCHR also developed guidelines on enforcing COVID-19 emergency measures that are compliant with human rights standards, which were disseminated within the Guyana Police Force.



Development

D7 – UNCTs in all five Caribbean countries integrate a human rights-based approach (HRBA) into their development work.

17

OHCHR contributed to increasing the inclusion of human rights into UN programmes and policies.

UN Human Rights consistently engaged with UNCTs in 2020. As a result, Eastern Caribbean UNCTs enhanced their

capacities to incorporate human rights into their country planning and programming documents. In **Barbados**, **Guyana** and **Trinidad and Tobago**, OHCHR contributed to the development of new Common Country Analyses (CCAs) by drafting human rights and sectoral analyses and facilitating consultations with civil society and other stakeholders. In addition, OHCHR supported the UNCTs in developing COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response Plans (SERPs) through the analysis of impacts on vulnerable groups and human rights.

During the year, OHCHR supported RCOs and UNCTs by drafting inputs for public messaging on human rights, including public statements for Human Rights Day and the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, as well as op-eds and other media products on the impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups in the Caribbean region. OHCHR also supported the drafting of joint submissions by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) UN subregional team in anticipation of the third cycle reviews of Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia. This contributed to raising the awareness of UN partners on the implementation of UPR recommendations in both countries.



Mechanisms

M1 – At least four Caribbean countries (**Antigua and Barbuda**, **Jamaica**, **Saint Lucia** and **Suriname**) have established mechanisms for human rights reporting and follow-up.

16

17

The Office advocated for the creation of National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRFs) on the implementation of recommendations issued by the

international human rights mechanisms, including through awareness-raising and capacity-building activities.

UN Human Rights continued to support efforts for the establishment and/or strengthening of NMRFs in Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. OHCHR organized a workshop for NMRF staff in Saint Lucia in order to advocate for the ratification of CRPD and to improve the capacities of government officials to follow up on and implement the recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies and during the UPR process. The workshop resulted in the adoption of a plan for drafting the upcoming State report to the UPR. Similar workshops were planned in Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Kitts and Nevis, but were cancelled due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Finally, OHCHR supported the submission of a State Party report by Saint Kitts and Nevis to CEDAW and of a CSO report in anticipation of Saint Lucia's third UPR cycle.

BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF)

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
11.67 million	1,099,000 km ²	0.718 (rank: 107/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2017)
Type of engagement		Technical mission (Other type of field presence)/ Human Rights Adviser	
Year established		2019 (technical mission)/2018 (HRA)	
Field office(s)		La Paz	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2022	
Staff as of 31 December 2020		8	

XB requirements 2020

US\$410,000

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1 2 3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

A2 – Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.

16 

OHCHR contributed to enhancing national mechanisms to provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations in the context of the October 2019 elections.

Since November 2019, a UN Human Rights technical mission has been operating in Bolivia to gather information on human rights violations and violence committed in the aftermath of the 20 October 2019 elections. OHCHR contributed to the efforts of the Government to investigate human rights violations and provided technical assistance to the

Attorney General's Office on human rights standards that apply to the use of force by security forces and investigations on violations to the rights to life and personal integrity. On 24 August, OHCHR published a report detailing the serious human rights violations that were committed between 20 October and 25 November 2019. The report made recommendations aimed at fostering the protection of human rights, preventing violations and promoting the necessary conditions for peaceful, participatory and inclusive elections. The Office also assessed the compliance of new legislation and policies with human rights standards and proposed the development of a road map to assist the State in promoting structural reforms to address the root causes of human rights violations in areas such as the independence of the judiciary, the protection of victims and witnesses and the use of pretrial detention.

In addition, OHCHR followed up on over 40 emblematic cases of human rights violations by identifying patterns, such as the excessive use of force by law enforcement officials; the use of the military in matters of public security; ill-treatment and an absence of safeguards against torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including in cases of detention in the context of COVID-19; an excessive use of pretrial detention and violations of due process; politically motivated trials; intimidation and the persecution of journalists and political opponents; and discrimination against indigenous peoples. The Office issued recommendations in eight main areas (accountability; public order and the use of force; the justice system; persons deprived of their liberty; the NHRI; non-discrimination; civic space; and cooperation with international and regional mechanisms) and offered assistance to the authorities, in line with international standards of judicial independence and due process.

Furthermore, OHCHR supported the work of the NHRI, including its efforts to promote justice in emblematic cases of human rights violations, such as those related to the killings of protestors in the localities of Senkata and Sacaba. The Office cooperated with the Ministry of the Interior to strengthen human rights standards in detention centres and with the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) to document cases of torture and ill-treatment and promote reparations to victims.

Participation

P1 – Laws on freedom of expression and assembly comply with international human rights standards.



OHCHR contributed to strengthening the compliance of legislation on freedom of expression and assembly with international human rights standards, including in the context of COVID-19.

As a result of UN Human Rights' advocacy, the Government of Bolivia published Decree 4236, on 14 May, which derogated provisions of Decree 4231 that limited freedom of expression in the context of COVID-19. The previous decree allowed authorities to file criminal complaints against those who failed to comply with quarantine orders or disseminated information that allegedly had the potential to put public health at risk or provoke uncertainty among the population. Given the polarized and volatile situation in the country, the legislation created additional risks of public unrest. OHCHR issued public messages, conducted advocacy meetings and sent a technical document to authorities that highlighted the incompatibility of Decree 4231 with the right to freedom of expression, provided in article 19 of ICCPR, due to its violation of the principles of necessity, proportionality and legality.

In addition, the Office engaged with several authorities to foster civic and democratic space. It deployed teams in different departments to monitor the human rights situation in the pre-electoral, electoral and post-electoral phases. It cooperated with the National Electoral Tribunal and held several meetings with the Departmental Electoral Tribunals of La Paz, Chuquisaca, Potosí, Oruro, Tarija,

Cochabamba and Santa Cruz to promote the political rights of indigenous peoples, advocate for updating electoral registers, including in prisons, and monitor cases of political violence against women. In particular, OHCHR referred to the special indigenous constituency and noted that electoral information should be available in indigenous languages. This resulted in actions to update electoral registers (for instance, in the Santo Domingo Cantamarca prison, Potosí) and to adopt protocols to follow up on and punish cases of political violence against women in the context of subnational elections (in Chuquisaca).

Non-discrimination

ND1 – Discrimination and gender equality laws comply with international human rights standards.



OHCHR contributed to enhancing the compliance of regulations and practices with international human rights standards by advocating for the rights of LGBTI persons, persons deprived of their liberty and indigenous peoples.

UN Human Rights' comprehensive advocacy efforts with authorities in Bolivia contributed to the first registration of a civil union of a gay couple. Through private advocacy and public messages, OHCHR shared international standards with relevant authorities and strongly encouraged them to take this landmark step. The Office directly supported rights-holders and CSOs that advocate for their rights, including by delivering training workshops on strategic litigation and engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

OHCHR produced an analysis of the human rights situation of indigenous peoples during the COVID-19 pandemic. It provided recommendations to guarantee certain rights, such as the right to health from an intercultural perspective. The UNCT's Human Rights Group, led by OHCHR, supported State authorities through providing a technical review of the impacts of COVID-19 response plans on indigenous peoples and persons deprived of their liberty.

Furthermore, the Office supported the RCO in the process of integrating human rights into the UNCT SERP in relation to COVID-19. The SERP in Bolivia was recognized by the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) Task Team on Leaving No One Behind and Human Rights as a good example of a SERP that makes interlinkages between the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms and interventions proposed by the UN to build back better.

ND6 – The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.



OHCHR contributed to protecting the rights of migrants in COVID-19 quarantine camps.

On 25 March, the Government ordered a lockdown, coupled with border closings, as an emergency measure to contain the spread of COVID-19. The thousands of Bolivians who were working in bordering countries were left struggling to find ways to return home. UN Human Rights deployed a team to monitor the conditions and treatment of migrants in the quarantine camp, Tata Santiago,

at the border with Chile. Nearly 1,000 people, including children, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities, were housed in 66 tents. Through its presence and technical assistance, OHCHR maintained direct channels of communication with migrants and contributed to enhancing the application of an HRBA to assistance provided by organizations, such as IOM, while strengthening the protection of migrants' rights. The Office also monitored the situations of migrants returning from Argentina, Brazil and Peru, including in camps and isolation centres, such as hotels.

PS3 – Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection.

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OHCHR contributed to enhancing the integration of human rights protection into efforts to prevent unrest and conflict in the context of elections.

As part of the UN system's Peace Consolidation Initiative for Bolivia, UN Human Rights monitored the human rights situation in the context of the electoral process of 18 October. OHCHR alerted the international community about a series of incidents of discriminatory speech and violence in the pre-electoral phase and deployed teams to six departments of the country to monitor and report on the situation during the pre-electoral, electoral and post-electoral phases. OHCHR's work, presence and engagement with authorities and social and political actors contributed to a peaceful and credible electoral process, without major incidents of violence.

M2 – CSOs regularly report to UN mechanisms, participate in sessions, including through the use of technology, and use concluding observations and reports for advocacy and follow-up purposes.

M2 – CSOs regularly report to UN mechanisms, participate in sessions, including through the use of technology, and use concluding observations and reports for advocacy and follow-up purposes.



OHCHR provided support to the NHRI, CSOs and UN entities in the development of substantive submissions to the international human rights mechanisms and in following up on their recommendations.

Through the UNCT's Human Rights Group, UN Human Rights supported the development of UN joint submissions to CEDAW and CRC. The Office continued to share information with CSOs and the NHRI on the international human rights mechanisms, resulting in submissions from CSO coalitions to CAT, CEDAW and CRC. In addition, OHCHR supported and disseminated a publication of UPR recommendations issued in relation to Bolivia, with accompanying statistical information. It also produced an informative brochure on the functioning of the human rights treaty bodies, with links to their recommendations issued in relation to Bolivia.

Furthermore, the Office, UNIC and UNV co-organized a digital campaign to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This included the design of promotional materials and the delivery of messages by UNCT representatives. OHCHR encouraged State institutions, CSOs, the NHRI, donors and the private sector to join the campaign, which reached 18,275 users on Facebook and 22,021 users on Twitter.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama
Year established	2007
Field office(s)	Panama City, Panama
Staff as of 31 December 2020	17

XB income	US\$1,671,464		
XB requirements 2020	US\$3,170,000		
XB expenditure	US\$783,954		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴	
80%	8%	11%	
\$630,421	\$63,500	\$90,033	
RB expenditure	US\$984,952		
Personnel	Non-personnel		
93%	7%		
\$916,267	\$68,683		

Key OMP pillars in 2020



⁴ Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

A1 – A mobile monitoring team has been established that strengthens OHCHR’s capacity to gather information on the human rights situation in countries of the region and report on cases and situations. Its work enables the international community to make more effective representations to governments on a wide range of concerns.

16 

OHCHR contributed to enhancing efforts by local and international actors

to monitor and address human rights situations in the region and liaise with governments.

In El Salvador, OHCHR supported a network of national and international CSOs working on sexual and reproductive rights to present a habeas corpus before the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice in favour of 14 women imprisoned for obstetric emergencies. In this context, OHCHR provided technical advice to the Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (PDDH, the NHRI), which submitted an amicus curiae in relation to the women’s cases to propose the adoption of precautionary measures, including enhanced health and hygiene conditions in the context of

COVID-19. As a result, the Constitutional Chamber ordered a review of the cases and an improvement of sanitary conditions in prisons. Following this decision, one of the women was granted early parole and another woman’s sentence was commuted.

In the context of COVID-19, UNODC requested support from OHCHR to prevent outbreaks of violence in prisons, including through training prison officials on the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty, in accordance with international human rights standards. The Office also worked with PDDH to design a methodology for monitoring the situation of detainees in containment centres. In addition, it provided advice on the adoption of mechanisms to monitor the situation in prisons when the pandemic began, particularly as the verification protocols of monitors were restricted to prevent the spread of the virus.

Furthermore, progress was achieved in one of the most emblematic transitional justice cases in El Salvador (El Mozote massacre) after an Inter-American Court of Human Rights handed down a judgment and the Constitutional Chamber overturned an amnesty law. OHCHR issued public statements to support compliance with a judicial order to search the military archives and seize relevant information following the stigmatization of the presiding judge by military and civilian authorities.

The Office participated in a hearing of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) through the submission of a written statement on public/citizen security and increasing militarization in El Salvador. The Office participated in follow-up activities and contributed to a report by PDDH on extrajudicial executions committed during the past seven years.

Participation

P5 – Governments and other relevant institutions have taken effective steps to protect HRDs and the human rights situation and their security is more closely monitored.



OHCHR contributed to regional efforts to improve the situation of HRDs, including through remote monitoring.

UN Human Rights continued supporting the joint mechanism on HRDs that was established in cooperation with the IACHR. The two entities organized a webinar to discuss experiences, good practices and lessons learned in relation to the protection of HRDs and included the participation of regional protection mechanisms. A virtual consultation with CSOs was convened to exchange information on the protection needs of HRDs. The Office supported the work of CSOs to monitor, document and report human rights violations to the UN and Inter-American systems. In December, a meeting was held with the leading women human rights defenders (WHRDs) in Central America, to discuss integral protection measures. More specifically, the threats faced by WHRDs are often sexual in nature. As a result, they have different protection needs, including for psychological counseling and protection measures for their children, who are often included in the threats.

In **Costa Rica**, the Office assisted the judiciary to move forward with the preparation of a protocol for investigating human rights violations against HRDs. OHCHR held a meeting with magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice to discuss their international obligations in investigations. OHCHR also supported the

adoption of a comprehensive protection policy that includes opportunities for participation, early warning, the provision of training to State agents and overall guidelines on crimes committed against HRDs. The judiciary asked the Office to provide assistance on issues related to the investigation of cases.

In **El Salvador**, OHCHR facilitated spaces for dialogue with HRDs and journalists to analyse the conditions and context for the enjoyment of rights, including freedom of expression. OHCHR organized a virtual training for journalists on international human rights mechanisms and how to submit complaints related to the rights to freedom of expression and opinion. In addition, OHCHR provided technical advice on the process of drafting and discussing the Law for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders with the aim of incorporating international human rights standards, in line with the recommendations issued by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders. The discussions were postponed due to the pandemic. OHCHR also endorsed a campaign on HRDs that included videos of HRDs and activists speaking about their work, which were distributed through social media platforms. Moreover, OHCHR supported the implementation of two awareness-raising campaigns on the Escazú Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Non-discrimination

ND6 – Official migration policies and programmes recognize the need to protect the human rights of migrants, especially those who are in situations of vulnerability.



OHCHR supported the enhanced integration of the rights of migrants into policies and legislation through awareness-raising and training.

UN Human Rights supported the capacity-development of a network of CSOs to monitor the human rights situation of migrants in the region. It provided technical assistance through webinars on various topics, including monitoring and documenting human rights violations, creating a database on cases and integrating recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. This resulted in the production of the first report by the Regional Network of Civil Organizations for Migration on migration and human rights in the context of COVID-19 in the Central America region. OHCHR helped to design a methodology for gathering and analysing the data. CSOs disseminated the report to State authorities in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama. In addition, the Network presented the report's findings and recommendations at a regional conference on migration with Vice-Ministers of the Interior. The report will be widely disseminated in 2021. OHCHR coordinated the work of CSOs working on migration issues in Costa Rica, El Salvador and Panama, which joined forces with organizations from Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico to monitor the impacts of the pandemic on highly vulnerable migrant populations.

Three joint public statements were subsequently issued.

The Office conducted online training to enhance the monitoring, documenting and reporting capacities of the NHRI in **Panama**, with a focus on the application by migration officers of OHCHR's guidelines on the rights of migrants in the context of COVID-19. The training touched on the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders, which urge prioritizing the protection and humanitarian needs of migrants over security concerns. In addition, the Office prepared a guide to support the NHRI in monitoring the situation of undocumented migrants at the border through guidelines on conducting interviews, writing reports and the application of international human rights recommendations in advocacy strategies. The Office also assisted the NHRI in producing its first thematic report on the rights of migrants in the context of COVID-19, which will be finalized at the beginning of 2021. The report provides evidence of human rights violations and makes recommendations on how to meet the humanitarian and protection needs of more than 2,500 irregular extra-continental migrants who are stranded at Panama's borders with Colombia and Costa Rica.

With OHCHR's support, the NHRI liaised with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and provided information on the situation of migrants in the Darien migrant centres, including in relation to health care, access to food, water, sanitation and due process. Provisional protection measures were requested and the NHRI made an oral presentation to the Court during a public hearing, with support from OHCHR.

OHCHR fostered the NHRI's engagement with the Global Migration Group (GMG), resulting in a more coordinated response from State institutions. Following OHCHR's meetings with various government entities, agreements were reached on how to improve migrant protection, for instance by sending doctors to the borders, increasing food rations, improving sanitary measures and moving migrants to a new temporary centre to reduce overcrowding.

The Office also prevented the involuntary return of 290 Haitian migrants, who were at the border with **Costa Rica**, on the basis that it would violate the principles of voluntary repatriation, security and non-refoulement. OHCHR and the NHRI met with the Director of the National Migration Service to discuss the fact that the forcible return of the migrants could amount to a human rights violation. Many of the migrants had been residents in Panama for more than 10 years and had children who were born in the region.

Peace and Security

PSS – The Regional Office increased its capacity to gather, analyse and manage information relevant to early warning, advocacy and response to critical situations of violence and insecurity. As a result, it contributed significantly to key regional and national processes and discussions. Relevant security institutions receive political and technical advice enabling them to protect citizens' security in compliance with international human rights standards.



OHCHR contributed to raising alerts concerning the non-compliance of laws, policies and practices of State institutions

and authorities with international human rights standards.

UN Human Rights in **Nicaragua** issued early warning alerts, primarily through Twitter, with regard to the non-compliance of legislative reforms with international standards. The alerts were shared by the media and civil society and focused on various pieces of legislation that could potentially infringe on human rights, including a law on cybercrimes that could violate the right to freedom of expression and a Foreign Agents Law that could violate the rights to freedom of association, expression and the free exercise of political rights, particularly of CSOs. Other alerts referred to threats and assaults experienced by journalists who were critical of the Government and the arbitrary dismissal of medical personnel who had criticized the Government's response to the pandemic. Joint press releases were disseminated by special procedures mandate holders and the IACHR's Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression. In addition, support was given to the drafting of the High Commissioner's oral updates to the HRC, in February, July and September. At the end of the March Council session, a new resolution on Nicaragua was adopted.

Mechanisms

M2 – CSOs, NHRIs and UNCTs increased the number of contributions they submit to the international human rights mechanisms by at least 25 per cent.



OHCHR supported the submission of substantive reports to the international human rights mechanisms by State authorities, NHRIs, CSOs and UN entities.

UN Human Rights in **Belize** engaged with CSOs and the Government to strengthen their reporting capacity, in particular with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), and to discuss coordination mechanisms. The Office facilitated an online discussion between indigenous leaders and the UNCT to discuss the impact of the pandemic on their communities. The HRA provided reporting assistance as requested. Moreover, technical assistance was offered to the MoFA in relation to ratification processes, including recent regional conventions such as the Escazu Agreement. The HRA provided support for the drafting of the State Party report to CAT.

In **Costa Rica**, the Office provided recommendations to the RCO, the UNCT and the Foreign Ministry's Inter-Institutional Commission for the Monitoring and Implementation of International Human Rights Obligations, based on a survey that identified potential areas of engagement. The Office supported the Commission to promote civil society participation, however, activities were suspended due to the pandemic.

In **Nicaragua**, the Office facilitated the submission of CSO alternative reports and inputs to CEDAW, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the Special

Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression. Training sessions were carried out with the Comisión Permanente de Derechos Humanos (CPDH) and the Réseau International des Droits Humains (RIDH) on reporting to the international human rights mechanisms.

Finally, the Office supported the UNCTs in **El Salvador** and **Panama** to mainstream human rights into their CCAs, Cooperation Frameworks and other strategic planning tools, including by providing training.

Ending the criminalization of abortion in El Salvador

“The change from a life in prison has been a great contrast between joy and sadness. Joy because I am with my family now, but sadness because I am facing major challenges, such as getting a job, supporting my son and continuing my studies. Perhaps the biggest change has been my health. As soon as I was released, my health became more balanced,” said Cindy Erazo.

In September, Cindy became the first woman to be released from prison following the ruling of the Constitutional Chamber of El Salvador’s Supreme Court on a habeas corpus in favour of 14 women who were charged and sentenced under the country’s strict anti-abortion laws after experiencing miscarriages, stillbirths and other obstetric emergencies.

The habeas corpus was filed as part of a legal strategy developed by a group of national and international organizations, together with the NHRI, to guarantee the right to health of detained women in the context of COVID-19. In addition, it aimed to protect the rights to freedom and a fair trial of the women convicted of aggravated homicide after suffering spontaneous abortions and obstetric emergencies.

UN Human Rights supported the elaboration of the strategy and provided technical advice on the obligations of States to implement measures to protect human rights in prisons within the context of the pandemic. The strategy also proposed increased engagement with the international human rights mechanisms, in particular the Working Group

Demonstration in the capital city of El Salvador in support of women’s human rights.
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on discrimination against women and girls. This resulted in a communication that was sent to the Government by the Working Group and three other mandates, requesting information on progress made in decriminalizing abortion and any measures adopted for the release of arbitrarily detained women, emphasizing the context of the pandemic.

UN Human Rights undertook sustained advocacy efforts regarding the decriminalization of abortion in El Salvador, in line with UPR recommendations. More specifically, it identified a systematic pattern of discrimination against women in the country, as manifested by the dissemination of harmful gender stereotypes in State institutions that are responsible for providing assistance to women who face obstetric emergencies.

Cindy, who is the mother of a 10-year-old boy, was initially sentenced to 30 years in prison after experiencing an obstetric emergency during her eighth month of pregnancy that resulted in a stillbirth. She was accused of attempting to end the pregnancy and charged with aggravated homicide. A year after her conviction, the sentence was reduced to 10 years of imprisonment.

At the end of December, the Citizen’s Group for the Decriminalization of Abortion had registered 21 cases of women deprived of their liberty for crimes related to obstetric emergencies, including eight new cases in 2019-2020. With ongoing support from UN Human Rights and other stakeholders, CSOs continue to provide legal support to women in this context. As of December, they have secured the liberation of 44 women.

COLOMBIA

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
50.88 million	1,142,000 km ²	0.767 (rank: 83/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2017)
Type of engagement	Country Office		
Year established	1997		
Field office(s)	Bogotá, with field presences in Arauca, Barranquilla, Cali, Cúcuta, Medellín, Neiva, Pasto and Villavicencio		
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2020-2023		
Staff as of 31 December 2020	63		

XB income	US\$9,572,507
XB requirements 2020	US\$12,587,000
XB expenditure	US\$7,610,687
Personnel	Non-personnel PSC ⁴
73%	16% 11%
\$5,547,030	\$1,190,374 \$873,283

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1 2 3 4} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229 and p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:

 **Development**

D2 – The National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (PNA) is fully implemented. The institutions responsible for economic and investment policies and for departments, districts and municipalities, including indigenous areas, are more fully engaged.

1 2 3 5 8 9 13 16 17

OHCHR contributed to improving the compliance of State institutions and programmes with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and

Human Rights (UNGPs) and other international human rights standards.

In December, the Presidential Council on Human Rights (PCHR) approved the second PNA. UN Human Rights provided technical assistance during the formulation process, including on methods for ensuring the broad participation of stakeholders. With OHCHR's support, the PCHR organized dialogue spaces with unions, business associations and academia. It did not consult with CSOs, however, which criticized the Government's lack of transparency and

unwillingness to share the text during the drafting process. Many of OHCHR's comments on the drafts were addressed, with the exception of those relating to ensuring the full participation of civil society. A baseline on business and human rights was successfully included in the PNA, which OHCHR developed with two universities in Bogotá (Universidad Javeriana and Universidad del Rosario). This important initiative will raise the visibility of the impact of business operations on human rights and the Office will support the process during the implementation phase.

In addition, OHCHR worked with the PCHR to promote the UNGPs. More specifically, it provided technical assistance to develop 24 programmes entitled "Juntos lo hacemos posible," one of which included the participation of the OHCHR representative in Colombia and the President of Colombia. Over the year, the programmes were viewed up to 20,000 times. Information on human rights, the UNGPs and the human rights impacts of COVID-19 was disseminated on Facebook Live and Twitter. Furthermore, the Office promoted the participation of the PCHR, the Ministry of Labour, the Office of the Ombudsperson, the judicial branch, CSOs, universities and think tanks in the 2020 UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, which was held virtually.

With regard to Human Rights Due Diligence Policies (HRDDPs), OHCHR provided technical assistance to the Mining and Energy Planning Unit (UPME) to design a tool for mapping human rights risks in the mining and energy sectors. The Office also offered expert advice to introduce human rights-based approaches and the UNGPs into the contextual analyses undertaken by

the Mining and Energy Committee in relation to 70 companies, including two business associations.

D4 – The policies and programmes of the comprehensive health assistance system (MIAS) and the comprehensive indigenous intercultural health system (SISPI) increasingly comply with international human rights standards.

3 5

OHCHR continued to support the Government to increase the compliance with international human rights standards of the Comprehensive Territorial Care Model (MAITE) and SISPI health models, including through technical advice and advocacy efforts.

UN Human Rights continued to monitor the implementation of the MAITE and SISPI health models and document challenges that were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Office sent a letter to the Vice-Minister of Health to express its concerns about the deterioration of the working conditions of health-care personnel and to propose solutions. The Government recognized that the health system was unprepared for a health emergency and allocated additional resources to increase the capacity of hospitals in several departments. OHCHR observed that disparities related to the availability, accessibility, acceptability and affordability of health services continued to primarily affect low-income populations, women and rural inhabitants. For instance, the indigenous communities in Amazonas, Arauca and Norte de Santander did not have access to health services. OHCHR advocated for a revision of the protocol for handling the bodies of indigenous persons presumed

to have died of COVID-19, including through the creation of technical round-tables to review the protocol and ensure its alignment with international human rights standards. This resulted in the adoption of a new protocol by the Ministry of Social Security and Health.

In January, five Wounaan indigenous children in Chocó died of diarrhoea and acute respiratory diseases related to sanitation problems and malnutrition. OHCHR organized two dialogue spaces with WHO, the Ministry of Health and departmental authorities to discuss the right to health situation in Chocó and develop recommendations for authorities. The Office also held meetings with representatives of the governor's offices in Amazonas and Caquetá, indigenous authorities and the Ministry of the Interior to strengthen SISPI coordination mechanisms. It provided technical assistance to the indigenous health liaisons in Caquetá to promote the application of a human rights-based approach to health services in the context of COVID-19. In Amazonas, OHCHR helped to advance coordination efforts between the Hospital of Leticia and the Health Promotion Entity (EPS), resulting in improved services for patients in Araracuara. Finally, the Office reached an agreement with the Ministry of Health to implement a plan to guarantee the right to health for women victims of sexual violence and enforced disappearance in Vista Hermosa, Meta.



Participation

P2 – Institutions that are responsible for the protection of HRDs investigate and prosecute crimes against HRDs that are brought to their attention by OHCHR.



Relevant actors positively addressed human rights violations faced by HRDs that were identified by OHCHR and other stakeholders.

Throughout the year, UN Human Rights field presences in Colombia coordinated their work with the Office of the Ombudsperson, leading to the issuance of 50 early warnings – almost one per week – concerning attacks against HRDs. Although ensuring an integral response by State authorities was challenging, OHCHR maintained its advocacy efforts with the Ministry of the Interior, which serves as the technical secretary of the Intersectoral Commission for Rapid Response to Early Alerts (CIPRAT). The enhanced collaboration between State control entities, including the Office of the Procurator General (OPG) and the Office of the Ombudsperson, was a positive development in 2020. This resulted in a strengthened analysis of early warning responses and the promotion of coordinated actions by authorities. OHCHR provided technical assistance to ensure the compliance of these processes with international human rights standards and strengthened the capacities of the National Guarantees Round-Table, a mechanism that enables HRDs and their organizations to participate in early warning mechanisms and promote more effective State responses.

The Office of the Attorney General continued to apply Directive No. 002, which provides guidelines for the investigation

of crimes committed against HRDs. It assigned staff members to investigate and follow up on specific cases, with technical support from OHCHR. The Office cooperated with Chemonics to develop and deliver a training course to prosecutors, investigators and forensic scientists on the investigation of crimes against HRDs. In addition, it developed a training programme for prosecutors and crime scene investigators that will be delivered in 2021.

The Ministry of the Interior's National Protection Unit (UNP) continued to respond to the high demand for individual protection measures. The Committee for Risk Assessment and Recommendation of Measures (CERREM) analysed close to 500 requests for individual protection per month, illustrating the level of threats in the country and their impact on human rights. In August, approximately 7,200 persons were in need of protection measures and the Government increased the Unit's budget. OHCHR monitored the implementation of protection measures and follow-up on issues of concern with relevant institutions. The Office also provided expert advice on the process of making collective protection measures available.

CSOs and HRDs continued to express their concerns about the stigmatization they experienced and the situations of violence they faced. Despite COVID-19 lockdown measures, OHCHR focused on building their capacities to participate in protection mechanisms, including the local Guarantees Round-Tables, and to request individual and collective protection measures. The Office strengthened its cooperation with the Fundación para la Libertad de Prensa and collaborated with several embassies to raise awareness about the human rights situation of

HRDs, including journalists and communicators covering social protests.

P6 – Victims, indigenous peoples and women participate more fully in decisions that concern them.



OHCHR strengthened spaces for the meaningful participation of rights-holders, especially victims, ethnic groups, women and LGBTI persons, in various public processes through advocacy, technical assistance and capacity-building.

In the context of COVID-19, UN Human Rights strengthened its coordination efforts with the NHRI, HRDs, CSOs and community-based organizations. It helped to create spaces for participation and provided technical advice for the collection of first-hand information on the human rights situation across the country. With the agreement of donors, travel funds were redeployed to guarantee good communication with key field counterparts and implement public information activities. The Office worked with its partners to identify human rights concerns in the context of COVID-19. It supported the development of risk assessment methodologies and the design of self-protection measures and collective protection guidelines. This resulted in the increased participation of HRDs, victims and CSOs in the design of relevant public policy decisions.

OHCHR continued to provide technical assistance to CSOs, victims and their families to increase their capacity to participate in the transitional justice mechanisms of the Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Recurrence (SIVJRNR). In particular, the Office

provided technical assistance in six sessions to the Observatorio Surcolombiano de Derechos Humanos, Paz y Territorio (OBSURDH) to consolidate its legal strategy and support the preparation of four reports to the SIVJRNR.

OHCHR delivered four training sessions to the Fuerza de Mujeres Wayúu (La Guajira) to prepare a report on the impact of the armed conflict on the Wayúu people for the Commission for the Clarification of Truth, Coexistence and Non-Recurrence (Comisión para el Esclarecimiento de la Verdad) (CEV)). Furthermore, the Office contributed to the implementation of a strategy on adopting a differentiated State approach to protect the rights of indigenous peoples. In particular, OHCHR helped to design human rights-based indicators with indigenous leaders. It also supported the use of human rights-based protocols that were developed with indigenous authorities and the Ministry of the Interior to facilitate the implementation of the peace agreement in the territories of indigenous peoples and communities of people of African descent, such as the Nasa people, Renacer Negro Community Council, the Greater Community Council of the Comprehensive Farmers' Association of Atrato and the Bari people.

By conducting 17 training workshops on ESCRs, the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and international mechanisms related to women's rights and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), the Office enhanced the knowledge and capacities of 170 women from 35 organizations in the departments of Guaviare, Nariño, Bolívar, Huila and Meta and of 62 HRDs (36 women, 26 men) from the HRD networks in Sur de Bolívar and Arauca. In addition, advocacy efforts by OHCHR in the International Cooperation Gender

Round-Table resulted in a commitment from the Presidential Council for Women's Equity (CPEM) to promote the participation of women's organizations in the action plan to implement Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.

In the context of the implementation of a project in Vista Hermosa (Meta) that was supported by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), UN Women and OHCHR worked with 529 women and young victims of sexual violence, enforced disappearance and forced displacement to identify challenges in gaining access to the SIVJRNR and to develop proposals to improve the municipality's response to gender-based violence in the context of the armed conflict. The project resulted in the creation of protective environments, with a focus on ESCRs, to guarantee access to transitional justice mechanisms.

Finally, the Office conducted training workshops on international human rights standards related to gender and sexual orientation for 115 participants from 11 LGBTI organizations in Nariño, Chocó, Cesar, Antioquia, Córdoba, La Guajira and Magdalena. In 2020, the Ministry of the Interior presented its action plan for LGBTI sectors, with the participation of 21 government institutions. The action plan includes the establishment of an entity to monitor policy implementation. Its regulation will be agreed upon by the LGBTI sectors and the Government in 2021.

P1 – Relevant regional, national and local institutions apply a human rights-based approach to public policies and programmes related to the implementation of the Peace Accords and emphasize participation and accountability.



OHCHR continued to support the enhanced compliance with international human rights standards of the policies of national and local institutions through technical assistance, guidance and monitoring activities.

At the request of the Office of the Presidential Advisor on Human Rights and CSOs, UN Human Rights provided technical assistance on mainstreaming human rights into the development of the Colombian Action Plan on Human Rights, which was initiated in 2018. The Office also worked with the Public Ministry to identify gaps in the effective enjoyment of human rights and facilitated spaces for dialogue around issues of concern. For instance, in the Pacific region, at least 17 documented cases of human rights violations were brought to the attention of national authorities. The change of minister and senior staff in the Ministry of the Interior inhibited progress in the adoption of regulations on the protection of HRDs, however, OHCHR continued to engage with the Ministry. The PCHR Director changed in early 2020 and OHCHR conducted capacity-building activities with new staff members, in particular around policies to address attacks against HRDs.

The Office closely followed social protests and mobilizations and maintained contact with the parties involved in the protests. More specifically, OHCHR monitored the application of the right to freedom to peaceful assembly and facilitated the creation of spaces for social dialogue to

discuss human rights standards in relation to the use of force and to address the demands of protesters, thereby providing opportunities to build trust between the parties. Due to the pandemic, there was limited community participation in the formulation of municipal development plans, particularly in rural areas. The Office provided virtual assistance to increase the capacities of public officials to incorporate human rights into public policies that are designed to protect civilians and HRDs and assisted mayor's offices to create or update their respective contingency plans to address the human rights impacts of COVID-19.

Peace and Security

PS4 – Transitional justice mechanisms increase accountability for conflict-related violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

16

OHCHR contributed to strengthening the capacity of transitional justice mechanisms to incorporate international standards on victims' participation into their rules of procedures.

Despite the pandemic, the SIVJRNR continued to carry out a significant number of activities during the year. UN Human Rights regularly met with the Heads of the institutions that comprise the SIVJRNR to discuss progress and challenges and facilitate political dialogue with other institutional sectors. OHCHR continued to provide support to the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) and enhance its capacity to respond to the demands of victims of serious human rights violations, in particular in relation to Case No. 003 on the extrajudicial killings by the Colombian Army of civilians

presented as combatants killed in combat. The Office also monitored the requests for the implementation of precautionary measures to protect the San Antonio Buenaventura Valle del Cauca estuary. It provided assistance to the JEP to increase its understanding of the need to protect the site from dredging operations as it is presumed to be the location of the bodies of disappeared persons.

In addition, OHCHR worked closely with the CEV to reinforce its investigation lines regarding extrajudicial executions and enhance spaces for the participation of victims in the regions most affected by the conflict. The Office helped to organize acknowledgement sessions on the damages caused to indigenous peoples and communities of people of African descent in the context of the armed conflict; dialogues on non-recurrence with elder persons, conscientious objectors, community leaders and youth; and collective and individual interviews between victims and the CEV. In Buenaventura, the dialogues resulted in the composition of a song by urban and rural youth that articulates their demands for non-recurrence.

OHCHR provided support to the Special Unit on the Search for Persons Deemed as Missing in the Context of the Armed Conflict (UBPD), including by assisting with the design of tools to identify unidentified bodies and guaranteeing material security conditions for UBPD staff. It also took steps to increase the capacities of CSOs to engage with the UBPD Advisory Board. Further, the Office enhanced the recognition of the families of victims during the commemoration of the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances.

PS3 – The Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Defence, the General Command of Military Forces, the National Police, the Procurator General’s Office and the Office of the Ombudsperson act to prevent human rights violations and enhance their responses when human rights violations occur.

16

OHCHR contributed to the incorporation of international human rights standards into the directives, policies and practices of the military and police forces.

UN Human Rights agreed with the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Procurator General that documented cases of alleged human rights violations committed by members of the army and the police should be transferred to special units to promote the criminal and disciplinary investigations of those cases. In the context of the coordination measures set out in Directive No. 13 of the Ministry of Defence, the Office and the Ministry discussed the organization of local Guarantees Round-Tables to address human rights violations committed by the army and the police.

OHCHR provided technical assistance to increase the investigative capacity of the Delegate Inspectors of the Army and National Police to address cases of alleged extrajudicial executions. This resulted in the application of the Minnesota Protocol for investigative processes in relation to 30 cases that were documented by OHCHR in 2020.

Finally, the Office facilitated enhanced coordination between the Delegate Procurator on Human Rights and the Delegate on Public Security Forces. This enabled the Delegate Procurator on Human Rights to exercise preferential

jurisdiction on cases of alleged human rights violations, including those documented by OHCHR, while the Delegate on Public Security Forces exercised administrative oversight.

GUATEMALA

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³	
17.92 million	109,000 km ²	0.663 (rank: 127/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2018)	
Type of engagement	Country Office			
Year established	2005			
Field office(s)	Guatemala City			
UN partnership framework	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2020-2024			
Staff as of 31 December 2020	33			
XB income	US\$5,286,218			
XB requirements 2020	US\$7,303,000			
XB expenditure	US\$5,182,059			
Personnel		Non-personnel	PSC ⁴	
66%		23%	11%	
\$3,428,439		\$1,201,818	\$551,802	

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1 2 3 4} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229 and p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:



Participation

P2 – Institutional mechanisms to protect HRDs are robust, comply with international standards and are appropriately sensitive to gender and culture.

16



OHCHR contributed to strengthening the compliance of oversight, accountability and protection mechanisms with international human rights standards, including those aimed at protecting HRDs and journalists.

In 2020, UN Human Rights documented 68 cases of criminalization, attacks and/or threats against HRDs, including four

attacks against young HRDs and the killing of two members of the Peasant Development Committee (CODECA). CSOs expressed concern that COVID-19 and the consequential declaration of several “states of prevention/siege” was used to hinder the work of HRDs. In the context of the pandemic, OHCHR documented patterns of human rights violations in relation to freedom of expression and access to information. In particular, the Office monitored 25 cases wherein State authorities or other stakeholders limited the realization of these rights for journalists and citizens.

To enhance the protection of HRDs and journalists, the Office exchanged information with national, regional and international human rights mechanisms, including the NHRI, the IACHR Special Rapporteur for freedom of expression and the UN Special Rapporteurs on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and on the situation of HRDs. OHCHR liaised with the Office of the Attorney General’s Human Rights Department, the NHRI and CSOs to process complaints regarding HRDs and journalists. In addition, the Office strengthened networks for the protection of journalists and HRDs by creating dedicated spaces to exchange information and good practices on freedom of expression. Furthermore, it provided assistance to enhance the capacities of the Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the Presidency (SEGEPLAN) and the Presidential Commission on Human Rights (COPREDEH), which was replaced by the Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (COPADEFH) on 31 July.

The Office supported youth-led organizations that promote positive human rights change. It disseminated guidelines on the right to participation and civic space promotion across 18 organizations. It also hosted a regional meeting with youth leaders from 11 organizations in the eastern part of Guatemala, resulting in the establishment of the Connected Youth initiative (“Juventud Conectadas.”) Similarly, the Office supported the creation of the Youth Human Rights Defenders Network, which unites 26 organizations and offers a space for dialogue and technical assistance on the human rights of youth, with a focus on participation and the right to education and work. Moreover, the

Office facilitated meetings of the National Youth Council (CONJUVE) to discuss the revised national youth policy. The Office and UNODC co-organized a webinar on risks in the digital space (“Let’s talk about sexting”) to discuss avenues for enhancing digital security and available mechanisms when sexual rights are violated on the Internet. It also collaborated with 12 youth organizations to deliver four webinars on the impacts of COVID-19 on youth rights.

OHCHR pursued efforts to raise awareness about violence against women, with a focus on prevention during the pandemic. The Office organized a three-session webinar entitled “Men under confinement,” during which 30 men of diverse ages, backgrounds and geographic location discussed the concept of ‘masculinity’ from a gender-based perspective. Another webinar on intersectionality and violence against women was moderated by a member of the Committee of Experts of the Follow-Up Mechanism of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (MESECVI). In cooperation with other field presences from the region, two webinars were organized for 89 participants to enable CSOs and State institutions to discuss challenges in tackling violence against women during the pandemic, with a focus on telephone hotlines.

Accountability

A1 – The Attorney General’s Office (AGO), the Public Defence Institute, the judiciary, the Constitutional Court, the Congress and State institutions increasingly integrate human rights standards into their policies and decisions. National and international CSOs, Congress and other actors advocate for the abolition of the death penalty and the ratification of ICCPR-OP2.



OHCHR contributed to improving the compliance of five State institutions with international human rights norms and standards.

UN Human Rights provided technical assistance to State institutions of the justice system and other stakeholders. More specifically, it updated a guidance document on mainstreaming gender and human rights into rulings related to violence against women and femicide. Targeted training was delivered to criminal judges, judges from the specialized branch on femicide and violence against women, legal clerks of the Constitutional Court, teachers from the School of Judicial Studies and indigenous women. OHCHR and the School of Judiciary Studies delivered training on transitional justice to 88 judges, magistrates and members of the AGO. The Office also facilitated four virtual encounters between youth, victims of the internal armed conflict and CSOs.

Furthermore, OHCHR prepared compilations of international human rights standards to support the work of the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Matters Concerning Persons with Disabilities. It also issued compilations of international protocols to assist the AGO with assessments of

the performance of prosecutors. Finally, the Office disseminated information on attacks against the judiciary and identified systemic deficiencies. OHCHR assisted with the implementation of urgent protection measures that the IACHR extended to three prosecutors in April.

Non-discrimination

ND1 – Indigenous peoples, women and others who are subject to discrimination make use of strategic litigation to demand their rights and hold individuals and institutions to account for human rights violations.



OHCHR provided methodological and legal support to enhance the knowledge of CSOs and HRDs working on the rights of indigenous peoples, thereby increasing the use of national protection systems in compliance with international human rights standards.

The Office strengthened the capacities of indigenous peoples in preparation for strategic litigation to claim their rights. A total of 29 Maya midwives and weavers participated in a training on the special procedures, including communications procedures. A total of 30 indigenous women lawyers and CSOs learned about the availability of international tools to claim their rights. In coordination with the NHRI, OHCHR organized an online training on the national health system to strengthen the capacity of 25 indigenous midwives to advocate with the Ministry of Health. Between April and July, the Office organized a social media campaign on “Women and COVID-19,” to provide an opportunity for women’s rights experts, activists and frontline workers to share their reflections about human

rights issues. OHCHR produced a short video highlighting the work of indigenous midwives and the relevant legislative and policy framework.

OHCHR designed a graphic summary of recommendations issued by regional and international human rights mechanisms on the collective rights to land and territory of peasants and indigenous peoples. In cooperation with representatives of the Ch'orti Mayan indigenous communities, the Nuevo Día Association and the Chomijá Indigenous Lawyers, the Office analysed Constitutional Court rulings that paved the way for land recovery. Technical assistance was provided to 20 indigenous authorities and the indigenous Maya Ch'orti Youth Network from Camotán, Jocotán and Chiquimula on the implementation of a 2017 ruling that recognized their right over ancestral lands. The Office also worked with 25 indigenous communicators and organizations of indigenous peoples to design strategies to facilitate the implementation of court decisions on the rights of indigenous peoples. As a result, five radio campaigns were produced; two in Spanish and three in indigenous languages (K'iche, Kaqchikel and Q'eqch').

Moreover, the Office supported a network of CSOs and the NHRI in their work on the right to food. In particular, it focused on ensuring the implementation of a 2014 decision in the “Camotán case,” handed down by a court in Zacapa that specializes in cases of children and youth, including through the design of a strategy and the presentation of a public report.

ND1 – National laws, policies and practices apply an HRBA and respect the rights of indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, women, LGBTI persons and others who experience discrimination.



OHCHR contributed to increasing the compliance of laws and policies with international human rights standards, with a particular focus on disability, accessibility and inclusion.

As part of its ongoing efforts to address discrimination, UN Human Rights documented violent attacks against members of the LGBTI community and the murder of 10 LGBTI persons. In the context of COVID-19, OHCHR provided technical support to the Ministry of Health, including on mainstreaming gender-related issues and intercultural approaches into COVID-19 responses.

Comprehensive advocacy efforts were undertaken to recognize persons with disabilities as rights-holders. For instance, it supported the registry of persons with disabilities across the country to facilitate the distribution of protection kits by UNFPA and UNDP. It also advocated for the adoption, by Congress, of the Law for the Recognition of Sign Language. Although the draft legislation on the care of persons with different abilities (Bill 5125) amends an earlier law and brings national legislation closer to compliance with CRPD, no consensus was reached on the draft. OHCHR provided expert advice to the National Council for the Assistance of Persons with Disabilities (CONADI) and carried out an in-depth analysis to determine the compliance with CRPD of a legal initiative being developed by the Government to facilitate the employment of persons with disabilities. In addition, the Office delivered

a workshop for members of a congressional Committee on Disability Issues to enhance their capacities to integrate international human rights standards into national legislation.

Furthermore, OHCHR supported the NHRI and CONADI in the design of a human rights-based communication strategy on COVID-19 and accessibility requirements for persons with disabilities. The Office worked with the Ministry of Education to prepare a guidance document on including people with visual and hearing disabilities in an online learning programme entitled “Learning from home,” which was implemented as a response to educational disruptions caused by the pandemic.

ND6 – Institutions that implement migration policies adopt an HRBA. CSOs, State institutions, UN agencies and other relevant actors cooperate to monitor, ensure and enforce respect for the human rights of migrants.



OHCHR contributed to strengthening oversight, accountability and protection mechanisms to identify, address and defend the human rights of migrants.

In the context of COVID-19, UN Human Rights monitored the human rights situation of migrants returning from Mexico and the United States of America. A number of cases of human rights violations were referred to the NHRI and COPREDEH and the Office supported the RCO in its advocacy with State authorities. In January, OHCHR deployed observation teams to the Tecún Uman border with Mexico. The Office

participated in drafting seven situation reports that outlined protection concerns related to migrants and human rights-based responses to the so-called “migrant caravans,” including by providing expert advice on drafting a joint letter to the UN Specialized Migration Group of Guatemala (GEMIG). In addition, OHCHR provided technical assistance to the National Migration Council (CONAMIGUA) and the NHRI on the prevention of stigmatization. It supported the elaboration of radio messages promoting the human rights of migrants. The Office also documented the situation of more than 100 migrants in Guatemala seeking to return to Nicaragua and provided expert advice on relevant human rights standards to CSOs and the NHRI.



Peace and Security

PS3 – The policies and conduct of State institutions that are responsible for the security of citizens increasingly comply with international human rights standards and pay special attention to the rights of indigenous peoples, women, children, migrants and others who are subject to discrimination, including CSOs.

16 

OHCHR increased the capacity of State institutions to comply with international human rights standards by providing technical assistance and documenting human rights concerns.

UN Human Rights monitored the implementation of the National Civil Police Protocol on the Use of Force in demonstrations, protests, detention and other forms of police intervention. In particular, the Office monitored the situation during the presidential term change, on 14 January, when several students were

injured and arrested, and at demonstrations on 21 November, where excessive use of force was observed. OHCHR called for an investigation and due process guarantees for detained protesters, who were released without charges. In light of the pandemic, the Office monitored actions undertaken by security forces to implement emergency measures, including arrests. It followed up on a possible case of extrajudicial execution.

The Office scrutinized the performance of security forces after state of emergency measures were adopted to combat crime in Chimaltenango and Escuintla. It drafted a preliminary confidential report, which was shared with the NHRI. The Office also monitored the human rights situation in the context of emergency measures in Nahualá, Santa Catarina Ixtahuacán and Santa Lucía Utatlán (Department of Sololá). It followed up on two cases of detained HRDs and a possible case of torture. Furthermore, the Office monitored the cases of two indigenous Mayan Poqomchi’ communities in the municipality of Purulha (Baja Verapaz Department), where people were threatened, raped and violently evicted by a private armed group. OHCHR discussed these cases with the Minister of the Interior, the Vice-Minister of Security and the Director of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law of the Guatemalan Army.

Following changes in the Ministry of the Interior that took place after the elections in the country, OHCHR established contact with the new police authorities, leading to renewed collaboration. The Office delivered training to 90 police staff on evictions and the use of force. Moreover, it provided technical assistance to the Working Group on the Transformation of the Penitentiary System, comprised of CSOs and academics, which released a

press statement on the rights of persons deprived of their liberty.



Development

D3 – State institutions more consistently incorporate international human rights standards into their interventions and policies on land, housing, poverty and related rights.

1 11 

OHCHR contributed to improving the incorporation of international human rights standards into the policies and practices of State institutions on land, housing and work.

On 21 October, the IACHR published its decision to grant precautionary measures to the Poqomchi’ Maya indigenous families of the Dos Fuentes and Washington communities, in the Department of Baja Verapaz. UN Human Rights helped CSOs to submit a request to the IACHR on behalf of the affected communities in relation to allegations of threats, intimidations and violent attacks against community members in the context of a dispute over land ownership.

In cooperation with the NHRI, OHCHR followed an emblematic case on the rural Mayan indigenous communities of Laguna Larga, which were living in unfit temporary shelters along the border with Mexico after being forcibly displaced in 2017. OHCHR helped to demand the protection of their rights, however, State institutions failed to comply with the IACHR precautionary measures granted to these communities.

Finally, the Office monitored eight cases involving possible violations of the right to work in the form of child labour in the coffee sector and trafficking of persons for

labour exploitation at palm tree plantations in the Departments of Alta Verapaz and Petén. It followed up on those cases with the Ministry of Labour and the NHRI. It also documented allegations of violations of the right to land and adequate housing of indigenous and rural communities, including in the context of increasing threats of forced eviction by private sector actors in the Departments of Alta Verapaz, Baja Verapaz and Petén.

D1 – Businesses and other economic actors are increasingly held to account for rights abuses. Public institutions, including judicial authorities and the Office of the Ombudsperson, are equipped to ensure that the rights of communities affected by natural resource projects are protected and that victims of abuses have access to remedies.



OHCHR contributed to improving the compliance with international human rights standards of the practices and policies of business actors.

UN Human Rights helped to strengthen the knowledge of CSO representatives (35 women, 40 men) about reparation mechanisms for victims of human rights violations committed by business actors. The Office organized discussions around the Round-Table on Sustainable Palm Oil, raising awareness about options available to CSOs to address human rights violations committed by companies in the palm oil sector. Furthermore, OHCHR organized training sessions on the UNGPs for public officials from COPREDEH (prior to its closure) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. With OHCHR's support, COPREDEH established a road map to develop a 2020 National Action Plan on

Business and Human Rights. In addition, OHCHR raised awareness within the private sector about the UNGPs, with a special focus on due diligence, supporting the development of human rights policies by two business associations. In

coordination with UNDP and the Global Compact Guatemala Network, OHCHR conducted webinars on human rights and the private sector with 78 business representatives in the context of COVID-19.

HAITI: UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATED OFFICE IN HAITI (BINUH)

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
11.40 million	28,000 km ²	0.510 (rank: 170/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2013)
Type of engagement		Special Political Mission	
Year established		2004 as MINUSTAH; as MINUJUSTH since 2017; BINUH since July 2019	
Field office(s)		Port-au-Prince	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2016-2021	
Staff as of 31 December 2020		5	

XB requirements 2020

US\$1,388,000

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

A1 – The Inspectorate General for Police and the Conseil Supérieur du Pouvoir Judiciaire (CSPJ) functions effectively and consistently investigates and prosecutes serious violations.

16

OHCHR supported the NHRI (Office de la Protection du Citoyen (OPC)) and

the General Inspectorate of the Haitian National Police (IGPNH) to improve the compliance with international human rights standards of their investigation and prosecution of human rights violations.

UN Human Rights and BINUH jointly followed up on alleged human rights violations in the country and partnered with civil society and the OPC. BINUH's Human Rights Service (HRS) strengthened the human rights monitoring

capacities of the OPC, resulting in the publication of an OPC thematic public report, in September. In February, OHCHR and BINUH issued a report on gang violence in Port-au-Prince, which highlights the failure of authorities to adequately protect residents of the Bel Air neighbourhood from abuses by gangs, which resulted in multiple deaths and the destruction of civilian properties at the end of 2019. The Security Council session on BINUH referred to the report later that month. The HRS prepared two internal reports on the findings of its monitoring activities that were undertaken between January and November. The reports were presented to its national and international partners, including the diplomatic community, the UNCT and the Protection Group led by the OPC. The reports show a negative trend of a lack of judicial follow-up on emblematic cases of human rights violations committed by the national police. It recalled the obligations of authorities to end impunity and the cycle of violence by arresting, investigating and prosecuting alleged perpetrators of human rights violations, in accordance with international human rights law.

Throughout the year, the HRS held regular meetings with the IGPNH and shared information on cases of human rights violations attributed to members of the police. As a result, the IGPNH opened an investigation into all 53 cases transmitted by OHCHR and a database was established on human rights cases addressed to the IGPNH and the OPC. The HRS continued to monitor the situation in prisons. Two commissions were set up by the Ministry of Justice and the CSPJ to consider exceptional releases to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in prisons. In partnership with UNDP, the HRS provided advisory services to the OPC on its involvement in the two commissions and to two CSOs that

monitored measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in prisons and police station detention cells. The HRS also contributed to the UNCT Working Group on prisons and security, with a focus on elaborating advocacy messages around the application of international human rights standards in the management of prisons and the exceptional release of prisoners during the pandemic.



Non-discrimination

ND6 – Steps have been taken to ensure that the rights of Haitian migrants are protected, in particular during deportation cases and when persons of Haitian descent become stateless in the Dominican Republic.



OHCHR contributed to enhancing the capacity of relevant actors to monitor and follow-up on cases of violations of the human rights of migrants.

UN Human Rights and BINUH provided technical assistance to the Service Jésuite aux Migrants (SJM), a CSO, for the creation of a database and website. The database features information management functions and facilitates the registration of cases on human rights violations and abuses of migrants. SJM staff members operating in border areas with the Dominican Republic collected information related to victims of trafficking and SGBV.

At the request of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), the HRS provided support to the NHRI in the coordination of the Protection Group and drafted a protection strategy in the context of

COVID-19. OHCHR also provided advice to the OPC on ensuring consistency in the response to human rights violations reported by members of the Protection Group. As a result, victims received psychosocial support. For instance, individuals who were displaced due to gang violence in the metropolitan region of Port-au-Prince were enrolled in a housing support project that was initiated by two members of the Protection Group.

As a member of the binational Protection Group led by IOM, the HRS delivered expert advice on addressing human rights violations and abuses of migrants from the Dominican Republic and participated in the reception of returnees from the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands. In both situations, OHCHR referred cases to the OPC and supported the NHRI in advocating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the respect of the rights of returnees and migrants.



Participation

P1 – The OPC retains its legal standing and receives the necessary resources to operate independently in all departments.

16

OHCHR contributed to the effective functioning of the OPC, in conformity with international standards, by providing technical assistance and training.

BINUH's HRS continued to provide technical assistance to the OPC to support the drafting of the institution's operational plan to implement its strategy 2019-2024. The operational plan was launched with representatives from CSOs and the diplomatic community. The consultant trained OPC staff on issues related to the right to health and, in cooperation with the

Office of WHO/Pan American Health Organization in Haiti, supported the preparation of a national campaign to be carried out in 2021.

Development

D5 – The Direction Générale de la Protection Civile (DGPC) is strengthened. It works throughout the country and is equipped to address protection concerns associated with different types of disaster, drawing on disaster risk preparedness plans that comply with international human rights standards. Haiti receives adequate resources to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

13 14 15

By providing technical assistance to two key State institutions, OHCHR contributed to enhancing the extent to which humanitarian operations integrate international human rights standards and recommendations of international human rights mechanisms into their work.

UN Human Rights and BINUH provided advisory services to the Protection Unit of the DGPC, which implemented activities related to the COVID-19 crisis in the middle of the hurricane season. The HRS supported the revision of the shelter management guide, ensuring the inclusion of key messages on addressing the needs of vulnerable groups (such as child-headed families, children under five, pregnant and lactating women, people living with chronic illness and persons with disabilities). It also provided support for the revision of the DGPC Protection Unit's workplan through the design of a training module on protection in the preparation for and response to emergencies.

In parallel, the HRS facilitated the mainstreaming of the rights of persons with disabilities into the National Disaster Risk Management System policies and tools. It provided technical support to the Office of the Secretary of State for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities, including by advocating for the implementation of CRPD recommendations on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and by delivering targeted training sessions on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in emergency contexts.

HONDURAS

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
9.90 million	112,000 km ²	0.634 (rank: 132/189 in 2020)	"B" Status (2016)
Type of engagement	Country Office		
Year established	2015		
Field office(s)	Tegucigalpa		
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2017–2021		
Staff as of 31 December 2020	22		

XB income	US\$3,655,201		
XB requirements 2020	US\$4,415,000		
XB expenditure	US\$2,803,369		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴	
71%	18%	11%	
\$1,985,309	\$495,323	\$322,738	

Key OMP pillars in 2020

^{1 2 3 4} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229 and p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:
Accountability

A1 – Laws, policies and practices on security, including the participation of military forces in citizen security tasks, comply more fully with international human rights standards.

16

OHCHR continued to advocate for the increased compliance with international human rights standards of legislation and policy on security.

UN Human Rights agreed on a strategic partnership with the Ministry of Security for the review of protocols on the use of force, forced evictions and the management of protests in compliance with

international human rights standards. As part of its evidence-based methodology in the context of COVID-19, the Office documented incidents of excessive use of force, including the forced disappearances of at least eight persons, cases of ill-treatment, arbitrary detention and abuse of authority. Following an analysis of trends and patterns, OHCHR raised awareness on these issues with law enforcement authorities at briefings in the Council of Ministries, stressing the importance of limiting the participation of armed forces and military police in the enforcement of curfew measures under the state of emergency. Legislation on the use of force is pending adoption by Congress and the Office continued to advocate for the adoption

of legislation and regulations in compliance with international human rights standards.

Concerns over the compliance of the new Criminal Code provisions with human rights standards persist and the Office advocated before and provided technical assistance to the Special Commission of the National Congress and presented a proposal on the reform of specific aspects of the Code. OHCHR supported CSOs in their engagement for reform of the Criminal Code and the preparation of proposals to the National Congress. The Office will continue to follow the process and advocate for transparency and the participation of CSOs. It also provided input to an opinion drafted by the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, which outlined recommendations to the State on the new Criminal Code. In addition, OHCHR shared with UNCT members its recommendations regarding the review and reform of the Criminal Code in light of international human rights standards.

The Office raised concerns and observations and led joint actions on behalf of the international community through the coordination of the G16 Human Rights, Justice and Security Sub-Group. OHCHR shared with authorities its analysis of the human rights situation in the context of COVID-19, including identified trends and technical cooperation needs, and its impacts on the use of force, detention, the penitentiary system and access to justice.

Moreover, OHCHR coordinated the G16 Gender Sub-Group, which focused on measures to address the increase of gender-based violence during the pandemic, as well as the definition of a broader strategy on women's human rights in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.

Through its participation as an observer in the Inter-Institutional Commission on the Investigation of Violent Deaths of Women and Femicide, the Office coordinated key actions to disseminate the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women (femicide/feminicide) to members of the Inter-Institutional Commission.

A2 – The Supreme Court and the Office of the Attorney General strengthen their technical and institutional capacity to prosecute human rights violations promptly, impartially and effectively.



OHCHR continued to work with authorities to ensure that oversight, accountability and protection mechanisms were in place and functioning in conformity with international human rights standards.

UN Human Rights provided technical assistance to the judiciary and the Attorney General's Office to strengthen their investigations of human rights violations, including by promoting the adoption of investigation protocols and analysing prosecution strategies in cases of human rights violations. OHCHR published the thematic report *Accountability for human rights violations committed in the context of the 2017 elections in Honduras: Progress and challenges*. Through its monitoring, the Office determined that impunity prevails for the serious human rights violations and abuses committed during the post-electoral period. OHCHR continued promoting the State's adoption of the Minnesota Protocol on the Investigation of Potentially Unlawful Death, however, the COVID-19 emergency delayed this process. The Office established a cooperation strategy

with the Attorney General, which led to the establishment of a working group on emblematic human rights cases. The working group included the participation of OHCHR, the Chief Prosecutor within the Attorney General's Office and various prosecutors in charge of cases that relate to human rights and corruption.

The Office developed a technical cooperation strategy with the Supreme Court aimed at reducing the prison population during the COVID-19 pandemic, in line with international standards. OHCHR undertook advocacy before and provided technical assistance to the judiciary for the reduction of the prison population, with a special emphasis on pretrial detention and imprisoned HRDs. The Office shared key observations and recommendations with judges and the Court of Appeals of Tegucigalpa with regard to several cases. In particular, it highlighted the recommendations issued by the UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers to guarantee that the detainees have access to a review of their pretrial detention in the context of COVID-19. OHCHR also shared with the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court an expert opinion on human rights standards for persons deprived of their liberty during the pandemic. On 10 June, a Legislative Decree entered into force, allowing the review of cases of persons in pretrial detention and the release of persons in pretrial detention who are most vulnerable to COVID-19. To date, the judiciary has approved the release of 2,773 persons, in line with OHCHR's recommendations.

The Office coordinated with the Committee of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras (COFADEH) to co-organize a virtual international forum on enforced disappearance, with the participation of Fabian

Salvioli, the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence. The forum provided an opportunity for the Office to take the lead in the development of a road map to prepare a legal framework on enforced disappearance. Together with COFADEH, the Office established a working group, which is currently monitoring the investigations of 11 cases concerning alleged extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detentions, ill-treatment and torture.

As part of its work on impunity and corruption, OHCHR held exchanges with CSOs and international development cooperation agencies to discuss how to support the work of anti-corruption bodies. With the departure of the OAS-backed Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH), the Office assumed a more active role in this field. OHCHR and the Supreme Court agreed to develop a technical cooperation programme focused on corruption and impunity. In addition, a human rights and gender approach will be applied in the administration of justice to ensure respect for and the guarantee of human rights.

A2 – As part of its strategic working plan, the Supreme Court adopts and implements strategies that improve the access to justice of marginalized groups, including migrants, women victims of violence, indigenous peoples, members of the LGTBI community and persons living with disabilities.



OHCHR continued to monitor emblematic cases and provide technical assistance and tools to rights-holders and CSOs working with marginalized groups to improve their access to justice.

As part of its strategy on access to justice of people in vulnerable situations, UN Human Rights continued to provide support to the emblematic case of the criminalization of human rights and environmental defenders of the Guapinol community, who are currently being held in pretrial detention. In May, OHCHR provided technical assistance to their legal representatives to prepare a submission to the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. The Office engaged with State institutions to raise awareness regarding their detention conditions. In June, OHCHR and the NPM (CONAPREV) conducted a joint visit to the two penitentiary centres where the defenders are being held in order to document their condition. The OHCHR Country Representative visited them in September, drawing attention to their situation and further raising their public profile. The Office also engaged with the IACHR to develop joint actions on the case and in relation to the overall situation of persons deprived of their liberty during the COVID-19 pandemic. To this end, it sent a communication to the Court of Appeal, stressing the need to guarantee a hearing for the review of pretrial detention in the context of COVID-19.

OHCHR continued monitoring the trial against David Castillo, one of the suspects in the murder of HRD Berta Cáceres. The Office advocated with the judiciary to ensure that the trial is public, including through a live transmission in the event that observers are not permitted to be physically present due to COVID-19 restrictions. UN Human Rights supported the engagement with the international community of Berta Cáceres' family and legal team to share information and alerts on possible scenarios of impunity of the perpetrators.

The Office increased its support with regard to the ongoing strategic litigation efforts of CSOs in cases related to the rights of women and LGBTI persons. The restrictive legislation on sexual and reproductive rights represents a major gap in the State's fulfilment of its international obligations. For instance, in a case of the criminalization of the voluntary termination of pregnancy, OHCHR's intervention was key to ensuring the integration of international human rights norms and standards into the sentence, which set a precedent for future jurisprudence in this area. OHCHR is also following up on the investigation and prosecution of a case of sexual violence against a minor in La Ceiba, in coordination with Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF). UN Human Rights communicated to prosecutors its observations and concerns on the due diligence of the investigation and engaged with the judiciary to highlight the need to integrate a gender perspective into the case. OHCHR and ASF developed a joint workplan that includes a capacity-building programme on strategic litigation for the legal teams of CSOs that are representing rights-holders who experience discrimination and obstacles to realizing their right to access to justice.

OHCHR supported the petitioners and victims in the case of Vicky Hernandez and others v. Honduras during the public hearing before the IACHR, which was held virtually in November. The case concerns the extrajudicial killing of a transgender woman during the coup d'état that took place in Honduras, in June 2009. It is emblematic because it represents the first time that the killing of a transgender woman was brought before the Court and demonstrated a pattern of systematic discrimination and violence towards transgender persons in Honduras.

 **Non-discrimination**

ND6 – The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.



OHCHR carried out strategic actions to protect the human rights of all migrants, returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), in particular those in vulnerable situations.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, large population movements continued throughout 2020, including migrants, returnees, IDPs and other persons with international protection needs. The impacts of Hurricanes Eta and Iota triggered additional forced displacement. State authorities faced ongoing challenges in protecting and guaranteeing the human rights of those who were displaced. UN Human Rights in Honduras and across the region established a response strategy with relevant stakeholders to address these issues and to deal with humanitarian emergencies and the human mobility challenges that arose during the pandemic.

More specifically, the Office conducted 10 missions in Honduras to monitor the human rights situation regarding population movements. During the missions, OHCHR successfully increased the knowledge of rights-holders about their rights, obligations and options for safe, orderly and regular migration and made them aware of the risks of irregular migration.

In addition, the technical assistance provided by the Office contributed to strengthening the capacities of State institutions, the NHRI and other stakeholders to protect the rights of people on the move during the pandemic. As a result, the National Institute for Migration collaborated with the Ministry of Human Rights and the NHRI to set up a Humanitarian and Protection Assistance and Response Plan to address the situation of migrants in transit during the pandemic.

Furthermore, OHCHR coordinated response strategies with UN entities and others to identify humanitarian and protection needs and human rights violations during massive returns and in the context of massive migrant caravans moving towards the United States of America. In particular, the Office focused on promoting articulated and complementary response strategies to ensure that human rights were placed at the centre of these strategies. This provided the Office with updated information and early warnings, enabling it to activate adequate, timely and integral responses to assist those in vulnerable situations. Moreover, common key messages and information campaigns were developed that aimed to mitigate discriminatory actions.

Finally, OHCHR provided technical assistance to the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Protection of Persons Displaced by Violence, which contributed

to developing advocacy actions related to the approval of the draft law for the Prevention, Care and Protection of Forcibly Displaced Persons.

Development

D7 – Selected government entities align their programmes on labour rights and poverty reduction with international ESCRs.



OHCHR advocated for situating ESCRs at the centre of responses to COVID-19 and the humanitarian crisis following Hurricanes Eta and Iota.

Due to the technical assistance provided by OHCHR, a network of social and trade union organizations was established to monitor violations of labour rights. OHCHR contributed to strengthening the network's capacities to monitor, analyse and advocate in relation to violations of ESCRs, with a focus on the labour rights of persons in vulnerable situations. As a result, specific recommendations were presented to government institutions and the Domestic Workers Network that were engaged in a dialogue on domestic workers with the Ministry of Labour.

Furthermore, in response to the COVID-19 crisis and other humanitarian emergencies, OHCHR and various State institutions, including the Ministries of Human Rights, Foreign Affairs and Development and Social Inclusion, established an articulation mechanism to promote the guarantee of the socio-economic rights of people in vulnerable situations. Based on the information collected through its monitoring system, OHCHR shared the needs and concerns of those in vulnerable situations with the Government, both

at technical and high-levels. Moreover, OHCHR provided technical assistance and proposed measures that the State should adopt to better respect, protect and fulfil the economic and social rights of the most vulnerable people, including indigenous peoples, people on the move, LGBTI persons, persons with disabilities and informal and fired workers.

The Office further promoted the integration of an HRBA into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and UN-led strategies, communication initiatives and response plans to the COVID-19 pandemic, humanitarian crises and recovery measures. As a result, the UN SERP to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic included actions to protect and prioritize the needs and socio-economic rights of persons in vulnerable situations. Furthermore, the UN humanitarian response to Hurricanes Eta and Iota applied an HRBA that focuses on people in the most vulnerable situations.

JAMAICA

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
2.96 million	11,000 km ²	0.734 (rank: 101/189 in 2019)	-
Type of engagement		Human Rights Adviser	
Year established		2013	
Field office(s)		Kingston	
UN partnership framework		UN Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework (UN MSDF) in the Caribbean 2017-2021	
Staff as of 31 December 2020		1	

XB requirements 2020**US\$354,000****Key OMP pillars in 2020**^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229**PILLAR RESULTS:**

Development

D7 – Human Rights principles and standards are properly mainstreamed within the UN MSDF for the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean countries and a human rights-based approach is integrated.



OHCHR contributed to advancing the integration of human rights-based approaches into COVID-19 responses and the development of CCAs and UNSDCFs.

UN Human Rights conducted comprehensive analyses of the human rights situations in the Bahamas and Jamaica in support of the development of human rights-based CCAs. OHCHR organized a training session for 13 senior UNCT staff members and strategic programming staff in both countries to raise awareness and capacities

around integrating human rights into UN programmes and activities, particularly in the development of CCAs and UNSDCFs. Moreover, a special training session was organized for 23 participants from UN agencies in the Bahamas and Jamaica on the HRDDP and the Human Rights up Front Initiative and Action Plan.

OHCHR contributed to the integration of human rights into UN COVID-19 response and recovery plans. It provided written guidance to pillar leads on the right to health, social protection, education and food security sectors to ensure that No One is Left Behind. OHCHR also delivered a briefing to the UNCT on the Secretary-General's policy brief on the impact of COVID-19 on human rights and the UN SERP. The Office supported the design of a matrix that links the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to

facilitate their integration into the SERPs of the UN and the Government. OHCHR's contribution resulted in the integration of most of the recommendations related to poverty eradication, social protection, health, education and the inclusion of vulnerable groups.


Non-discrimination

ND1 – In at least three countries (Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago), laws and policies protect the rights of women, persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV, LGBTI persons and religious minorities.

5 10 16 

OHCHR improved awareness on the compliance of legislation/policy with international human rights standards related to women, LGBTI persons and persons with disabilities.

UN Human Rights developed the capacities of civil society in the areas of non-discrimination and the human rights of LGBTI persons. In cooperation with UNDP and the United Caribbean Transgender Network, OHCHR delivered two-day workshops on two occasions; one for 10 representatives of six CSOs in Jamaica working to advance LGBTI rights; and the second for 13 representatives of LGBTI CSOs from the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the Cayman Islands, Guyana, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. Participants enhanced their knowledge about monitoring and reporting on human rights violations, with a focus on COVID-19-related discrimination, and with regard to the international and national human rights mechanisms, including their communication procedures.

In December, OHCHR became the UNCT focal point for the implementation of UNDIS. The newly elected member of CRPD, Mr. Floyd Morris, delivered a keynote address at a panel discussion on Human Rights Day 2020, which was organized in cooperation with the European Union, UN partners and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, entitled “Recover better: Stand up for human rights.” This was a unique opportunity to pursue advocacy efforts and call on the Government to accelerate the implementation of the Disabilities Act, which was adopted in 2014.

In cooperation with the UN Theme Group on Gender and Human Rights in Jamaica, OHCHR conducted a comprehensive review of proposed amendments to four pieces of legislation on sexual offences, childcare and protection, domestic violence and offences against the person. Recommendations were issued to ensure that the reviewed laws are in compliance with international human rights standards, including in relation to the criminalization of marital rape, the reporting, investigation and prosecution of domestic and sexual violence cases and the protection of victims and witnesses. Despite the 2018 approval of the National Strategic Action Plan for the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence, limited progress was achieved in addressing gender-based violence. In addition to a failure to allocate adequate resources to implement the plan, victims are reluctant to report crimes due to a fear of stigma, poor access to medical care and referral services, an absence of investigations and support from law enforcement and a backlog of court cases.

OHCHR publicly supported the efforts of Bahamian State authorities to eliminate discrimination on the basis of gender in nationality laws to reduce the risk of

statelessness. The Office issued a press briefing to welcome the Supreme Court ruling that anyone born to a Bahamian mother or father is entitled to citizenship at birth, regardless of their parents’ marital status.

Accountability

A1 – In at least one country (Jamaica), law enforcement authorities and the judiciary have adopted in-house training on human rights. Barbados, Grenada, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have taken steps to provide human rights training to law enforcement officials.

16

OHCHR contributed to enhancing the human rights training for law enforcement authorities in the Caribbean.

UN Human Rights, in cooperation with UNODC, conducted a three-day training for law enforcement officers in the Caribbean on issues related to human rights, integrity, ethics and accountability. In particular, the Office raised the awareness of participants on a human rights-based approach to policing and introduced the 2020 United Nations Human Rights Guidance on Less-Lethal Weapons in Law Enforcement. A total of 250 persons from Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Turks and Caicos took part in the training.

In a notable development, and in response to a growing number of arbitrary detention cases, the Supreme Court of Jamaica ruled as unlawful the detention of five men

under state of emergency measures, noting that keeping them in custody was a breach of their constitutional rights. The individuals were detained in Clarendon, Kingston Eastern, Saint Andrew South and Westmoreland. Some of them had been in detention for more than a year without being charged with any crime. OHCHR and its partners advocated for the respect of due process and fair trial rights.

Mechanisms

M1 – At least 10 (of 24 outstanding) State Party reports to the human rights treaty bodies have been submitted and adhere to the respective reporting guidelines.

16 17

OHCHR supported the submission of quality reports to the international human rights mechanisms through awareness-raising and capacity-building on the reporting guidelines and timeframes of the UPR and the human rights treaty bodies.

UN Human Rights cooperated with the Social Inclusion Committee, the Sustainable Development Goals Unit at the Office of the Prime Minister of the Bahamas, to co-organize a training session on international human rights mechanisms and the SDGs, with a focus on ESCRs. A total of 22 participants (21 women, one man) from different government ministries and departments participated in the training.

The Office provided technical assistance to the Interministerial Committee for Human Rights to ensure that the third review of Jamaica by the UPR Working Group, in November, was successfully conducted. Jamaica’s delegation was led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and

the review was publicly broadcast on Jamaica’s social media channels. OHCHR engaged with civil society prior to the UPR review process and provided them with guidance and support to prepare a quality alternative report. As a result, a coalition of 27 CSOs submitted the first alternative report on Jamaica to the UPR Working Group. In addition, the Office provided assistance, when requested, to ensure the timely submission of State Party reports to CEDAW, CMW and CRPD, while also coordinating the confidential submissions of UNCT reports to these committees.

MEXICO

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
128.93 million	1,964,000 km ²	0.779 (rank: 74/188 in 2019)	"A" Status (2016)
Type of engagement		Country Office	
Year established		2002	
Field office(s)		Mexico City	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2020-2025	
Staff as of 31 December 2020		24	

XB income	US\$2,245,850	
XB requirements 2020	US\$4,203,000	
XB expenditure	US\$2,073,255	
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴
81%	8%	11%
\$1,673,834	\$162,431	\$236,990

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1,2,3,4} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229 and p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:

Mechanisms

M1 – By the end of 2021, Mexico has ratified two international or regional human rights treaties and recognized the competence of CED to receive and consider individual communications.



OHCHR contributed to the implementation of international human rights norms in Mexico, with two major developments, namely, the recognition of the competence of CED to consider individual complaints and the ratification of the Escazú Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Following years of advocacy and campaigning by UN Human Rights, Mexico recognized the competence of CED to examine individual complaints. This is a major breakthrough for the application of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

In 2020, the Mexican Senate ratified the Escazú Agreement. The ratification was deposited with ECLAC and the Agreement will enter into force in 2021. This Agreement could constitute a valuable tool for the struggle against the depredation of the environment, as a means of fighting climate change in the region and protecting environmental defenders.

M3 – The judiciary references international human rights standards more frequently in its decisions and activities. It does so in cases where OHCHR has submitted a legal brief.



OHCHR contributed to enhancing the use of international human rights law and jurisprudence in court proceedings and decisions.

UN Human Rights submitted legal briefs in seven human rights cases, including to the Supreme Court, tribunals and others, such as prosecutors and the NHRI. In other cases, the Office provided technical assistance by holding meetings with relevant stakeholders. The legal advice and recommendations provided by the Office were taken into account as follows:

- In a case of enforced disappearance examined by the Supreme Court, the legal impact of urgent actions issued by CED were reviewed and OHCHR provided a list of standards that were incorporated into a draft sentence that will be discussed in 2021;
- In a draft sentence that was reviewed by the Supreme Court, the legal value of a number of decisions of the human rights treaty bodies was challenged. OHCHR presented a letter with concerns, which resulted in the draft ruling being discarded;
- OHCHR, UNICEF, UNESCO and UNFPA sent the NHRI a compilation on international standards on the right of young people to access sexual and reproductive health education. With this information, the NHRI filed an appeal before the Supreme Court against the legislation that incorporates a system of parental control called “Parental

NIP.” The Supreme Court has not issued its ruling;

- In a federal case, an alleged perpetrator of torture sought judicial protection against a resolution issued by the NHRI, which established the facts of several torture cases. OHCHR presented a brief that argued that this judicial protection would seriously undermine the rights of the victim;
- In a case of WHRDs and mothers of victims of enforced disappearance who were arrested during peaceful demonstrations, OHCHR submitted to the Prosecutor a legal brief on the rights of HRDs and the right to peaceful assembly. The Prosecutor withdrew the charges against the WHRDs and a judge ordered the continuation of the investigation into arbitrary detention and the alleged use of force against peaceful demonstrators;
- In the case of Misael Zamora, a defender of the rights of indigenous peoples and the environment, criminalized with his family since 2006, OHCHR submitted a letter to the judge, outlining international standards in relation to HRDs. The judge referred to these standards in open court, which led the Prosecutor to withdraw the charges against Misael Zamora; and
- The Office presented international standards related to ESCRs and the right to freedom of movement, which were taken into account in two cases discussed in the context of COVID-19, i.e., the state of Coahuila’s decree on movement restrictions and the disconnection of the water service to a migrants’ shelter.

UN Human Rights and the Supreme Court continued to cooperate on a project to incorporate information on

international human rights mechanisms and human rights norms and standards into a human rights legal search engine (Buscador Jurídico de Derechos Humanos (BJDH)). An agreement was reached on the methodology of adding to the search engine and OHCHR supported the Supreme Court to incorporate relevant information from 700 thematic reports issued by the special procedures mandate holders. The objective is to add an additional 400 reports by 2021. The BJDH is an important tool for disseminating knowledge on international human rights standards to the judiciary, students, academics, human rights officers, government officials and the general public. In 2020, it had two sections; one related to the Inter-American System and one related to the human rights treaty bodies and their general comments/general recommendations. Plans are underway for further updates and developments.

Non-discrimination

ND6 – National laws recognize the rights to liberty and judicial guarantees of migrants, who enjoy stronger legal protection through national judicial and non-judicial protection mechanisms.



OHCHR contributed to enhancing the compliance with international standards of regulations on the rights of migrant children and adolescents.

In September, a draft decree that reformed various articles of the Migration Law and the Law on Refugees, Complementary Protection and Political Asylum, was unanimously adopted during a plenary

session of the Chamber of Deputies of the Congress of the Union. The draft decree is in compliance with international treaties and recommendations issued by international human rights mechanisms and is the culmination of extensive efforts carried out by UN Human Rights, UNICEF, UNHCR and IOM since 2017. Throughout the process, the Office strongly advocated for this reform with relevant authorities.

Accountability

A1 – Effective steps have been taken to establish two or more of the following: an NPM; safeguards during detention, including through the creation of a registry of detentions; and exclusion of illicit evidence.

16

OHCHR contributed to improved compliance with international human rights standards in these three priority areas.

UN Human Rights continued raising awareness in tribunals around evidence obtained through torture, highlighting the compulsory nature of the rule about excluding such evidence. In five new cases, OHCHR met with judges and enhanced their knowledge regarding applicable international standards. For example, the Office had a positive influence in the case of Mónica Esparza, a victim of sexual torture, who was released without charge a few days after OHCHR met with the presiding judge to discuss applicable international human rights standards.

OHCHR also participated in legislative reform discussions on detention and the creation of a National Guard. In 2020, the Office intervened in the constitutional reform process that was initiated by the Federal Government to expand the types

of crimes that carry the mandatory imposition of pretrial detention. The amendment was unfortunately approved. OHCHR monitored the situation of pretrial detentions and continued to publicly advocate for the revision of its use.

The Office participated in consultations for the adoption of a new protocol on judicial action in cases relating to torture. The protocol would be used to identify a series of good practices that could be applied by the judiciary. OHCHR also liaised with the Federal Institute of Public Defense to carry out activities for the prevention of torture, such as enabling federal public defenders to have a more proactive role. In the lead up to this result, the Office was invited to public and private meetings, including in relation to drafting a strategy which, among other actions, creates a special team at the Federal Institute of Public Defense to follow up on torture cases addressed to public defenders. In addition, OHCHR provided information to CSOs and victims on the role of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

A1 – Mexico has adopted a national regulatory framework on the use of force that complies with international human rights standards.

16

OHCHR continued advocating for the full compliance of the 2019 National Law on the Use of Force with international human rights standards.

Following the 2019 adoption of the National Law on the Use of Force, which fails to comply with international standards in some areas, UN Human Rights continued monitoring its enforcement and judicial challenges that are before the Supreme Court. OHCHR held meetings

with the Supreme Court and will submit a document outlining relevant international standards that could be useful for the Supreme Court's discussions on the topic. The final decision on the constitutionality of this law is anticipated in 2021.

The Office continued providing technical assistance on the use of force to authorities in Mexico City and Quintana Roo. It promoted the implementation of international standards through official communications sent to state authorities and documented cases related to the use of force and extrajudicial killings in the context of COVID-19 through in-person and remote meetings. As a result, eight new cases of extrajudicial killings were documented in 2020, involving 10 victims. At least five additional cases were documented on human rights violations due to the excessive use of force. OHCHR held meetings with authorities in Oaxaca and Coahuila to follow up on the investigation of some of these cases. It also issued two press releases and three Twitter threads on cases of human rights violations due to excessive use of force. In light of the increased use of force that amounted to human rights violations at feminist protests during the year, the Office will continue implementing a joint strategy on women's rights, civic space and the use of force in 2021.

A4 – At least 10 new federal and local institutions adopt OHCHR’s indicator framework when they report on the implementation of human rights policies, evaluate the impact of public programmes and assess the implementation of international human rights recommendations.

16

OHCHR contributed to an enhanced use of indicators and the implementation of evaluation strategies with a human rights perspective in several key institutional processes.

The National Council on Social Policy Evaluation (CONEVAL) increased the integration of human rights into its evaluation models, referencing human rights norms and exploring how to strengthen statistical data on vulnerable groups. UN Human Rights collaborated with the Human Rights Programme of the National Autonomous University of Mexico to support this process, including by delivering an in-depth training course on human rights indicators and SDG measurement frameworks for 35 staff members of CONEVAL.

In addition, the National Statistical Institute (NSI) created a “Specialized Committee on Human Rights Statistics.” Following continued efforts that were undertaken by the Office to strengthen the use of human rights indicators in Mexico, it became a member of the Committee. OHCHR is now working with the NSI to establish the Committee’s biannual working programme. It assisted with the review of socio-demographic statistics in order to identify how human rights could be further integrated. OHCHR also helped to establish a link between the Committee and the Ministry of the Interior to support the generation of indicators for the National Human Rights Action Plan. The

Committee is focused on establishing a policy to generate human rights statistics; developing technical and methodological norms to measure human rights violations; incorporating cross-cutting human rights principles in official statistics; measuring gross human rights violations, such as torture and disappearances; generating SDG indicators; and providing guidelines on measuring the impact of public policies.

OHCHR also contributed to the elaboration of the Human Rights Action Plan of the state of Coahuila by delivering capacity-building activities, including on indicators, with a focus on civil rights and vulnerable populations. Collaborating with the judiciary, the Office supported the Attorney General in defining a statistical follow-up framework regarding the institution’s work on disappeared persons and provided assistance in the development of its Human Rights Action Plan. OHCHR and the Judicial Power of Mexico City published the Judicial Statistics and Human Rights Indicators 2019 and completed the draft of the 2020 publication. The year 2020 marked the tenth anniversary of their collaboration to generate human rights indicators and judicial statistics.

In cooperation with the Supreme Court of Justice and the Federal Judicial Council, the Office achieved substantive advances in rolling out the manual Evaluating the impact of human rights training, which covers a variety of topics, such as the use of fair trial indicators and an evaluation of the integration of a gender perspective into the work of the Judicial Council.

The Office also supported the work of the National Search Commission, including by informing the elaboration of its regional programme, providing advice on the use of indicators for the Protocol for Searching for Disappeared and Missing Persons

and promoting the establishment of an Information System on Disappearances.

Finally, OHCHR was actively involved in the elaboration of the National Human Rights Action Plan, which was developed under the leadership of the Ministry of the Interior with the participation of civil society and published on 10 December. In particular, OHCHR emphasized the inclusion of vulnerable populations, the integration of human rights indicators and the definition of strategies for improving transparency and accountability mechanisms.

A2 – At least four public policies have been adopted that protect the rights of individuals who are subject to search and identification (with respect to search commissions, registries, protocols, national plans, etc.). At least three public policies have been adopted that address prosecutions, sanctions and reparations in cases of disappearances of persons, torture and other human rights violations. These policies are implemented at the federal and local level, in compliance with international human rights standards.

10 16 

OHCHR contributed to the establishment of oversight and accountability mechanisms on torture, the search for missing persons and exhumations and the identification of human remains in compliance with international human rights standards.

UN Human Rights continued monitoring the implementation of the General Law against Torture and the operation of the Torture Observatory (sintortura.org). Due to COVID-19, it was not possible to upload information to the website that was provided by relevant state authorities.

Nonetheless, some progress was made on improving the website in cooperation with CSOs. OHCHR participated in the elaboration of the National Programme for the Prevention and Sanction of Torture, aimed at providing prosecutors' offices with administrative normative frameworks that comply with the General Law on Torture. The Programme was not officially published in 2020.

In October, the National Search Commission published a Protocol for Searching for Disappeared and Missing Persons. OHCHR provided technical assistance during the drafting process to Federal Executive Branch authorities, namely, the National Search Commission. Among other attributes, the Protocol incorporates CED's Guiding Principles for the Search for Disappeared Persons and advances "the right to be searched for." In addition, it contains a specific section on the participation of the victims' families, elaborates a typology of searches and distributes duties among different state agencies.

The Office also provided technical assistance to the state Congresses of Ciudad de México, Estado de México, Zacatecas, Guanajuato and Jalisco during discussions regarding legislation on the disappearance of persons and the special "declaration of absence." OHCHR successfully promoted the inclusive and active participation of victims' groups, eliminating regressive elements from the draft laws and incorporating others that are more progressive. For example, the elimination of the concept of "not-located," requires authorities to adopt immediate measures to uphold the rights of the disappeared person, regardless of legal distinctions. In states where the Congress adopted legislation without benefiting from the technical

assistance of the Office, the progressive elements were not incorporated.

OHCHR supported an enhanced dialogue between the General Prosecutor's Office, the Prosecutor's Office of Veracruz, the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the victims' families in several cases of enforced disappearance that were committed in the state of Veracruz in 2013. Advocacy efforts resulted in a commitment by federal prosecuting authorities to carry out a comprehensive analysis of the information contained in the case files.

Finally, the Office used specific cases to document progress made in the implementation of the adversarial system. It highlighted entrenched practices that impede the full implementation of positive judicial reforms. As a result of advocacy efforts undertaken by several organizations, including OHCHR, the discussion of a project to abrogate the current Law of the General Prosecutor's Office, which would constitute a clear regression in terms of human rights standards, was postponed until 2021.

SOUTH AMERICA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay
Year established	2009
Field office(s)	Santiago (Chile) with Human Rights Advisers in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay
Staff as of 31 December 2020	15

XB income	US\$1,110,811		
XB requirements 2020	US\$4,506,000		
XB expenditure	US\$860,281		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴	
74%	14%	12%	
\$640,625	\$120,512	\$99,145	
RB expenditure	US\$1,054,978		
Personnel	Non-personnel		
91%	9%		
\$959,163	\$95,815		

Key OMP pillars in 2020



⁴ Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:

Participation

P1 – State institutions and NHRIs are better equipped to monitor protests and document human rights violations; laws on freedom of expression and assembly comply with international human rights standards; police protocols regulating the use of force comply with international standards; States have adopted laws and taken measures to protect HRDs; and NHRIs have developed early warning and rapid response mechanisms that prevent conflict and protect HRDs.



16

OHCHR contributed to improving the compliance of laws, policies and practices of institutions and State officials with international human rights standards, including in the context of protests and for the protection of HRDs.

Citizens across the region consistently requested enhanced levels of participation, access to essential rights, transparency and non-discrimination. In 2020, protesters in many countries in the region continued to be repressed by various means, including through the excessive use of force by law enforcement officials, the application of criminal laws

to persecute and discourage demonstrators, the establishment of administrative obstacles to the enjoyment of the rights to freedom of expression and assembly and the harassment of HRDs. To address these issues, UN Human Rights initiated a regional monitoring unit pilot project to systematically monitor and document paradigmatic cases, including those related to attacks against HRDs. Criteria for prioritizing cases were established, materials for in-person and remote monitoring were designed and used and networks with CSOs were extended. Positive progress was made in monitoring human rights violations in Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Peru. In selected cases, the Office engaged in private and/or public advocacy before national authorities and international human rights protection mechanisms. While monitoring activities were primarily carried out remotely due to COVID-19, two field missions were undertaken in Chile (August) and Peru (November) as rapid deployments to urgent situations. OHCHR action resulted in positive and tangible results in certain cases, including swift responses by public authorities, the referral of cases to NHRIs, coordination with international actors, the establishment of coordination meetings between authorities and victims and normative changes.

In **Argentina**, the Office monitored situations of police violence in the context of COVID-19. In **Brazil**, OHCHR improved its coordination and exchange of information with the National Programme for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, including to follow up on cases. In **Chile**, the Office promoted the application of human rights standards by a working group responsible for drafting a bill on the right to peaceful assembly. This effort was led by the Undersecretary of Human Rights, with the participation of the

NHRI and the Children's Ombudsperson. OHCHR monitored progress in bringing justice and reparations to victims of human rights violations in the context of social protests. It also monitored the situation of Mapuche people deprived of their liberty, who were participating in a hunger strike. Moreover, the Office delivered a series of training for HRDs on monitoring and reporting on human rights violations, in particular in the context of demonstrations, with a focus on General Comment No. 37 of the Human Rights Committee. In **Ecuador**, OHCHR, IOM and the organization Idea Dignidad designed an online training course on monitoring for HRDs, with a focus on protection and conflict prevention, including in the context of protests. In **Paraguay**, the Office monitored the situation of returning migrants in the context of COVID-19. In **Uruguay**, OHCHR extended public support to the NHRI. The Regional Representative met with its President, seeking to strengthen the role of the institution.

In **Peru**, the Office provided technical assistance to the Ombudsperson's Office. OHCHR organized meetings to facilitate the exchange of experiences around the protection of HRDs between the NHRI and Mexico's National Human Rights Commission. During the national protest, in November, OHCHR provided expert advice on the use of indicators to collect disaggregated data on the situation of HRDs. The Office also called on the police to better respect the roles of the NHRI and the NPM and to prevent attacks against their members. In addition, OHCHR organized a meeting between the National Mechanism for the Protection of Journalists and HRDs from Mexico and the team in charge of the implementation of the Protocol to Guarantee the Protection of HRDs within the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights

in Peru. This enabled the team in Peru to learn from the Mexican experience as it takes steps to improve the Peruvian mechanism, which is designed to gather and register information. In the context of prison riots, the Office stressed the need to ensure that the use of force by State officials was compliant with international human rights standards. Advocacy efforts were also conducted to address the regression of national legislation on the use of force. Moreover, OHCHR facilitated the engagement of CSOs with international human rights mechanisms on a number of cases, including in relation to attacks against HRD Elita Yopla, the situation of La Hoyada Memorial Site in Ayacucho and human rights violations that were committed in the context of police repression in November.

At the regional level, the Office continued to work jointly with UNODC and others to ensure the availability of key publications and resources on the use of force by law enforcement officials and on less lethal weapons, in Spanish and Portuguese.

Non-discrimination

ND1 – State institutions responsible for meeting the needs of vulnerable groups have been strengthened and receive adequate funding and political support. Discrimination and gender equality laws comply with international human rights standards. Judges and prosecutors are better equipped, in terms of law and training, to successfully prosecute discrimination and gender crimes. State policies protect indigenous peoples against discrimination and consultation protocols have been adopted.



OHCHR contributed to increasing the level of compliance of legislation and policy with international human rights standards with regard to the rights of women, persons with disabilities, migrants and LGBTI persons.

UN Human Rights contributed to the elaboration of a number of anti-discrimination policies and laws in 2020. In **Argentina**, the Office supported the National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism (INADI) to develop a national mapping on discrimination with a view to elaborating a national action plan on this issue. The Office also facilitated the integration of gender and human rights into the workplan and activities of the Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for refugees and migrants from Venezuela. Moreover, when a health and social emergency affecting the Wichi indigenous communities was declared by the Government of Salta, OHCHR participated in a field mission with other UN partners and international organizations and provided technical assistance to ensure the integration of human rights into a needs assessment and the

Government's emergency response. In **Chile**, the Office supported the work of the Government-led National Taskforce of Persons with Disabilities and COVID-19, which adopted guidelines on persons with disabilities in health-care centres. It also organized an exchange between Chilean legislators and experts from the Committee on Migrant Workers regarding discussions on a draft bill on migration. The Office sent three communications to the National Congress of Chile to ensure that international human rights standards were integrated into the legislation. In addition, OHCHR promoted the adoption of Resolution 3925 by the Chilean Gendarmerie, which recognizes the State's obligation to apply the current Penitentiary Regulations in accordance with international standards on cultural relevance and non-discrimination of indigenous peoples. In **Peru**, the Office provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations to draft legislation on the protection of persons with disabilities in COVID-19 responses, which was adopted as Legislative Decree No. 1468. OHCHR also offered expertise to support the development of a national policy on Afro-Peruvian persons by the Ministry of Culture. OHCHR analysed data on access to work and other issues and provided recommendations from CERD and the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (WGEPAD). This initiative was the result of longstanding advocacy efforts undertaken by CSOs and OHCHR. Finally, the Office organized the visit to Peru of WGEPAD, in cooperation with CSOs, the NHRI and the Ministry of Culture.

OHCHR supported the delivery of capacity-building and training activities across the region. Together with other field presences in the region, the Office organized a webinar for State institutions on

hotlines and institutional mechanisms to respond to violence against women during the pandemic. In collaboration with UN Women and the Specialized Network on Gender of the Ibero-American Association of Public Ministries, the Office organized a regional webinar on the Latin American Protocol Model for the investigation of gender-related killings of women (femicide/feminicide), which had an audience of more than 800 people. In addition, OHCHR developed a diagnostic document on the use of the Protocol Model in Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Peru, which highlights good practices from Argentina and Brazil. Furthermore, in **Peru**, OHCHR cooperated with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and other UN partners to deliver nine workshops to address the impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable groups. The Office also provided training and technical assistance to the NHRI on the use of human rights indicators for data collection in implementing the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, including in relation to groups that are subject to discrimination. Advocacy was undertaken to encourage the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Statistics Institution.

Furthermore, the Office contributed to raising the awareness of a broad range of stakeholders around issues related to equality and non-discrimination. In **Brazil**, OHCHR supported the implementation of the Free & Equal Campaign through the dissemination of three videos on LGBTI persons in the workplace and other web articles and posts, reaching more than one million people. Other activities were implemented to raise awareness about the challenges faced by LGBTI persons, with a focus on social inclusion, the situation in prisons, the right to health and the impacts of COVID-19 on this community. In addition, the Office supported

various initiatives by the Afrodescendant movement and the UN to address racism and racial discrimination in the context of COVID-19. It participated in an external commission of the Federal Chamber of Deputies to discuss the impacts of the pandemic on Afrodescendant and quilombola populations. In **Chile**, OHCHR co-organized a series of dialogues with the Chilean Afrodescendant people in the framework of the evaluation of the International Decade for People of African Descent. In **Peru**, the Office provided support to the Ombudsperson's Office to discuss the cases of illegal evictions of migrants and refugees from Venezuela in the context of COVID-19 with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. With UNIC, OHCHR facilitated the release of communication materials to prevent such evictions. In **Paraguay**, OHCHR monitored the situation of returning national migrants and wrote a thematic report on the issue.



Development

D7 – States implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development using national development plans that integrate recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

1 2 3 5 8 9 13 16 17

OHCHR contributed to the compliance with international human rights standards of COVID-19 responses and programmes and policies to implement the 2030 Agenda, including by providing technical guidance and support to RCOs, UNCTs and government counterparts.

In the context of COVID-19, UN Human Rights worked to ensure the application of a human rights-based approach to UN SERPs and government actions, targeting

the most vulnerable people and, in some cases, by facilitating the use of human rights indicators to guarantee comprehensive monitoring efforts. Through the Surge Initiative, the Office undertook various studies to analyse the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic on vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, sexual and gender minorities and indigenous peoples. This included a specific focus on tackling inequalities through rights-based macroeconomic analyses of austerity and stimulus measures in five countries (Argentina, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay).

OHCHR continued to support countries in developing and implementing national policies on business and human rights. By the end of 2020, two national action plans were launched (one that is fully in force in Chile and one that needs to be validated or updated by the new Government in Argentina), two plans were announced (in Ecuador and Peru) and one country expressed its commitment to transforming its national guidelines into a plan (Brazil). In September, the Office organized the fifth Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights under the theme “Realizing responsible business conduct in difficult times: Turning challenges into opportunities.” More than 4,000 people from 46 countries participated virtually, including representatives from governments, businesses, CSOs, affected communities, indigenous peoples, academics and international and regional organizations.

In November, OHCHR, ECLAC and UNEP organized the first regional Forum of Environmental Defenders in South America, which virtually gathered together more than 60 HRDs from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. Participants

analysed environmental protection in the region, exchanged experiences and formulated recommendations. The Forum raised the awareness of participants about human rights mechanisms and frameworks, such as the Escazú Agreement.

Mechanisms

M1 – NMRFs function effectively in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.

16 | 17

OHCHR supported efforts to establish effectively functioning NMRFs through advocacy and technical assistance.

States from the region are party to the core international human rights treaties and in recent years have made significant progress in decreasing the burden of pending reports to the human rights treaty bodies. Nevertheless, the complex scenario of political and social crises in 2019, combined with elections and COVID-19 in 2020, led to weakened engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

Despite these circumstances, UN Human Rights continued to engage with key stakeholders to create and/or strengthen NMRFs. In **Brazil**, the Legislative Committee was approached for its potential to function as an NMRF. Due to a challenging political context, no decision was reached. In **Chile**, several initial meetings were held with the Vice-Minister for Human Rights and her staff regarding the NMRF. A period of massive protests that began in October 2019, however, shifted attention to the implementation of recommendations that were outlined in the report of OHCHR’s mission, which documented patterns of human rights

violations in the State’s response to the protests. In **Peru**, an intersectional protocol was adopted, in August 2020, with the aim of improving inter-institutional coordination in the implementation of the State’s international human rights obligations and to facilitate collaboration with civil society. This instrument will pave the way for the creation of an NMRF. Training on NMRFs was delivered to national authorities in **Venezuela** and internal discussions were pursued on this topic.

OHCHR continued to build the capacities of stakeholders across the region, with a focus on developing a regional network of NPMs and integrating the standards and guidelines on COVID-19 issued by the international human rights mechanisms. A total of 470 judges in Ecuador received training in relation to COVID-19 and the human rights of persons deprived of their liberty. In Peru, OHCHR and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights co-organized a webinar on COVID-19 and human rights, with over 1,000 participants. Bolivia received extensive training and submitted all of its outstanding reports to the human rights treaty bodies. In Chile, labour unions that had received training submitted six alternative reports to the Committee on Migrant Workers for the first time. Moreover, the Office drafted infographics on the human rights impacts of the pandemic in Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador and Peru.

Championing access to economic, social and cultural rights in Uruguay

Juan Ceretta is an expert on human right strategic litigation, working at the University of the Republic in Montevideo, Uruguay. In 2020, he and his students helped to make access to ESCRs a reality through a programme that provides legal assistance to poor families.

Since its creation in 2015, the Strategic Litigation Clinic has focused on causes that facilitate the realization of human rights, especially social and cultural rights. In 2020, Ceretta and his students decided to take on the case of a Montevideo-based family with six children that was living in extreme poverty in a house on the brink of collapse. The Clinic knew that the case was challenging and few precedents could be found in Uruguay on the enforceability of the right to adequate housing, unlike other social rights, such as the right to health care.

“We only found five records of litigation claiming the effective enjoyment of the right to housing,” Ceretta said. The Clinic had promoted actions of protection in three of those cases. Although

they also involved vulnerable persons living in extreme circumstances, the cases were unsuccessful.

The road to justice was long and bumpy for Professor Ceretta and his team. Then, in an unprecedented outcome, the constitutional protection suit they filed was deemed admissible by the Court. The Ministry of Housing and Territorial Planning agreed to provide the family with adequate housing through a rental subsidy for a period of two years and to ensure their access to essential services.

“This was the first time that the State reviewed its public policies with the participation of other public actors,” noted Ceretta, who explained that the Ministry of Social Development and the Uruguayan Institute for Children and Adolescents pledged to assist the family throughout the process.

UN Human Rights strengthened the capacities of the Clinic on human rights standards and international jurisprudence. In September, the Office and the

Clinic began collaborating to deliver capacity-building training on the right to adequate housing, including through the organization of a conference with students, lawyers, judges, prosecutors and activists. UN Human Rights and other experts outlined the foundations of the right to housing and the standards for its enforceability, in a context where regressive housing normative frameworks and laws are in place.

For Juan Ceretta, “This groundbreaking advance would not have been possible without the capacity-building support of UN Human Rights,” he said. “We learned to use international human rights law and standards in our exchanges with authorities, as well as good practices from other countries, to make the enjoyment of ESCRs a reality.”



Professor Juan Ceretta (right) and his students provide legal aid to vulnerable families. With their support, the family of Flor (left) was able to realize their right to adequate housing. © OHCHR/South America

VENEZUELA

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³	
28.44 million	912,000 km ²	0.711 (rank: 113/189 in 2019)	"B" Status (2016)	
Type of engagement	Other type of field presence			
Year established	2019			
Field office(s)	Caracas			
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2015-2021			
Staff as of 31 December 2020	4			
XB income	US\$3,180,550			
XB requirements 2020	US\$3,041,000			
XB expenditure	US\$1,565,360			
Personnel		Non-personnel	PSC ⁴	
72%		18%	9%	
\$1,134,630		\$285,258	\$145,472	

Key OMP pillars in 2020

^{1,2,3,4} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229 and p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

A1 – State authorities increasingly address human rights violations committed in the context of law enforcement and the justice system.

16 

OHCHR continued its monitoring of places of detention and successfully advocated with authorities to improve conditions of detention.

Throughout 2020, UN Human Rights monitored and researched the human rights situation, both in-country and remotely. Several missions were carried out during the year and remote monitoring

took place when travel was limited due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Despite the pandemic, OHCHR continued monitoring the conditions in detention centres and conducted 14 visits to 13 detention centres. OHCHR shared confidential reports on the main findings of the visits with the Ministry of Penitentiary Services, which included a set of recommendations to improve the conditions of detention. OHCHR met with the Minister of Defense to discuss the recommendations. The Minister welcomed the recommendations and committed to acting upon some of them (i.e., to facilitate visits for the detainees, adapt some cells, including those hosting women,

and ensure access to outdoor spaces). While this demonstrated the potential for improved detention conditions, COVID-19 adversely impacted the situation of detainees. Access to detention centres managed by the military and intelligence services was increased, however, which led to the direct improvement of detention conditions. For instance, punctual family contacts were resumed through video calls following a five-month suspension related to the COVID-19 crisis, religious worship ceremonies were organized and the transfers of some detainees for medical care and assistance were resumed.

In 2020, OHCHR exchanged information with relevant authorities to follow up on individual cases and continually advocated for action to be taken, in particular on urgent cases related to health concerns, judicial delays, the non-execution of judicial release orders or the implementation of decisions issued by the international human rights mechanisms. This included a variety of cases involving journalists, HRDs and health-care professionals who were detained in the context of COVID-19. The Coordination Committee provided information on the judicial status of over 102 cases and noted the measures that were taken to address the humanitarian, penitentiary and judicial concerns of those cases. Since June 2019, at least 140 persons have been released.

OHCHR established a regular dialogue with the Office of the Attorney General and the military. This led to an increase in judicial action for cases of serious human rights violations, particularly in the investigation of 58 alleged cases of extrajudicial executions by security forces and 35 cases of deaths documented in the context of protests.

A1 – Improved conditions of detention in certain detention centres and a more effective NPM. Increased access to justice for victims of human rights violations.

16

OHCHR advocated with authorities and identified barriers and entry points to assess the effectiveness of the NPM.

Venezuela signed the OP-CAT in 2011, but it has not yet been ratified. The UN Human Rights team in Caracas met with the NHRI, which provides secretariat support for the NPM, to better understand their methodology of work and the challenges they face. The team also engaged with Venezuelan authorities to define and agree upon a methodology and road map to assess the effectiveness of the National Commission to Prevent Torture. With the assistance of OHCHR staff providing secretariat support to SPT, the OHCHR team in Caracas organized a meeting to share information on available tools and good practices and experiences from other countries. OHCHR identified a number of barriers to engaging in a meaningful assessment process with authorities and identified various entry points to continue the process.



Peace and Security

PS5 – Early warning, prevention and protection capacities strengthened, including through in-country monitoring.

3 5 8 10 13 16 17

OHCHR monitored human rights violations in Venezuela and used this reporting for advocacy purposes and to strengthen technical assistance provided to the Government.

In 2020, UN Human Rights released two public reports that were considered during the HRC's forty-fourth session. The first report was presented by the High Commissioner, on 2 July, under resolution A/HRC/RES/42/4. The report focuses on violations related to the right to life, liberty and personal integrity, with an emphasis on the effectiveness of the investigations conducted by authorities, including recommendations on accountability. The report also includes a section on progress made in the implementation of the agreement of cooperation and the technical assistance being provided. Secondly, on 15 July, OHCHR presented a report on the human rights situation in the Arco Minero del Orinoco, the independence of the justice system and the access to justice of victims, as mandated by resolution A/HRC/RES/42/25. Three oral updates on the human rights situation in Venezuela were presented to the HRC, in compliance with the resolutions. The reports and oral updates were informed by the monitoring conducted by OHCHR.

During the HRC's forty-fifth session, two resolutions were adopted on Venezuela, namely, on technical assistance (A/HRC/RES/45/2) and on the human rights situation in the country (A/HRC/RES/45/20). Both resolutions request the High

Commissioner to present reports and oral updates to the Human Rights Council on the human rights situation in the country and to provide technical assistance to the State, as per the recent extension of the cooperation agreement signed by the High Commissioner and the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Resolution A/HRC/RES/45/20 extends the mandate of the FFM on Venezuela for two years.

Human rights monitoring guided the technical assistance activities that were carried out during the year. As an illustration, OHCHR organized a workshop with relevant authorities, in August, to discuss the conduct of police units and agents, in particular in relation to the use of force. It also reviewed draft police protocols and manuals to guarantee their compliance with international standards.



Non-discrimination

ND6 – Civil society and the NHRI strengthen their capacity to support access to justice and protection mechanisms by Venezuelan migrants and refugees.

1 2 3 4 5 6 8 10 11
13 16

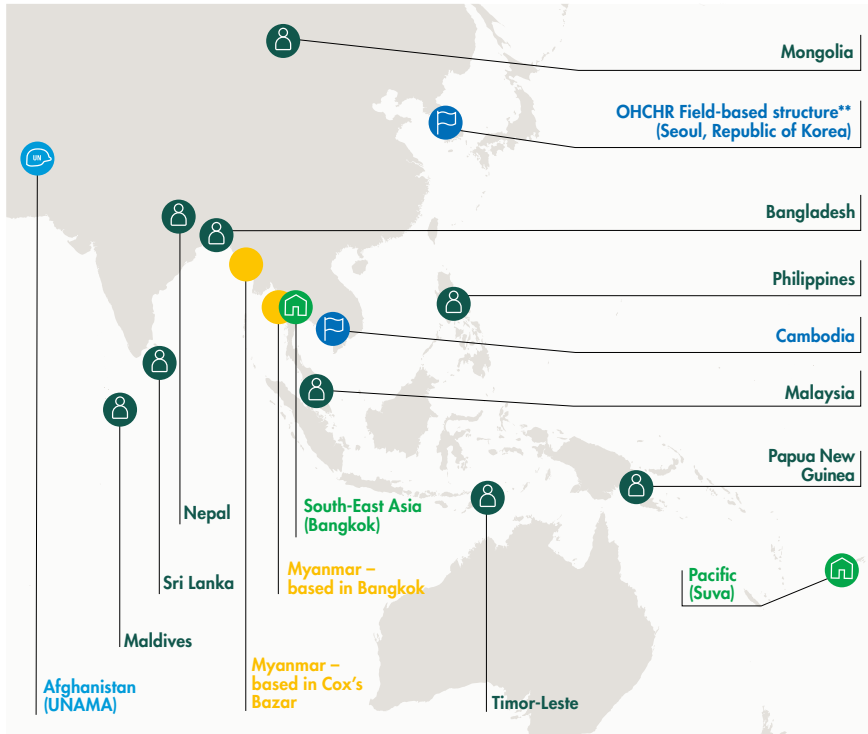
OHCHR contributed to enhancing the protection of the rights of refugees and migrants from Venezuela in host countries by monitoring their situation and providing technical assistance to national actors in the region.

Throughout 2020, the situation of Venezuelan migrants in host countries was consistently monitored. This began with remote monitoring and as the capacity in Panama increased, more direct monitoring was initiated. The outbreak of COVID-19

in South America significantly impacted on the situation of refugees and migrants from Venezuela. Governments in the region closed their borders, declared states of emergency and imposed measures of social confinement. Venezuelan migrants and refugees reported an inability to afford basic goods and services due to a loss of income, additional barriers to finding work and an increase in xenophobia and racism. Some Venezuelan migrants and refugees were compelled to return to Venezuela where they faced further protection risks. The Office closely monitored the situation.

In September, OHCHR launched a project to increase its advocacy at the regional level. Specifically, human rights will be mainstreamed into the protection tools elaborated in the framework of the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform on Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela, with a particular focus on the human rights of migrants and refugees present in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. The project aims to enhance the capacities of national actors in the region to promote and protect the rights of refugees and migrants from Venezuela. Further, a briefing session was held on how to engage with the international human rights mechanisms for a coalition of approximately 60 NGOs and associations working with refugees and migrants from Venezuela.

UN Human Rights in Asia-Pacific



TYPE OF PRESENCE

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

LOCATION

	Cambodia and Republic of Korea (Seoul)**
	South-East Asia (Bangkok, Thailand) and the Pacific (Suva, Fiji)
	Afghanistan (UNAMA)
	Bangladesh*, Malaysia*, Maldives*, Mongolia*, Nepal*, Papua New Guinea*, Philippines*, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste*
	Myanmar (based in Bangkok, Thailand and Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh)

* Human Rights Advisers deployed under the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group.
** Mandated by Human Rights Council resolution 25/25.

LEGEND:

Spotlights:

- Disabilities
- Youth
- Women

Shifts:

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

SDGs:



The Asia-Pacific region is the largest in the world, both in terms of its geography and population. The work of UN Human Rights covered 39 countries in the region, bordered by Afghanistan to the west, Mongolia to the north, Kiribati to the east and New Zealand to the south. In 2020, the Office supported one country office in Cambodia; human rights advisers (HRAs) or national officers in Bangladesh, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea (PNG), the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste; two regional offices for the Pacific and South-East Asia; one Human Rights Service (HRS) in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA); and one field-based structure, based in Seoul, which covers the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). OHCHR continued to deploy staff working on Myanmar in the Regional Office for South-East Asia.

The COVID-19 pandemic had major impacts on public health and on economic, social, civil and political rights across the Asia region. In the Pacific, the public health impacts were negligible but socio-economic cohesion and culture as well as some civil and political rights were affected. Headquarters and field staff transitioned to remote working arrangements and were limited in their capacities to undertake missions and travel-based activity. Nevertheless, effective communication systems were established within the team and with the field and a variety of activities were conducted virtually. OHCHR reoriented its monitoring efforts to focus on the human rights impacts of COVID-19 and produced regular regional updates and infographics for advocacy with partners. The region prepared and contributed to several COVID-19-related press statements and press briefings, including statements from the High Commissioner on issues such as states

of emergency, migration and freedom of expression in 12 countries of the region. The High Commissioner sent a series of letters to encourage prison decongestion in Bangladesh, the DPRK, Pakistan and Thailand, with several positive results.

The Office continued to oversee the implementation of Human Rights Council (HRC) resolutions on Afghanistan, Cambodia, the DPRK, Myanmar, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. The High Commissioner gave updates to the HRC on human rights developments in Indian- and Pakistan-administered Kashmir and on developments in the Hong Kong SAR and Xinjiang UAR of China. OHCHR assisted the special procedures country mandate holders for Cambodia, the DPRK and Myanmar. As visits to the region were limited due to COVID-19 restrictions, a number of engagements were conducted virtually.

The Regional Office for South-East Asia provided technical assistance to various partners at the regional and national levels. From the early stages of the pandemic, OHCHR tracked and reported human rights developments in the region, ensuring the integration of human rights into tools, guidance notes and awareness-raising initiatives developed by the UN and other partners. The Office continued to address the narrowing of civic space and democratic freedoms in the region, which was exacerbated by COVID-19, including in the context of digital space and large-scale protests. In response to the targeting of migrants and refugees and hate speech in the context of COVID-19, OHCHR engaged in public advocacy, highlighting the structural vulnerabilities faced by migrants. The Office continued to raise awareness about the impact on human rights of climate change and environmental degradation, with a focus on the

right to a healthy environment, children and youth and environmental human rights defenders (HRDs). As a part of the Regional Office's programme of work related to the human rights treaty bodies, the growing interest of Member States in the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD) led the Office to provide increased assistance and support for the development, training and roll-out of NRTDs.

OHCHR engaged with the Government of the Philippines, national institutions and NGOs to produce a comprehensive report, in June, on the human rights situation in the Philippines. This was followed by the preparation of a resolution that was adopted by consensus, in September, with the support of the Government and the preparation of a UN Joint Programme on Human Rights.

In Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka, OHCHR continued to provide support to the UN Country Teams (UNCTs) to ensure the implementation of the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights and the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP). All field presences worked with the UNCTs to apply a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to programming, particularly in the context of COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response Plans (SERPs). Activities were undertaken to support the incorporation of human rights principles into UN programming, including training on an HRBA and technical advice for the development of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) and SERPs. Increased partnerships were sought with other UN agencies and advocates for civic space, political participation, access to justice and non-discrimination.

The Office conducted numerous human rights capacity-building and technical assistance activities for international and national stakeholders, including UNCTs, national human rights commissions and CSOs as well as HRDs.

OHCHR significantly strengthened its work on Myanmar to respond to the additional reporting requirements arising from the implementation of HRC resolutions and created opportunities for technical cooperation and closer engagement with the UNCT on several initiatives. In 2020, a number of important developments were noted in relation to accountability, including the creation of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM), progress made in the International Criminal Court (ICC) investigation and in a case brought by the Gambia and others to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) under the Genocide Convention. In September, the Office reported to the HRC on developments in the human rights situation and the follow-up to the recommendations issued by the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission (IFFM) on Myanmar.

In Cambodia, OHCHR provided technical assistance on drafting legislation to establish a national human rights institution (NHRI) that is compliant with the Paris Principles. The Office also engaged with the Government in raising awareness regarding the implementation of the OHCHR-supported NRTD that facilitates the implementation of recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies. In the context of the next UNSDCF, OHCHR increased its support to the Resident Coordinator (RC) and the UNCT by establishing a risk analysis framework that takes into consideration the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms and

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators.

In Mongolia, OHCHR assisted the UNCT in assessing the impacts of COVID-19 and emergency measures and provided guidance notes on information and participation. The Office helped the National Human Rights Commission to print a compilation of all recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, which was translated into the Mongolian language.

With regard to the DPRK, the Office in Seoul produced reports for the HRC and the General Assembly. It issued a public report on women in detention, in July, and on DPRK voices in the peace process, in October. In December, the Security Council held a briefing on human rights in the DPRK. The DPRK Accountability Project's information and evidence preservation, storage, management and processing capabilities were enhanced through a major technological upgrade. As of the end of the year, approximately 4,066 distinct files had been preserved in the repository, including interviews, reports, satellite imagery, maps, court documents, videos, audio recordings and petition letters. The DPRK Accountability Project is the first OHCHR body to use such advanced software, with this structure and layout, due to the specialized expertise of staff working on the project. This has generated greater interest within OHCHR to expand the use of the technology to a number of commissions of inquiry.

In Afghanistan, the Office worked closely with UNAMA colleagues in the context of the evolving peace process. In December, the High Commissioner spoke at a major conference on sustainable peace. In February, a public report was issued on the

protection of civilians in Afghanistan and a second report was issued, in December, on violence against women.

In South Asia, OHCHR continued to provide technical assistance on the development of human rights indicators in Pakistan and actively engaged with national stakeholders on the transitional justice process in Nepal. The Office maintained its engagement in the Maldives with the deployment of a new senior HRA. It also increased its support to the UNCT in Nepal through the assignment of a national HRA.

In Sri Lanka, OHCHR collaborated with the UNCT and the RC to provide advice and support related to transitional justice. OHCHR continued monitoring and advocating on transitional justice, despite the Government's withdrawal of its co-sponsorship of HRC resolution 40/1, and supported the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka and the Office of Missing Persons. Unfortunately, a constitutional amendment that was adopted in October undermined the independence of the Human Rights Commission and other independent institutions.

In Bangladesh, OHCHR worked with the UNCT throughout the drafting process of the Common Country Analysis (CCA) and the COVID-19 socio-economic response framework. Guidance was provided to a Joint Programme, which was funded by the Joint SDG Fund, on social protection for female tea plantation workers engaging in public-private partnerships. In addition, the Office supported preparations for the CRPD review of the Government's State Party report and the preparations of an alternative report by organizations of persons with disabilities. In January, the UNCT and OHCHR helped to deliver the Government's first workshop on the development of a plan for the implementation of recommendations issued during the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Advocacy was undertaken in relation to freedom of expression, shrinking civic space and the protection of HRDs.

The Regional Office for the Pacific worked on programmes engaging governments, communities and individuals affected by the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 and the ongoing climate emergency, including youth, women human rights defenders (WHRDs), migrants and persons with disabilities. In a Joint Programme with ESCAP, ILO and IOM on climate mobility and security, OHCHR amplified the voices of independent experts. The Office organized the first Pacific Business and Human Rights Forum and continued to collaborate with partners to deliver capacity-building training to police forces in Fiji, including on the use of force and protection of vulnerable groups. It worked with States and the UNCTs in Fiji and Samoa to strengthen reporting and follow-up engagement with the international human rights mechanisms, notably the UPR. The Office undertook legislative reviews in various

countries and provided guidance on the ratification of international human rights instruments. In addition, it monitored developments relating to COVID-19 public health emergency measures, including restrictions on freedom of movement. In collaboration with UN partners, the Office adapted the CCA and contributed to the SERP and the pilot implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS). Finally, it closely followed developments relating to civic space and participation and encouraged the application of an HRBA to humanitarian situations, including two cyclone responses in April and December.

AFGHANISTAN: UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN (UNAMA)

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
38.93 million	653,000 km ²	0.511 (rank: 169/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2014)
Type of engagement		Peace Mission	
Year established		2002	
Field office(s)		Kabul	
UN partnership framework		One UN for Afghanistan 2018-2021	
Staff as of 31 December 2020		74	

XB requirements 2020

US\$301,000

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229.

PILLAR RESULTS:



Accountability

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



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

UN Human Rights and UNAMA continued advocating with authorities, providing technical support, monitoring detention facilities and compiling data. In the last two years, the Anti-Torture Committee of the Attorney General's Office more actively prosecuted cases of torture in light of the

2018 revised Penal Code and the 2018 Anti-Torture Act, both of which criminalize torture. From January 2019 to April 2020, 15 cases were investigated and prosecuted under article 450 of the Penal Code (crime of torture). In four cases, alleged perpetrators were convicted. In two cases, alleged perpetrators were acquitted. As of July, four cases were before the courts, four cases were being investigated by prosecutors and one case was suspended due to the COVID-19 outbreak. UNAMA's monitoring revealed that human rights officers of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) visited places of detention while far fewer visits were conducted by the Ministry of Interior.

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



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

Throughout 2020, UN Human Rights and UNAMA continued to advise the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) on various issues related to peace, human rights and victim-centred justice, including the development of sustainable policy options. In cooperation with a Senior Mediation Adviser from the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, in January, UNAMA's Human Rights Unit (HRU) facilitated a three-day workshop for the leadership team of the AIHRC on the role of NHRIs in promoting victim-centred justice and inclusive peace processes. On 2 June, the AIHRC published a position paper on the inclusion of victims in the Afghan peace process, with proposals and options for the negotiating parties. On 25 June, the Chair of the Commission addressed the UN Security Council on the impacts of COVID-19 on human rights, civilian casualty trends, the importance of human rights in the peace process and meaningful victim-centred justice measures. On 12 September, the Commission welcomed the opening of the Afghanistan Peace Negotiations and encouraged the parties to agree on a set of principles to

guide the talks, such as inclusivity and victims' rights. On 19 November, the Chair called for accountability for the alleged perpetrators of war crimes within the Australian Special Forces and advocated for reparations and acknowledgment of the suffering of Afghan victims.

The HRU also raised awareness within UNAMA and among the parties to the conflict about international human rights obligations and victim-centred justice, including the rights of victims and the importance of their inclusion. In January and October, the HRU and the Embassy of the Netherlands in Afghanistan hosted two meetings of the informal Group of Friends on Victim-Centred Justice to coordinate engagement with national actors, including the AIHRC and CSOs, and members of the diplomatic community.

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



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

UN Human Rights and UNAMA's HRU continued to support the Government's efforts to improve the implementation of the EVAW Law. In 2020, specialized EVAW institutions, such as police, prosecutors and courts, were present across all provinces of Afghanistan, representing a

major achievement. Various government entities, including the Attorney General's Office, provided regular public updates on the investigation and prosecution of crimes of violence against women and girls. Furthermore, the AIHRC monitored the State's response to crimes of violence against women and girls. Despite this progress, challenges remained. Reporting of violence remained low and impunity was the norm for too many perpetrators. The review of the EVAW Law by the Ministry of Women's Affairs was postponed due to COVID-19.

Participation

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

16

OHCHR contributed to the independent functioning of the AIHRC, in compliance with the Paris Principles, through regular engagement, the coordination of activities and information-sharing.

UN Human Rights and UNAMA's HRU supported the Government, the AIHRC and civil society in the promotion of increased democratic space, the protection of HRDs, accountability for human rights violations, the fight against discrimination, the promotion of an inclusive and human rights-compliant peace and reconciliation process and victim-centred justice.

Civil society organizations and the members of the media expressed concern about draft legislation in relation to NGOs and the freedoms of expression and

association. A recent draft would impose unnecessary restrictions on the activities of CSOs and grant the Government disproportionate control over their legal, administrative, financial and operational matters.

The HRU organized 18 capacity-building and outreach events in Afghanistan for 507 participants (137 women, 370 men) HRDs, journalists, government officials, AIHRC commissioners and local community leaders. On 26 October, the HRU, on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, launched a two-month online training on key human rights issues for 34 young HRDs (10 women, 24 men) selected from across the country. The HRU also supported the national broadcast of seven thematic radio programmes on access to information and the role of civil society in the promotion and protection of human rights. Moreover, the HRU reached out to civil society, HRDs and university students. It distributed OHCHR guidelines on human rights in the context of COVID-19, in national languages, 550 books on human rights and relevant Afghan laws and 1,200 copies of human rights calendars.

In addition to its independent and collective work on victim-centred justice, the HRU strengthened its long-standing engagement with the AIHRC on the protection of civilians, children and armed conflict, women's rights and detention monitoring. A total of 103 coordination meetings took place in Kabul and the provinces. With the outbreak of COVID-19, the AIHRC monitored, reported on and advocated for better preparedness and response measures. It also participated in the Government's national and subnational coordination mechanisms. The Commission published 14 thematic reports on various human rights issues,

including the protection of civilians, sexual abuse in schools and workplaces, access to education and health, especially in the context of COVID-19, the human rights situation of detainees and persons with disabilities and forced gynecological examinations.



Peace and Security

PS1 – The Government and armed opposition groups formulate, revise and strengthen policies, mechanisms and regulations to protect civilians and prevent civilian casualties, all of which comply with international humanitarian law and international human rights standards.

5 16

OHCHR contributed to the establishment and functioning of mechanisms to protect civilians, in line with international human rights standards, through monitoring and advocacy efforts.

UN Human Rights and UNAMA's HRU continued to advocate with the Government for the creation, implementation and strengthening of compliance with policies on the mitigation of civilian harm and protection of civilians, including specific provisions related to child protection. The HRU continued to provide technical assistance to the Government in relation to its structured action plans for the implementation of the National Policy on Civilian Casualty Prevention and Mitigation, endorsed in October 2017, and its ratification of the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, in particular Protocols II and V. The HRU also worked with the NATO Resolute Support Mission, which assisted the Ministry of Defense to develop its own Civilian Casualty Mitigation Team.

Furthermore, the HRU engaged with the Government to address issues related to children in armed conflict. On 5 March 2019, the Law on Protection of Child Rights (Child Act) was enacted by a presidential decree. This was one of the priorities set out in the 2014 "Road Map to Compliance," which details measures to fully implement the 2011 Action Plan in order to end the recruitment and use of children in Afghan national security forces. The Child Act contains provisions on the prevention of bacha bazi and the recruitment and use of children. The HRU engaged with the Government to ensure the incorporation of such provisions.

The HRU provided technical support to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the Secretariat for the implementation of the Action Plan/Road Map to Compliance for the Prevention of Underage Recruitment and Use and the annexes that include a list of parties engaging in violations against children, namely, the abduction, killing and maiming of children and rape and other forms of sexual violence against children. In June, the Government of Afghanistan submitted its eighth annual progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan/Road Map to Compliance. The HRU supported the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict in drafting a letter in response to the Government's report, highlighting key challenges and providing recommendations, including the adoption of the Child Act by the Parliament, the establishment of a referral pathway for children formerly associated with armed forces and groups and the treatment of children released from detention facilities, in compliance with international standards on juvenile justice. The letter strongly urged the Government to implement relevant laws and policies and combat impunity. In

October, the Ministry of Interior endorsed its Policy on Safeguarding the Rights and the Protection of Children, which is in accordance with the Action Plan/Road Map to Compliance. The Policy includes provisions on the protection of children from sexual violence and recruitment and use. The Office of the National Security Council, supported by NATO, drafted a common security sector National Policy on Protection of Children in Armed Conflict, which will apply to the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Defence and the National Directorate of Security. The HRU, NATO and CSOs provided technical advice during the drafting and revision processes. The Policy was still under development at the end of the year.

BANGLADESH

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

XB requirements 2020**US\$429,000****Key OMP pillars in 2020**^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229**PILLAR RESULTS:**

Development

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

3 5

OHCHR contributed to the increased integration of international human rights standards into policies and programmes of the UN and other development partners, including those adopted in response to COVID-19.

In the context of the pandemic, UN Human Rights provided extensive advice in relation to the UNCT's Country

Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP), the humanitarian assessment and the UN Immediate Socio-Economic Response Plan (ISERP), which was finalized in July. The HRA provided advice on the CPRP, with a focus on social cohesion, in particular regarding the prevention of discrimination against marginalized groups, and co-led work under the ISERP on social stability and the rule of law. As a result, key elements related to discrimination were included in the ISERP and discussions were held on the protection of civil and political rights and the need for their inclusion in health and humanitarian responses. The HRA undertook policy advocacy and offered advice, which supported the revision of the SDG monitoring framework and developed the capacity of the UNCT Human Rights Working Group to apply new guidance on COVID-19 and ISERPs and the human rights

indicator framework. OHCHR granted seed funding to CSOs to enable human rights monitoring of the application of the human rights indicator framework.

The HRA coordinated and contributed to the policy work of the Joint Programme for Enhanced Social Protection for female tea garden workers in Sylhet Division, which was funded by the UN's Joint SDG Fund. Various adjustments were introduced due to COVID-19-related constraints, including online meetings with unions, the employers' association and the Government. These changes facilitated continuous dialogue on required social protection measures.

The HRA supported civil society and UN development partners with regard to civic space and freedom of expression and the application of the Digital Security Act. This resulted in the mutual participation of the UN, development partners and the Government. During the COVID-19 emergency, UN Human Rights strengthened its engagement with CSOs to monitor instances of hate speech and other forms of online communication that may limit the enjoyment of the rights of minority communities.


Mechanisms

M1 – The Government regularly submits reports to the human rights treaty bodies.

16 17

OHCHR continued to lead the UNCT Human Rights Working Group and provided training and technical assistance to support the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, including those issued by the UPR.

In January, OHCHR collaborated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and key ministries to deliver the first of four workshops in order to develop a plan for the implementation of the UPR recommendations. The workshop also provided the Government with an opportunity to reiterate its commitment to their implementation. Participants included the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs as well as the Head of the NHRI and other senior officials. The workshop represents the first time that government ministries and civil society came together to discuss the country's UPR implementation status.

Further, the HRA collaborated with the UNCT and CSOs on a submission in anticipation of the CRPD's list of issues related to its upcoming review of the State Party report of Bangladesh. They worked closely with CSOs to prepare for the review, which was scheduled for March. The review was postponed until August and then again until the second half of 2021.

CAMBODIA

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
16.72 million	181,000 km ²	0.594 (rank: 144/189 in 2019)	-
Type of engagement		Country Office	
Year established		1993	
Field office(s)		Phnom Penh	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2019-2023	
Staff as of 31 December 2020		38	
XB income		US\$840,253	
XB requirements 2020		US\$3,093,000	
XB expenditure		US\$1,477,199	
Personnel		Non-personnel PSC ⁴	
76%		13%	
\$1,129,325		\$189,734	
		\$158,139	
RB expenditure		US\$1,441,877	
Personnel		Non-personnel	
84%		16%	
\$1,207,289		\$234,588	

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1,2,3,4} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229 and p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:



Participation

P5 – Increased systematic monitoring of and threats to civic space.



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

Throughout 2020, UN Human Rights carried out extensive human rights

monitoring of the civic and democratic space. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, monitoring was primarily carried out in Phnom Penh and remotely. This included monitoring of dozens of protests, most of which took place in the capital. The Office provided protection support to several HRDs and facilitated referrals to protection mechanisms for persons at risk of human rights violations. The work was carried out in collaboration with national, regional and international CSOs, diplomatic partners and other partners.

OHCHR developed the capacity of CSOs to better engage with protection mechanisms. More specifically, it collaborated with CSOs to monitor mass trials on 26 November and during 2020, thereby enabling civil society partners to forward to diplomatic missions the data they had collected on violations and abuses. In the context of a wave of arrests, in August, the Office provided regular updates to the RC and worked closely with CSOs on raising human rights issues with the UNCT.

OHCHR followed up on protection cases for HRDs and political activists. Six special procedures communications were sent to the Government and several public statements were issued about the human rights situation in the country. Consequently, authorities were more aware of the links between their actions and human rights obligations, although they did not systematically address the concerns raised.

OHCHR and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia undertook consistent advocacy with local authorities regarding the planned evictions of ethnic Vietnamese communities along the Tonle Sap in Kampong Chhnang province. Although eviction attempts continued in 2020, the Office successfully intervened to stop the demolition of homes belonging to fishing families of ethnic Vietnamese, leading to a postponement of the relocation of almost 1,000 families in the same province. The Office called on the Government to complete the planned resettlement site before relocating the families and to ensure that the people were in agreement with the plan, as required by international human rights standards.

The Office addressed the absence of identity documents and/or the statelessness of ethnic Vietnamese and Khmer Krom

families in Kampong Chhnang Province and Siem Reap Province. It organized two workshops in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior General Department of Identification and Immigration and provincial authorities. Following the workshops, the Ministry of Interior provided advice to provincial officials to process and issue identification documents to the Khmer Krom families and to facilitate naturalization procedures for the ethnic Vietnamese. A total of 124 persons (21 women, 103 men) from ethnic Vietnamese communities and Khmer Krom groups and local officials attended the workshops.

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



OHCHR enhanced the engagement of young persons in support of human rights messages by conducting a targeted competition on human rights for youth.

UN Human Rights released a series of animated videos called “Human Rights Explained,” as part of a campaign to raise awareness of and support for human rights among Cambodian youth. A young Cambodian influencer narrated the videos, which address issues related to human rights, democracy and the international human rights mechanisms. The campaign reached 744,800 Cambodian Facebook users, most of whom were in the 18-34 age group. The videos were shared with youth organizations, some of which used them in training activities.

The Office also worked with six youth organizations on a Young Human Rights Champion Competition to recognize

youth support for human rights issues. A total of 82 young people (53 women, 29 men) from 18 groups of diverse backgrounds, including minority groups, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and children, applied for the competition. Six groups, with participants between 15 and 23 years of age, were selected to join the competition. OHCHR developed the capacity of these groups in relation to human rights and video filming and editing and provided them with ongoing coaching. The young people subsequently produced six videos on a variety of topics, including the right to vote, the participation of persons with disabilities, the equal right to work for women and men, migrant workers and discrimination against the children of sex workers and former prisoners. The videos were posted on the UN Human Rights-Cambodia Facebook page, resulting in approximately 15,000 reactions, 2.1 million reaches and 101,000 engagements.

The Office broadly disseminated two human rights surveys, including the UN Global Survey on Youth and COVID-19 and the survey for the Secretary-General’s report on policies and programmes involving youth, to more than 100 young people, youth organizations and networks. To mark Human Rights Day 2020, OHCHR developed a “Right to Create” campaign for Cambodian youth, highlighting the importance of placing human rights at the heart of COVID-19 responses. The campaign products were developed by and for Cambodian youth.



Development

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

2 3 5 8 16 17

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

UN Human Rights continued to provide mediation support to indigenous communities and business actors, leading to the conclusion of an agreement on communal land, in August, between a rubber company and three Bunong indigenous communities in Mondulakiri Province and Socfin. The Office attended the signature ceremony. In 2018, a similar agreement was reached with a fourth community. Due to the Office's intervention, over 500 hectares of land were returned to the indigenous communities, including sacred forests, spirit forests, cemeteries and reserve lands, which were located in the economic land concessions managed by the company. With the development of the maps and the marking of the returned areas, the communities will now be able to apply to have their land registered under the communal land titling (CLT) process, thereby securing their land tenure. OHCHR will continue supporting the communities during the mediation and finalization processes.

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

1 11

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

In 2020, the Government did not discuss new land and/or housing rights laws or policies. The Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction began an internal process to revise the 2001 Land Law to ensure its harmonization with the Civil Code of Cambodia (2007). No progress was made on the draft Environmental and Natural Resources Code, despite several years of extensive consultations and two years of closed-door discussions at the ministry level.

UN Human Rights finalized the discussion paper on the simplification of the CLT process, with the intent of mainstreaming human rights, SDGs and the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle into the process. The official launch of the discussion paper will be held in early 2021. Due to OHCHR's support, seven communities of indigenous peoples progressed to step 3, the last step before a land title is issued. OHCHR also engaged in a discussion about an indigenous community, located

in a protected area, whose CLT process is stalled at step 3.

To assist the Government and prevent evictions during the pandemic, OHCHR translated into Khmer three COVID-19 guidance notes on protecting the homeless, residents of informal settlements and renters and mortgage payers. The Office widely disseminated the guidance notes to ministries, municipalities and other authorities. OHCHR also shared with donors, UN entities and other partners a confidential note on the situation of indigenous peoples and minorities in the context of the pandemic.

OHCHR raised awareness about the impact that violations of housing and land rights have on women, identifying the links between women's economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs) and violations of land and housing rights in Cambodia. To this end, the Office co-published a compilation of six fact sheets and case studies with the CSO Klahan.

OHCHR continued to focus on the human rights situation of communities living in resettlement sites in Cambodia. Draft guidelines on evictions and resettlement were produced along with the first draft of a report, which is expected to be completed and submitted by the end of 2021.

Finally, OHCHR contributed to the CCA update by providing the UNCT with inputs and analyses related to ESCRs.



Accountability

A2 – An NHRI is established that aims at providing redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.

10 16 

OHCHR provided support to establish an NHRI that is compliant with international human rights standards.

The 2002 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UN Human Rights and the Government foresees the need for technical assistance to establish an NHRI in Cambodia. Over the years, various stakeholders have taken steps to fulfil this objective. In the mid-2000s, CSOs initiated the development of draft legislation, but they disengaged from the process due to the shrinking civic and democratic space and a growing distrust of the Government's intention to establish a genuinely independent NHRI. In 2019, during Cambodia's third UPR cycle, a number of States recommended that it establish an NHRI that is compliant with the Paris Principles. Cambodia accepted the recommendation and the Prime Minister reinitiated the process of drafting a law on the establishment of a NHRI.

On 2 February, the Cambodian Human Rights Committee (CHRC) sent a request to OHCHR for an expert consultancy to support the drafting of an NHRI law. Since then, the CHRC has produced an initial zero draft of the legislation, which was shared with the Office, along with a request for comments and translation. In September, OHCHR provided a technical note to outline critical areas that require improvements to ensure the NHRI's compliance with the Paris Principles, particularly in terms of the NHRI's full independence and the selection processes

for its members. In March, OHCHR provided additional comments on a more advanced draft. The CHRC plans to have a first draft ready by mid-April 2021 with a view to initiating consultations. Independent CSOs have indicated that they may not participate in the process under the prevailing circumstances, but groups that are known to be more aligned with the Government may choose to engage in consultations. OHCHR will continue to offer its support to organize a broad consultative process that would explore a range of models and institutions in the search for a suitable mechanism for Cambodia. The Office engaged with the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF) in this regard.



Mechanisms

M1 – Cambodia submits five reports to the human rights treaty bodies that conform with reporting guidelines and submits its State report to the UPR. It adopts an integrated and participatory approach to preparing and following up on these reports.

16 17

OHCHR contributed to the submission of two periodic reports to the human rights treaty bodies, in conformity with reporting guidelines.

UN Human Rights provided assistance to Cambodia, resulting in the timely submission of its State Party reports to CRC and ICCPR. The Government's State Party report was submitted to CESCR, albeit with some delay, following OHCHR's intervention with the CHRC. At the end of 2020, three reports remained overdue, namely, the report to CED (due in 2015 and under the responsibility of the CHRC), the report to CAT (response to

the list of issues due in 2014 and under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior) and the report to CRPD (due in 2015 and under the responsibility of the Disability Action Council (DAC)). There are indications that the reports to CED and CRPD will be submitted in 2021.

OHCHR continued its advocacy with the CHRC for the development of an implementation plan for the UPR recommendations that were issued during Cambodia's third UPR cycle. The CHRC appeared to limit its role to disseminating recommendations and compiling information received from relevant ministries and institutions but expressed keen interest in further exploring OHCHR's proposal to implement the NRTD in Cambodia.

The Cambodian National Council for Women (CNCW) actively pursued the development of an implementation plan related to CEDAW's concluding observations. The Office advocated with the CHRC and the CNCW to ensure a coordinated approach to following up on recommendations, particularly those that are interlinked. OHCHR continued to engage with the DAC to ensure that its reporting is aligned with CRPD reporting guidelines. The CRPD report was not finalized at the end of the year.

The Office engaged with the National Committee against Torture (NCAT) and the Ministry of Interior in the context of their preparation of reports to CAT and SPT. Following the country visit of SPT in 2009 and its follow-up mission in 2013, OHCHR raised the awareness of authorities about overdue reports and the need to respond to CAT's list of issues prior to the Government's submission of its third periodic report, which was due on 19 November 2014. The Ministry of Interior's Working Group on Human Rights Reporting, established in July 2019,

convened several meetings to discuss the replies received from various ministries in relation to CAT's list of issues and SPT reports. As of the end of the year, the Working Group was still waiting for replies from the police and court authorities. The role of the NCAT in the Working Group remains unclear as its status as an independent institution should preclude it from directly engaging in the production of a State Party report.

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



OHCHR contributed to substantive submissions by the NHRI, CSOs, UN entities and individuals to the treaty bodies, the special procedures and the UPR.

UN Human Rights contributed to building the capacities of CSOs to engage with the international human rights mechanisms, including by submitting inputs. On 19 November, the Office briefed 10 HRDs on how to engage with CESCR. As a result, they submitted a joint alternative report focusing on the right to adequate housing. On 12 March 2021, CESCR issued a list of issues, but the review is not expected until 2022. The Office supported a network of child rights CSOs in developing their UPR follow-up strategy. In partnership with UPR-Info and the CHRC, the Office participated in a first training of trainers workshop to build the capacity of local CSOs in monitoring and reporting on the implementation of UPR recommendations.

OHCHR facilitated the engagement of the UNCT with the Human Rights Committee and CESCR. In addition,

OHCHR conducted briefings for the UNCT members, with the participation of the HRC and CESCR Secretariat, which generated strong interest and a good turnout. These efforts enhanced the understanding and capacity of UNCT members.

In 2020, the special procedures sent 11 communications to Cambodia, representing a 366 per cent increase from 2019, when only three communications were issued. These communications covered various topics, including arbitrary detention, violence against women, HRDs, draconian laws, the right to privacy, enforced disappearance and adequate housing. Some of the communications were developed in consultation with national and international CSOs. The special procedures also issued three press statements.

Enhancing the protection of women journalists in Asia

As a journalist working in Cambodia, Kann Vicheika knows first-hand the challenges of gathering information and publicly reporting in a country where deep concerns have been expressed by UN human rights experts about government crackdowns on civil society and the media.

When she is conducting interviews, Vicheika often notices someone eavesdropping. At protests, she frequently sees the police taking photos of those who attend. She has been personally targeted with hateful and insulting comments on social media. In April, while working for the Voice of America radio broadcasting

network at a press conference in Phnom Penh, she asked the Prime Minister a series of questions about conditions for the implementation of a state of emergency law. She immediately received offensive comments.

To better equip journalists to overcome these kinds of challenges, UN Human Rights in South-East Asia collaborated with UN Women and UNESCO to launch a training programme entitled “Enhancing the protection of women journalists and women’s human rights in the context of shrinking democratic space in Asia.” The programme began on 10 December,

on the occasion of Human Rights Day. It aims to raise the awareness of journalists and media workers and enable them to exchange experiences and build networks, thereby strengthening their protection capacities, including in the area of digital safety.

Vicheika is one of the 41 journalists and media workers from 15 countries in Asia who are participating in this seven-month, self-paced innovative programme, which includes live webinar sessions. “Being verbally harassed in person and online by pro-government supporters or government officials is not new to me. I have sometimes experienced sexual harassment by journalists in field work, too,” she said. “As a woman journalist working within a macho culture in Cambodia, [the programme] is a unique opportunity to join forces with other women and men who may have experienced similar types of harassment across the region. This training is very important for my work as a freelancer, trainer and Vice-President of the Board of Cambodian Journalists Alliance and for journalists in Cambodia, especially women journalists.”



Kann Vicheika, a Cambodian journalist. © Photo courtesy of Kann Vicheika

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
25.78 million	121,000 km ²	-	-
Type of engagement		Field-based structure	
Year established		2015	
Field office(s)		Seoul, Republic of Korea (ROK)	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Strategic Framework 2017- 2021	
Staff as of 31 December 2020		9	
XB income		US\$187,246	
XB requirements 2020		US\$161,000	
XB expenditure		US\$146,776	
Personnel		Non-personnel PSC ⁴	
74%		15%	12%
\$108,368		\$21,522	\$16,886
RB expenditure		US\$929,513	
Personnel		Non-personnel	
95%		5%	
\$883,193		\$46,320	

Key OMP pillars in 2020

^{1,2,3,4} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229 and p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

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

10 **16**

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

UN Human Rights documented facts and patterns of grave human rights violations in the country, including through interviews with 46 DPRK escapees who had recently arrived in the ROK, engagement with CSOs and other relevant stakeholders and open source monitoring and documentation. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions and border closures, the number of escapees arriving in the ROK was significantly lower than in previous years. The Office continued to engage with the ROK Ministry of Unification

and requested increased access at the Government Reception Centres through a letter from the High Commissioner.

Public reporting enabled the Office to advocate with the Government of the DPRK and other Member States about issues of concern. It also provided a platform for North Korean escapees to be heard, improved the awareness of the international community regarding the human rights situation in the DPRK and contributed to a more informed public discourse. The Office's sustained human rights advocacy and evidence-based reporting led to small improvements in the human rights situation in the DPRK, including the treatment of persons in detention in some settings. In July, the Office issued a thematic report entitled "I still feel the pain," which documents human rights violations against women detained in the DPRK. The report was widely covered by national and international media and discussed in different forums, including national parliaments. In 2020, the High Commissioner sent a number of letters to the Government. In one of these letters, sent in May, the High Commissioner highlighted the impacts of economic hardship during the pandemic, emphasized the need to pay greater attention to high risk and vulnerable populations, including detainees, and the importance of accepting international solidarity and cooperation by ensuring that humanitarian actors have access to vulnerable communities.

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

10 16

OHCHR contributed to enhancing the timely consideration of critical human rights issues in international forums.

UN Human Rights made significant progress towards ensuring accountability for human rights violations in the DPRK. In March, the High Commissioner delivered an oral update pursuant to HRC resolution 40/20. A High Commissioner's report on the implementation of resolution 40/20 was finalized and shared with the Permanent Mission of the DPRK in Geneva for comments.

The central information and evidence repository was upgraded using the latest e-discovery software. Approximately 3,830 distinct files were added to the repository, such as interviews, reports, petition letters, satellite imagery, maps, court documents, videos and audio recordings. Related open source materials from the media, governments and academia were also uploaded. All relevant staff were trained on the use of the repository during online sessions.

The Office strengthened its cooperation with CSOs, legal experts, government representatives, victims and their families through information-sharing, capacity-building and exploring accountability strategies. In October, a human rights organization shared 748 petitions with the repository that it had submitted to the international human rights mechanisms. In addition, OHCHR provided select CSOs with technical advice on investigation standards for international crimes. Assistance and advice were offered to CSOs and victims' groups, which were introduced to an international criminal law practice to

support them in bringing a case to the ICC. Consideration was also given to submitting a communication under article 15 of the Rome Statute on behalf of the families of victims of enforced disappearance and abduction in the DPRK.

The Office regularly engaged with the Centre for North Korean Human Rights Records (Records Centre) of the ROK Ministry of Unification and the Ministry of Justice in order to exchange information and seek cooperation. In December, OHCHR organized a joint workshop with the Records Centre on human rights investigations and documentation in the DPRK. In October, the Office hosted an online forum with experts in the fields of criminal accountability, universal jurisdiction, corporate accountability, asset tracing/financial crime investigations and victim-centred justice to share lessons learned and examine possible avenues for accountability. In December, a workshop was organized to brief CSOs about OHCHR's accountability work, the implementation of HRC resolution 40/20 and to discuss accountability strategies.

Furthermore, OHCHR continued to analyse collected information, particularly in light of international criminal law. As part of its efforts to better understand the legal standards and procedures of the DPRK, eight DPRK laws on prosecution, public security and the administration of justice were translated from Korean to English. The Office also undertook research on the command structure of the DPRK leadership. It monitored judicial processes, including civil and criminal cases in the ROK, and civil claims brought by families and victims of enforced disappearance and abduction in Japan. These efforts helped to advance the accountability agenda in the DPRK.



Participation

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

8 16



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

UN Human Rights engaged with North Koreans living in the ROK to raise awareness, increase its interview base for monitoring and documentation, enable DPRK escapees to participate in relevant UN meetings and build their human rights capacity. Specifically, the Office organized quarterly meetings with two core groups of North Korean civil society actors in the ROK, providing a platform for regular interaction and engagement with the Office. Additionally, OHCHR engaged with DPRK escapees who have contacts inside the DPRK to receive up-to-date information on the human rights situation in light of COVID-19. In June, the Office organized a one-day training for 12 DPRK escapees on interviewing and documenting human rights violations. These initiatives strengthened the Office's engagement with the DPRK escapees and supported its outreach and advocacy work.

The Office collaborated with Member States, CSOs, academic institutions and other actors working on the DPRK, including by attending seminars and events in the ROK. The Office delivered presentations on a variety of issues, including COVID-19 and human rights, peace and human rights in the DPRK, women's rights and health in the DPRK

and denuclearization and human rights. The Office undertook an initiative to reach out to youth and held briefings and activities related to human rights for youth and university students, including at Yonsei University, Seoul National University, Korea University and Ewha Womans University. It participated in events for youth organized by the Youth Ambassador Winter Camp and briefed fellows participating in the WFUNA Peace Fellowship (January) and the Liberty in North Korea Fellowship Programme (October).

OHCHR continued to expand its media outreach activities through the production and dissemination of materials in Korean and English on its website and social media accounts. The Office provided 11 interviews and comments to the media on a range of issues, including human rights in the DPRK during the pandemic, persons with disabilities and COVID-19, separated families and enforced disappearances, civil society space in the ROK and the killing of a South Korean official by the DPRK. In addition, OHCHR created more than 100 Twitter and Facebook postings, in Korean and English, on the human rights situation in the DPRK. On the occasion of Human Rights Day, the Office launched a social media campaign, #NorthKoreanVoices, to provide a platform for North Korean people to express their views on the human rights situation in the DPRK. The website and social media posts were used by several media outlets as a source of information and the basis for stories. OHCHR's thematic report and statements and the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK, as well as the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly on the human rights situation in the DPRK, attracted significant national and international media interest.



Peace and Security

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

16 

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

UN Human Rights pursued advocacy efforts with the international community to integrate human rights as a conflict prevention tool, particularly in the context of the denuclearization and inter-Korean talks on the Korean peninsula. While these initiatives have been stalled since 2019, both the United States and the ROK continued to pursue their policy engagement with the DPRK. OHCHR regularly interacted with Member States and the international community to increase the integration of human rights issues into their diplomacy with the DPRK. In September, OHCHR released a discussion paper entitled “Laying the human rights foundations for peace: Supporting an inclusive and human rights-centred peace process in the DPRK.” The paper recommended the establishment of benchmarks for integrating human rights into the peace process and captured perceptions of the North Korean people on peace and denuclearization talks. Prior to the release of the paper, in August, the High Commissioner sent letters to the ROK, the DPRK and the United States of America, supporting public participation and the inclusion of human rights in the peace process.

The Office engaged with Member States and UN entities to ensure that the human

rights situation in the DPRK continued to be discussed in international forums. In December, the human rights situation in the DPRK was discussed in the Security Council. OHCHR regularly briefed the international community on its activities, the human rights situation in the DPRK and the work of the Special Rapporteur. The Office shared quarterly human rights updates with its diplomatic contacts and UN partners. This enabled international partners to systematically engage with the DPRK on current human rights issues. Regular coordination with DPPA, the RC and the UNCT facilitated effective collaboration on key human rights developments and ensured consistent advocacy messaging.

PS5 – Humanitarian programmes adopt a human rights-based approach and comply with the requirements of the UN's Human Rights up Front Action Plan.

3 5 8 10 13 16 

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

Inputs from UN Human Rights informed a number of sections of the UNCT's 2020 Needs and Priorities Plan for the DPRK. The Office provided regular contributions and analyses on the humanitarian situation in the DPRK, including in relation to a possible food crisis, to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) regional horizon scanning, Early Warning and Early Action report. From the end of January, the Office monitored human rights issues in the context of COVID-19 and provided human rights updates and held regular discussions, including with the RC and the UNCT.

The Office continued to advocate for the protection of the most vulnerable populations, primarily older persons, persons in detention and children. Specifically, it advocated with DPRK authorities to allow humanitarians to access places of detention and prison facilities. A mapping of the vulnerable groups, which was planned in the context of the DPRK Voluntary National Review (VNR) and in preparation for the next UNCT-DPRK Strategic Framework Partnership, was postponed until 2021. The Office advocated for the inclusion of data on the impact of sanctions on vulnerable populations.



Mechanisms

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

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

The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK continued to take a two-track approach. This consisted of highlighting the human rights violations in the country and the need to explore the full range of accountability options while also engaging in constructive discussions with the Government to find solutions to human rights issues, in cooperation with the international community. Despite these efforts, the Government continued to reject the Special Rapporteur's mandate and did not engage with him. Due to COVID-19, the Special Rapporteur was unable to undertake country visits to the ROK and other neighboring countries. OHCHR provided research support and assisted the Special Rapporteur in drafting reports to the General Assembly and

the HRC. It provided support for the preparation of draft communications, urgent appeals and press releases and supported the Special Rapporteur's advocacy and media outreach activities. The Special Rapporteur's report to the HRC, in March, focused on the rights of women, while his report to the General Assembly, in October, focused on labour rights and the human rights situation in the context of sanctions and COVID-19. Both reports were well-received and widely covered by the media, but they were categorically rejected by the DPRK.

The Office liaised with other thematic special procedures on issues of concern in the DPRK to support victims and their families to engage with the international human rights mechanisms. In 2020, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and other experts sent two communications to the DPRK: one on the hijacking of the Korean Airlines airplane by the DPRK in 1969 and another on the repatriation of hundreds of people who were abducted during the Korean War (1950-1953). The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention issued an opinion on a case involving one of the victims whose whereabouts remains unknown following the hijacking. The Human Rights Committee issued an opinion on the 12 North Korean workers who had returned to the ROK from China in 2016. The Government continued to respond to the communications and public statements issued by the special procedures with denials that human rights violations had been committed.

M1 – The Government of the DPRK submits reports to two human rights treaty bodies and participates in the UPR process.

OHCHR aimed to contribute to the development by local actors of reports to the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR.

The pandemic limited engagement with the Government and other actors on reporting to the human rights treaty bodies and following up on the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. OHCHR developed a concept note for organizing targeted capacity-development programmes for DPRK officials in Geneva and in the region. Despite an initial positive response from government interlocutors, no further progress was made due to COVID-19-related restrictions. The High Commissioner sent a number of letters to authorities to offer OHCHR's support for the implementation of recommendations issued by the UPR and in relation to the DPRK's VNR in 2021. An infographic was also included on COVID-19 and the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

The Office engaged with the UNCT and the RC to share information and encourage the UNCT to advocate with authorities on the implementation of the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. OHCHR translated the UPR recommendations into the Korean language and shared them on its website and social media accounts. A planned capacity-building programme to enable CSOs to monitor the implementation of UPR recommendations could not be organized due to COVID-19. Instead, OHCHR offered support to the CSOs working on DPRK human rights issues in the ROK on how to engage with the international human rights mechanisms.

MALDIVES

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
0.54 million	-	0.740 (rank: 95/189 in 2019)	"B" Status (2010)
Type of engagement		Human Rights Adviser	
Year established		2020	
Field office(s)		Malé	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2016-2020	
Staff as of 31 December 2020		1	

XB requirements 2020**US\$225,000****Key OMP pillars in 2020**^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229**PILLAR RESULTS:**

Accountability

A1 – Maldives maintains the moratorium on the death penalty with improved legislation related to protecting juvenile offenders.

16

OHCHR contributed to improving the level of compliance of legislation and policies with international human rights standards, in particular with regard to the situation of prisoners in the context of COVID-19.

UN Human Rights engaged with the Attorney General's Office, the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Maldives Police Service and the Maldives Correctional Service on a range of issues, including shrinking civic space, threats against HRDs, overcrowding of prisons, the transitional justice bill and the

Government's reservations to article 16 of CEDAW. In addition, the HRA's advocacy helped to secure the release of prisoners to avoid COVID-19 outbreaks in prisons and address concerns related to overcrowding in prisons.

OHCHR organized a training workshop for mid-level police officers in the Maldives on "human rights and policing in the context of COVID-19" to improve the response of police regarding key thematic issues, such as gender, migrant workers, detention and the use of force. Participating police officers will train their colleagues in other parts of the Maldives.

A2 – The Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM) is empowered to provide independent reports to the international human rights mechanisms and conduct human rights-related research and public education.

10 16

OHCHR contributed to the increased conformity with the Paris Principles of the NHRI. It also supported the engagement of authorities with the international human rights mechanisms.

UN Human Rights engaged with the HRCM on a regular basis and offered to support the development of its capacity. A training for the HRCM on human rights investigations was postponed due to COVID-19. The HRA successfully advocated for the HRCM to resume the activities of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), which were suspended at the onset of the pandemic.

OHCHR also liaised with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant line ministries to encourage the Government to submit a report in response to CEDAW's list of issues, in anticipation of its review of the Government's sixth periodic report. Due to the pandemic, the review and a preparatory workshop that was to include the participation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and relevant ministries was postponed until 2021.

The HRA also advocated for the Government to accept and facilitate the visits of various special procedures mandate holders in 2020. The visits of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism were

cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak. OHCHR followed up with authorities and the parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and Gender regarding the implementation of the recommendations issued by the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment during his November 2019 visit. During the third UPR cycle of the Maldives, in November, the Government reiterated its willingness to cooperate with the special procedures and facilitate their country visits.

Non-discrimination

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

10 16 17

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

The HRA advised the RC and the UNCT on incorporating and mainstreaming human rights into the COVID-19 response and recovery framework. The HRA also liaised with IOM to address the human rights situation of migrants following the imposition of COVID-19 restrictions. Furthermore, OHCHR provided inputs to the SERP and the CCA update. The planned training for the UNCT on the application of a human rights-based approach was postponed until 2021 due to COVID-19.

MYANMAR

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
54.41 million	677,000 km ²	0.583 (rank: 147/189 in 2019)	"B" Status (2015)
Type of engagement		Human rights staff (Other type of field presence)	
Year established		2014	
Field office(s)		Bangkok, Thailand and Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2022	
Staff as of 31 December 2020		6	

XB Income	US\$531,484
XB requirements 2020	US\$3,445,000
XB expenditure	US\$1,509,702
Personnel	Non-personnel [†] PSC [‡]
89%	-1% 12%
\$1,345,225	-\$9,164 \$173,641

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1,2,3,4} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.229 and p.231
[†] Includes prior period expenditure adjustments.

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

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

16 

OHCHR contributed to incorporating rights-based approaches into the work of the UNCT through reporting and by

co-chairing the UNCT Human Rights Theme Group (HRTG).

UN Human Rights made significant efforts to support numerous processes within the UNCT. It also took steps to assist the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator with developing the tools and mechanisms that the UNCT needs to enhance its strategic approach to prevention, in accordance with the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, the Human Rights up Front Initiative and the Rosenthal report. The most significant

success achieved in 2020 was the development and adoption of a UNCT Human Rights Strategy and implementation plan. The Strategy has four key objectives: 1) Leave No One Behind; 2) promote and protect human rights; 3) ensure that the United Nations is recognized as a credible, principled and effective actor; and 4) ensure the integration of human rights into the programmes of UN entities.

OHCHR continued to support the prevention agenda by maintaining leadership on the UNCT early warning system, which was introduced in 2019. After a six-month trial period, and in consultation with the RC and other UN entities, the Office adapted the system to suit the practical needs of the UN leadership in Myanmar and to enable it to undertake preventive actions to address emerging concerns.

The Office contributed to the drafting process of the first CCA by preparing the human rights section and ensuring the integration of human rights principles and standards into all other thematic sections and under each SDG analysis. The final CCA document is expected at the beginning of 2021.

OHCHR dedicated substantial resources to the COVID-19 response processes, providing advice and guidance on international human rights standards. To this end, the Office built on the human rights due diligence process carried out in 2019. As co-chair of the UNCT HRTG and member of the UNCT Socio-Economic Response Framework, the Office supported the application of an HRBA to all UN actions. In addition to sharing and raising awareness on OHCHR guidance documents, including the human rights indicators, the Office produced specific tools for the UNCT in Myanmar, such as an HRBA checklist to guide programme development and a human rights risk

assessment matrix, which highlights relevant international standards as they relate to immediate, mid-term and long-term risks for vulnerable rights-holders.

OHCHR also played a critical role in shaping the UNCT position and actions regarding the political elections that were held in November, identifying risks and failures by national institutions to comply with international standards and obligations.



Participation

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



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

UN Human Rights contributed to raising the awareness of civil society by disseminating and translating guidance documents on human rights during the pandemic and delivering webinars for CSOs and ethnic organizations to inform them about relevant international human rights standards. Tools for the identification of risks related to human rights violations were produced and shared. Travel restrictions impeded the systematic compilation of cases with NGOs and the capacity to reach agreements on effective ways forward. To strengthen its alliances and partnerships, the Office facilitated consultations on Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hatred between the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion

or belief and CSOs. It also organized a briefing by the Working Groups on Arbitrary Detention and on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances for approximately 10 CSO groups.

OHCHR continued to provide advice on legal developments to civil society and UN partners on issues of concern. Through the early warning reporting system, the Office informed the UNCT about problematic draft laws and orders that were adopted in response to the COVID-19 crisis. For instance, concern was raised that proposed amendments to the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law could negatively impact on freedom of movement and freedom of expression, while a local order issued in Rakhine State required individuals who were wounded in conflict to seek multiple authorizations before being transported to the hospital for medical care. The Office shared with the Special Envoy on Myanmar an analysis of risks and concerns related to the implementation of a government directive to disconnect unregistered SIM cards, potentially preventing many people from receiving life-saving information about the pandemic. These contributions led to advocacy by other UN agencies at different levels (local, national and regional).



Non-discrimination

ND1 – Select discriminatory laws, policies and practices that limit the right to equality and negatively impact on the rights of religious, ethnic and national minorities, women, children and persons with disabilities, such as the 1982 Citizenship Law and the Protection of Race and Religion Bills, are tackled and reformed or abolished.

5 10 16

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

UN Human Rights pursued its advocacy efforts aimed at repealing discriminatory laws on ethnic and religious grounds. The lack of physical access to the country limited OHCHR's ability to engage with lawmakers and organize events and discussions on various issues, such as the National Verification Cards, and required a shift to online and written outputs. This included early warning reports, submissions to the Secretary-General's annual report on the human rights situation in Myanmar and participation in webinars on issues related to citizenship rights of the Rohingya community. In addition, OHCHR engaged with the diplomatic community that is based in Myanmar and provided technical advice on the establishment of an electronic identity system in Myanmar, including by raising concerns about legislation and practices that increase the risk for discrimination, exclusion and further segregation of already marginalized communities. It also coordinated interactions with thematic experts to ensure adherence to the human rights due diligence process.

Furthermore, the Office documented violations of the human rights of members of the Rohingya and Rakhine communities in Rakhine. The Office scaled up its investigation and outreach activities to include primary sources, resulting in over 80 interviews that were conducted, in order to continue assessing violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. These activities, which included an analysis of satellite imagery, fed into the preparation of the High Commissioner's oral update to the forty-fourth session of the HRC and her report to the forty-fifth session on the Government's implementation of the recommendations issued by the IIMM. Moreover, OHCHR continued to monitor actions undertaken by the Government to implement the recommendations issued by the Rakhine Advisory Commission, including in relation to access to health, which became more relevant within the context of the pandemic. Although attempts to facilitate the organized return of Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh were halted after measures were imposed to prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as border closures, questions remain regarding the Government's genuine interest in achieving this objective. Nevertheless, the Office continued to monitor the Government's response to returning migrants to Myanmar, with particular attention paid to hate speech after a number of returnees tested positive for COVID-19. OHCHR continued to monitor maritime movements of refugees, including documenting abuses on vessels that left Bangladesh for Malaysia and the situation of refugees on vessels that returned to Bangladesh and were transferred to Bhasan Char island.

ND5 – Hate speech and acts of incitement to hostility and violence, especially those that are spread through the Internet and social media platforms, are challenged and addressed by authorities and civil society efforts to counter them are encouraged and supported.

9

OHCHR contributed to increasing the engagement of selected groups (including youth) in supporting human rights messages.

During the COVID-19 emergency, UN Human Rights strengthened its engagement with CSOs to monitor instances of hate speech and other forms of online communication that may limit the enjoyment of the rights of minority communities, in particular of Rohingya. Specifically, the Office partnered with the CSO Christian Church Aid and the Myanmar-based tech company, KoKoTech, which was awarded a grant from the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) for the development of an algorithm to monitor online hate speech. In this partnership, OHCHR provided the legal and policy basis for Christian Church Aid and the tech company to create the monitoring standards. Major substantive gaps remain, such as the shared understanding of the term "hate speech" by those who are monitoring. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, OHCHR was unable to organize structured discussions and training for CSOs to build a common baseline for the identification of hate speech. The Office used Facebook to directly address online discrimination, but due to the platform's reliance on community standards, rather than international human rights law, it was not possible to identify all instances of hate speech. As a result, limited progress was achieved. Finally, the Office worked closely with

the UNCT to identify common messages in response to cases of hate speech. The common messages have become an integral part of the UNCT's communication strategy.

Peace and Security

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

16 

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

OHCHR increased its outreach to victims and witnesses of human rights violations and abuses, in particular in conflict-affected areas. This enabled the Office to produce evidence-based reports and products and contribute to processes, such as the UNCT early warning system, with accurate human rights analysis that is based on verified information. Other actors, including the Resident Coordinator and the UNCT, expressed their appreciation for OHCHR's reliable and accurate work. In turn, the Office issued advocacy messages and provided evidence-based advice to the UN leadership in the country and to other relevant stakeholders, including within the diplomatic community.

The Office continued to monitor and report on the situation of Rohingya in the camps in Bangladesh, alerting the UN leadership about emerging concerns. These concerns included a general

deterioration of living conditions that were caused by the actions of the Government of Bangladesh, including a shutdown of the Internet, fencing of the camps and increased militarization. This led desperate Rohingya to flee by boats that were operated by smugglers, resulting in hundreds of people being stranded at sea for months. OHCHR provided first-hand accounts of refugees in the context of the decision of the Government to move Rohingya from the camps in Cox's Bazar to the isolated Bhashan Char island.

Mechanisms

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

16 17 

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

Restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and the additional workload imposed on stakeholders prevented the planned establishment of a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF). As a result, UN Human Rights undertook several actions to ensure follow-up on advocacy and coordination. In view of Myanmar's upcoming UPR review, the Office worked closely with the UNCT to support information gathering and the drafting of the report, which assesses the implementation of the recommendations issued during the second UPR cycle. OHCHR compiled the UNCT submission, outlined recommendations and facilitated the preparation of an annex to the UPR report on the Government's

responses to COVID-19. Accordingly, the Office designed tracking and monitoring tools to emphasize their specific relevance for each UN entity in Myanmar. A similar tracking and monitoring matrix was shared with international NGOs to facilitate the compilation of submissions for the stakeholders' report. In preparation for the High Commissioner's report to the HRC's forty-fifth session on the implementation of the FFM's recommendations, OHCHR engaged with various UN entities, international CSOs and other stakeholders and sought contributions in connection with the recommendations. The Office also assisted Rohingya civil society groups in the camps in Cox's Bazar to compile a report on the situation facing Rohingya in Myanmar. This was the first report submitted to the UPR by Rohingya civil society in the camps. Finally, OHCHR prepared an advocacy flyer on COVID-19 and human rights, summarizing the main recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies, the reports of the High Commissioner, the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar and the reports of the FFM.

THE PACIFIC

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu
Year established	2005
Field office(s)	Suva, Fiji
UN partnership framework	United Nations Pacific Strategy 2018-2022
Staff as of 31 December 2020	10

XB income	US\$1,070,708		
XB requirements 2020	US\$2,813,000		
XB expenditure	US\$1,058,347		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴	
60%	29%	11%	
\$636,752	\$303,654	\$117,940	
RB expenditure	US\$209,587		
Personnel	Non-personnel		0%
100%			
\$209,495			\$93

Key OMP pillars in 2020



⁴ Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

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

16

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

In 2020, UN Human Rights, the Fiji Police Force (FPF) and other partners collaborated to conduct a series of police human rights trainings across Fiji, with support from the Commissioner of Police, the Director of the Fiji Police Academy and the senior management of the FPF. Spanned over two days in each division, the training aimed at providing police officers with a solid understanding of international human rights principles, the functioning of the human rights system

and the relationship between international human rights law and law enforcement in Fiji, with a focus on the use of force, the prevention of torture and the recourse to state of emergency measures. Participants also learned about promoting and protecting the human rights of vulnerable groups in society and during states of emergency.

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 improved compliance with international human rights standards of laws and policies in relation to the rights of the child, land rights, independence of the judiciary and cybercrime.

UN Human Rights made an oral submission to the Parliament of Fiji calling for the ratification of the OP-CRC-SC. The Government ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child 15 years ago. The Office clarified the crimes prohibited under the OP-CRC-SC and recalled the concerns expressed by the Committee in its 2014 concluding observations on the prevalence of sexual exploitation and abuse of children in Fiji. OHCHR also highlighted the findings of the UN's COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) with regard to the situation of children and the increased risk of poverty and child exploitation and raised awareness about the national laws and policies that would need to be amended or adopted following the ratification of the OP-CRC-SC. Moreover, the Office briefed the Parliament of Fiji, on 16 June, on the OP-CRC-AC and advocated for its ratification and the adoption of a “straight

18” policy that prohibits both the compulsory and voluntary recruitment of children into the armed forces. In March 2021, Fiji ratified the Optional Protocol.

On 23 June, the Office and UNODC made joint virtual submissions to the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights of the Parliament of Fiji on the Cybercrime Bill 2020. The submissions provided legal and technical guidance on issues surrounding offences against the confidentiality, integrity and availability of computer data and computer systems, computer-related and content-related offences, international cooperation and procedural measures.

On 22 May, OHCHR filed a written submission with the Parliament of Samoa on three bills (the Judicature Bill 2020, the Constitution Amendment Bill 2020 and the Land and Titles Bill 2020), highlighting potential violations of the Government’s obligations under ICCPR and provisions that require adjustments. The Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, CSOs and the NHRI also made submissions.

In the context of COVID-19, the Office provided clarification about international human rights obligations assumed by States, including with regard to the imposition of states of emergency, and their compatibility with ICCPR.



Mechanisms

M1 – More Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) ratify at least one core international human rights treaty.

16 17

OHCHR contributed to the implementation of international human rights treaties by countries in the region and to the follow-up on recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, with a focus on the rights of the child.

Throughout the year, UN Human Rights implemented capacity-building activities in relation to international human rights treaties for government officials from the region. Together with the Pacific Community, the Office supported the participation of government delegations from the **Cook Islands**, the **Federated States of Micronesia** and **Tuvalu** in mock sessions to prepare for a constructive dialogue with the Committee on the Rights of the Child, prior to its eighty-fourth extraordinary session. The mock sessions, held in Apia, Samoa, from 2 to 6 March, resulted in more substantive and focused discussions with the Committee and more focused and context-specific concluding observations. During the Apia sessions, the Office helped to organize a thematic discussion on climate change and the rights of the child and a side event was held on climate change and youth. After the sessions, OHCHR facilitated outreach activities with CRC members, including a public lecture by Mr. Bragi Gudbrandsson on the issue of child sex abuse. The lecture was delivered at the University of the South Pacific and was attended by key government officials from Fiji, who gained a better understanding of how to address these cases in a child-centred manner.

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

16 17

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

In 2020, the Governments of the **Republic of Marshall Islands** and **Nauru** submitted their reports in anticipation of their third UPR cycle reviews. Throughout the year, UN Human Rights drafted inputs and coordinated the writing of joint UNCT reports for the UPR by the **Federated States of Micronesia**, **Nauru**, **Palau** and the **Solomon Islands**, which led to strengthened relations with governments and UNCTs in the Pacific.

OHCHR continued to engage with national coordinating bodies for the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR. Due to its collaboration with the NMRF in **Samoa**, the Office played a key role in supporting the participation of government representatives from Samoa in the General Assembly’s SDG Lab on VNRs in July. Samoa’s streamlined reporting process to the human rights treaty bodies, UPR and the VNR was featured as an example of a good practice at the international level.

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

16 17

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

In collaboration with the Human Rights and Social Development Division of the South Pacific Community, UN Human Rights continued to engage with the NMRFs in the region, including Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and Vanuatu. In particular, the Office provided guidance to develop legislation and terms of reference for the NMRF in **Kiribati**. An NMRF was established in **Tonga** through a decision that was adopted by the Cabinet in 2020.

In addition, OHCHR carried out capacity-building activities with NMRFs. In July, the Office launched the *Pacific principles of practice* during a side event at the forty-fourth session of the HRC. The document provides NMRFs with guidance on the effective implementation of human rights and SDGs and is based on efforts that began in 2015, following a regional workshop that was held in Fiji. Despite COVID-19 travel restrictions, the Office organized hybrid online and in-person trainings for NMRFs. In August, it delivered a training to the **Kiribati** National Human Rights Taskforce on CAT. In December, the Office trained government officials from **Papua New Guinea** on CRC.

Non-discrimination

ND6 – NHRIs increase their capacity to monitor the human rights of migrants affected by climate change and exercise oversight.

1 2 3 4 5 6 8 10 11
13 16 

OHCHR contributed to increased levels of compliance with international human rights standards of policies and practices related to migration and climate change.

UN Human Rights supported the formation of the Technical Advisory Group under the joint UN inter-agency Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security programme. Due to COVID-19, an in-person meeting, originally planned for March, was redesigned and delivered as a series of four webinars, over six weeks, in July and August. The discussions examined how climate migration is experienced and addressed within the Pacific at the national and regional levels. Key policy and legal gaps were outlined that relate to climate change, migration, displacement and planned relocation. Participants assessed whether migration that is voluntarily undertaken as a response to climate change is a viable adaptation approach for small PICTs. They also explored the dynamics of such migrations and developed key messages on climate-related migration, displacement and planned relocation for future discussions with policymakers in the Pacific. Recommendations emanating from the discussions provided the starting point for the Regional Policy Dialogue on climate change-related migration, displacement and planned relocation.

Development

D2 – The Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission, the Fiji Chamber of Commerce and Industry, CSOs in Fiji, the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji and relevant government departments provide human rights training as a matter of course.

1 2 3 5 8 9 13 16 17

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

UN Human Rights organized the first UN Pacific Forum on Business and Human Rights. The Forum enabled partners, including HRDs, to hold fruitful discussions with businesses and share different perspectives with the objective of identifying and pursuing mutually beneficial ways to prevent, mitigate and remedy the adverse impacts of business activities on human rights. Discussions also focused on how private sector organizations can improve their human rights due diligence when assessing their supply chains and business practices. Participants included representatives from the private sector, UN entities, CSOs, HRDs and academia. Specific sessions were held on the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and the need for Pacific States to commit to developing national plans of action on business and human rights. The Forum unpacked the UNGP pillars, highlighting the responsibilities of States and businesses and providing analytical summaries of possible grievance mechanisms to ensure the availability of effective remedies for victims of rights violations.

Furthermore, the Office continued to raise awareness about the UNGPs by providing capacity-building workshops to HRDs, State representatives and business actors in the Pacific. A one-month capacity-building course was held, during which participants discussed a variety of human rights issues affecting businesses in the Pacific, including corruption, modern day slavery in the fishing sector and labour practices in the construction and retail industries.



Participation

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

16

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

UN Human Rights intensified its engagement with NHRIs, CSOs, youth organizations and developmental stakeholders in the Pacific region on issues related to climate change, business and human rights. New partnerships were created or reinforced, which enabled OHCHR to empower marginalized and vulnerable groups to participate in development discussions. The Office increased its advocacy with Pacific States on inclusive and people-centred approaches. Following the adoption of HRC decision 43/115, OHCHR convened a meeting with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders. The

discussion identified entry points to enable the mandate holder to support and engage with HRDs in the Pacific. This engagement included assistance with a course on HRDs, which will be launched at the University of the South Pacific in collaboration with the Regional Office for the Pacific. In addition, OHCHR held a workshop on climate change and youth in the Pacific, which sought to explore the impact of climate change on human rights and demonstrate how youth groups involved in climate action can use the international human rights mechanisms in cases of human rights violations. Moreover, the event underscored some of the ways in which youth groups can advocate with States at the HRC and the General Assembly. Advice was also provided on how to liaise with the special procedures.

Before the advent of travel restrictions, the Office continued to undertake scoping missions in the **Marshall Islands, PNG, Tuvalu** and **Vanuatu** to understand and analyse trends, risks, developments and challenges related to WHRDs. A number of WHRDs from these countries joined the Pacific Human Rights Defenders Network.

PHILIPPINES

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
109.58 million	300,000 km ²	0.718 (rank: 107/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2012)
Type of engagement		Human Rights Adviser	
Year established		2014	
Field office(s)		Manila	
UN partnership framework		Philippines-United Nations Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development 2019-2023	
Staff as of 31 December 2020		1	

XB requirements 2020

US\$279,000

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229

PILLAR RESULTS:

Mechanisms

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

16 17 

OHCHR contributed to the improved engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

UN Human Rights held consultations with the Presidential Human Rights Committee (PHRC) to discuss ways to strengthen its reporting and follow-up activities and the formulation of the UN Joint Programme on Human Rights. An agreement was reached to include the roll-out of a human rights database and relevant training in the UN Joint Programme plan for 2021. The Committee also agreed to advocate for the formal adoption of the NPM Act.

The UN Joint Programme on Human Rights will aim at strengthening domestic accountability measures, including by: establishing pathways for the comprehensive investigation of cases of alleged human rights violations; strengthening the Administrative Order No. 35 mechanism and advancing the NPM Act; enhancing victim and witness protection; and applying a human rights-based approach to counter-terrorism activities and efforts to combat the illegal drug trade.

During the year, high-level government officials expressed their willingness to cooperate with the international human rights mechanisms, including during negotiations on HRC resolution 45/33. The Government's approach facilitated the adoption of resolution 45/33 on capacity-building and technical cooperation on 7 October. This willingness to engage with the international human

rights mechanisms was reiterated at the highest level during the 2020 Department of Justice Human Rights Summit, which was held from 4 to 10 December.

The Government remained reluctant to allow special procedures to visit the Philippines and no official missions took place in 2020. During the second half of the year, however, the Government increased the number of its responses to communications sent by the special procedures.

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

17 

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

The Government and civil society actors engaged in the process leading to the publication of the High Commissioner's report on the situation of human rights in the Philippines (A/HRC/44/22), in June, and the subsequent negotiations on the HRC resolution. CSOs conducted advocacy and representatives from the Ateneo Human Rights Centre and the Human Rights Commission of the Philippines (HRCP) participated in a panel during the Council's session. UN Human Rights engaged with the HRCP and civil society actors to ensure that their views were integrated into the UN Joint Programme on Human Rights, which was developed in accordance with the six areas outlined in the resolution.

OHCHR continued to support submissions by the NHRI and CSOs to the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures and the UPR. In 2020, a number of CSOs

submitted information to: the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary killings; and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders.

The Human Rights Committee's consideration of the fifth periodic report of the Philippines was postponed. In January, eight CSOs submitted reports to the Committee in anticipation of its adoption of the list of issues in relation to the Philippines. As of the end of the year, the Government's response to the list of issues was not yet published.

Development

D7 – The UNCT integrates human rights norms, standards and principles into the formulation and implementation of programmes and projects.

OHCHR significantly contributed to the integration of human rights norms into activities implemented in relation to the Philippines-United Nations Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development 2019-2023.

UN Human Rights provided inputs regarding the process of updating the CCA, which had a strong focus on socio-economic development, in order to improve the economic conditions of the most vulnerable populations.

The HRA also contributed to the preparation of the UNCT's Socio-Economic and Peacebuilding Framework for COVID-19 Recovery in the Philippines. The Framework, which was finalized in December, includes a thorough analysis of the groups that are at the highest risk of being left behind and applies a human rights-based approach to the three pillars.

In a positive development, the UN Joint Programme on Human Rights, which is scheduled to be launched in 2021, is included under the People Pillar, situating it firmly within the programmatic framework.

Participation

P2 – The UN system and international, regional and national mechanisms provide increased, timely and effective protection to CSOs and individuals, including from reprisals.

OHCHR contributed to the increased protection of HRDs and journalists through advocacy and outreach.

UN Human Rights increased its interventions to protect HRDs. The Office issued a press release on the killing of two HRDs, in August, and intensified its private advocacy activities. Subsequently, the Government announced a special investigation into the two killings. OHCHR strengthened its outreach to HRDs facing risks and red-tagging (whereby government officials label individuals as communists, putting them at risk of human rights violations) and engaged with UNESCO to address the situation of journalists at risk in the Philippines.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
8.95 million	463,000 km ²	0.555 (rank: 155/189 in 2019)	-
Type of engagement		Human Rights Adviser	
Year established		2008	
Field office(s)		Port Moresby	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Partnership Framework 2018–2022	
Staff as of 31 December 2020		2	

XB requirements 2020

US\$1,075,000

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229

PILLAR RESULTS:

Development

D7 – The UNCT actively works with the Government and civil society to address the latest UPR recommendations to Papua New Guinea (PNG) through their integration into the implementation of the UNDAF.

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

UN Human Rights supported the UNCT in integrating a human rights-based approach into the COVID-19 SERP. The HRA provided support for the implementation of the UNCT human rights and gender strategy and the integration of a Disability Inclusion Strategy into UN programming in PNG.

The HRA delivered online training on human rights monitoring to a network of CSOs, which enabled the Office to monitor ESCRs during the COVID-19-related lockdown and state of emergency measures. As a result of this collaboration, OHCHR produced weekly and monthly reports on the human rights situation in the country, which were used by the UNCT to take action on key issues, including the excessive use of force by security officers, the lack of access to basic services of vulnerable groups and an increased prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Furthermore, the HRA participated in humanitarian coordination meetings, including those of the Protection Cluster, and brought human rights issues to the attention of relevant government authorities.

Mechanisms

M1 – PNG ratifies at least two additional international human rights instruments, including CAT, and one or more of the optional protocols to ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW and CRC. The Government strengthens its reporting to the human rights treaty bodies, the coordination of its reports and its engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

16 17

OHCHR supported improved mechanisms for integrated reporting to the international human rights mechanisms.

To ensure the wide participation of stakeholders in the UPR review process, UN Human Rights supported the Government in carrying out consultations in three regions, including Port Moresby. In cooperation with UNICEF, the HRA established a working group for reporting to CRC, which enabled consultations with stakeholders and a division of labour between departments for the collection of information required for reporting. The Government was unable to continue its preparation of the State Party report under ICCPR due to COVID-19.

Peace and Security

PS4 – The Autonomous Bougainville Government develops a comprehensive policy to address past, present and future human rights violations and promote reconciliation with respect to past conflicts in Bougainville.

16

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

During the Bougainville parliamentary elections, in August and September, UN Human Rights enhanced the capacity of community-based human rights advocates to use human rights monitoring checklists and facilitated focus group discussions. At the same time, OHCHR monitored the situation of human rights through the activities of the groups and provided regular updates to the UNCT on human rights issues related to the elections.



Non-discrimination

ND6 – Civil society organizations and the Government increasingly monitor and address human rights violations suffered by refugees, migrants and targeted vulnerable groups, advocate on their behalf and produce regular public reports.



OHCHR contributed to the monitoring of the human rights situation of vulnerable groups, with a focus on asylum seekers and refugees.

UN Human Rights monitored the human rights situation of asylum seekers, particularly those living near the West Papua border area and those remaining in PNG after the closure of the Australian regional processing centre on Manus Island. The monitoring revealed poor living conditions and the lack of capacity of local authorities to address the protection concerns of the refugees. OHCHR referred the complaints received to relevant government bodies and UNHCR. A planned joint visit by UNHCR and OHCHR and related trainings were cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam
Year established	2002
Field office(s)	Bangkok, Thailand
Staff as of 31 December 2020	21

XB income	US\$4,213,930		
XB requirements 2020	US\$4,679,000		
XB expenditure	US\$3,366,435		
	Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴
	64%	24%	12%
	\$2,153,979	\$807,744	\$404,712
RB expenditure	US\$626,964		
	Personnel	Non-personnel	
	89%	11%	
	\$560,487	\$66,477	

Key OMP pillars in 2020



⁴ Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:



Participation

P1 – Civil society can operate more freely and civic space is more fully protected by laws and policies and in practice. Civil society organizations engage more often and more fully with the international human rights mechanisms. The communications of special procedures more frequently highlight the challenges that civil society faces in the region.

16

OHCHR contributed to strengthening the protection and empowerment of civil society actors, including women journalists.

On 10 December, UN Human Rights collaborated with UN Women, UNESCO and regional CSOs to launch a series of webinars for women journalists and media workers. A total of 41 participants took part in the programme, which will continue for seven months, to strengthen networking across the region, provide a space for sharing experiences and disseminate practical information about ways to enhance digital/online security and self-protection. The Office also supported the ICJ and Article 19 to bolster their capacities in relation to their engagement on cyber issues and freedom of expression, respectively.

P6 – The voices of people who are affected by decisions, particularly victims and those facing discrimination, are more clearly heard.



OHCHR provided technical support to empower rights-holders, especially youth, women and vulnerable groups, to participate in public processes and engage with the international human rights mechanisms to claim their rights.

UN Human Rights increased its engagement with youth to address climate change and environmental issues. Through a joint UNICEF/OHCHR/UNEP regional initiative, 17 youth experts from eight Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries joined ASEAN experts in drafting 37 principles to guide the realization of children's right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

In **Indonesia** and **Malaysia**, OHCHR continued to work closely with WHRDs and LGBTI groups, supporting their engagement with the international human rights mechanisms. In July, the Office facilitated the online engagement of WHRDs with the CEDAW pre-sessional working group. This resulted in contributions that were submitted to the Committee prior to its adoption of the list of issues in relation to Indonesia's initial and periodic reports. In November, the Office conducted a webinar with WHRDs in **Indonesia** on enhancing human rights monitoring, reporting and documentation skills. Particular emphasis was placed on interacting with the special procedures, the Human Rights Committee and CEDAW ahead of Indonesia's reviews by these mechanisms in 2021.

In **Indonesia**, the Office facilitated a virtual consultation between the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth,

justice, reparation and guarantees of non-occurrence with NHRIs, namely, the National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) and the Commission on Violence against Women (Komnas Perempuan). Discussions focused on legal and political challenges and opportunities underlying the design and implementation of national transitional justice strategies and mechanisms in Indonesia.

In **Lao PDR** and **Viet Nam**, OHCHR provided support to CSOs to prioritize emblematic cases for submission to the special procedures, including on ESCRs. In September, submissions were made to CRC in advance of the pre-sessional working group on Viet Nam. OHCHR facilitated a meeting between Vietnamese CSOs and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders to support the exchange of information on cases. With OHCHR's support, a CSO from Lao PDR submitted a report to a number of special procedures, which resulted in a joint allegation letter that was sent to the Government on the rights to food, housing, health, the environment and the situation of the Hmong community.



Development

D3 – In the subregion, relevant ministries, departments and parliamentary committees incorporate human rights standards and frameworks when they fulfil their mandates on land, housing and poverty. They also give due attention to gender concerns.



OHCHR contributed to improving the compliance with international human rights standards of laws and policies related to the environment and land.

In **Indonesia** and **Malaysia**, UN Human Rights advocated for better compliance with international human rights standards of legislation and policies on the land rights of indigenous peoples. The Office provided support to strengthen the capacities of NHRIs and CSOs in monitoring, documenting and reporting violations of environmental, land and human rights. In **Indonesia**, the Office supported the engagement of the UNCT with the Government on draft legislation, including on proposed amendments to the Criminal Code and the recently adopted Omnibus Law that could potentially violate international human rights law, particularly the rights of indigenous peoples and environmental rights.

Furthermore, OHCHR cooperated with FAO on a regional study on the right to food of indigenous peoples and its connection to land rights, climate and the environment. The study will be launched in 2021 and will be used to inform advocacy with governments and other stakeholders.

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



OHCHR contributed to enhancing the integration of international human rights standards into climate change and environment policies.

UN Human Rights joined the Issue-based Coalition on Climate Change Mitigation and Air Pollution in the Asia-Pacific region and provided inputs to the regional advocacy messages. The Office also supported the development of a joint regional UN advocacy strategy on Air Pollution for Asia and the Pacific. In addition, OHCHR and UNDP co-organized a side event on HRDs at the United Nations Virtual Forum on Responsible Business and Human Rights and on human rights and the environment with UNEP/OECD. The Office collaborated with UNEP and UNICEF to organize a virtual expert group meeting on policy guidance for promoting and protecting children's rights to a healthy environment in the ASEAN region, with the participation of a CRC member and the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. In addition, the Office partnered with UNEP to produce a regional study on the impacts of COVID-19 on environmental rights. On the occasion of World Environment Day, the Office released a statement, launched a video on climate change and posted on its social media platforms to raise awareness about the relationship between climate change, the environment and human rights.

D7 – UNCTs and UN agencies in UNDAF roll-out countries (2018-2021) and countries that support separate SDG planning or programming have adopted a rights-based approach to development planning and implementation that complies with international human rights norms, standards and principles.

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

UN Human Rights supported the integration of human rights, gender equality and the principle of LNOB into the preparation and adoption of new CCAs and UNSDCFs in China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Maldives, Myanmar, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. The Office provided training and technical advice to UNCTs and UN partners. Online training sessions were provided to **Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand**. In Indonesia, OHCHR delivered a training on the use of human rights indicators and markers in UNCT-led initiatives and programmatic responses.

The Office contributed extensively to the CCA process in **Lao PDR and Viet Nam**. It supported the mainstreaming of human rights and the LNOB principle throughout the process, drafted human rights content and supported a multidimensional risk analysis by the UNCT. As a result, the draft CCAs include key recommendations that were issued by the international human rights mechanisms. Moreover, the Office provided expert advice to ensure the mainstreaming of human rights into the SEIAs and SERPs of **Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar and Viet Nam**.

OHCHR contributed to the drafting of the UNSDCFs of China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Timor-Leste. **Indonesia's**

UNSDCF is considerably stronger than the previous UN Partnership Framework. It focuses on non-discrimination and identifies risks associated with stigma and discrimination against marginalized groups as factors that could jeopardize the achievement of the SDGs. The UNSDCF of **Malaysia** is expected to be signed in June 2021.

The Issue-based Coalition on Human Rights, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, which was established, in March, as part of the UN Development System Reform and is co-chaired by OHCHR, supported the preparation of a Guidance Note on including gender equality and human rights in rapid assessments and socio-economic surveys on the impact of COVID-19. It also developed other tools and resources, such as common messaging for UNCTs and a repository of resources in support of COVID-19 response and recovery. OHCHR was closely involved in the development of SERPs for **Lao PDR, Malaysia and Myanmar**, which were identified as good examples of the integration of human rights.

OHCHR co-led and provided secretariat support for the Asia-Pacific Human Rights Network, which includes UN staff from regional and country presences. In 2020, during the course of six meetings, the Network focused on enabling UNCTs to make use of information issued by the international human rights mechanisms. In 2021, the Network will be merged with the Issue-based Coalition on Human Rights, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. To celebrate Human Rights Day, the Issue-based Coalition organized a 10-day social media campaign engaging 12 regional UN entities. Thirty stories from across the region were shared, highlighting the perspectives of youth, defenders of the environment and

indigenous peoples and LGBTI activists. Discussions included the right to health and the rights of persons with disabilities. A regional public online event was organized on the transformation of economies with a greater focus on human rights and gender equality.

The Office provided advice for the integration of human rights into the Twelfth Malaysia Plan, including through inputs to the draft UNCT Policy brief on human rights and development for the Twelfth Malaysia Plan and the mapping of follow-up to accepted UPR recommendations. OHCHR participated in the regional support group for the UNCT in Nepal to pilot the interim guidance on the operationalization of the LNOB principle.



Non-discrimination

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



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

The High Commissioner for Human Rights wrote a letter to the Prime Minister of Thailand, advocating for the rights of persons deprived of their liberty in the context of COVID-19, including regular detainees and migrants in Immigration Detention Centres (IDCs). This contributed to ending the detention of children in IDCs. In addition, OHCHR provided inputs to a letter from the RC to the Police General, who is responsible for the Immigration Bureau and IDCs, regarding action to be taken to enhance the rights of detained migrants during the pandemic.

Furthermore, the Office released a public statement, in April, highlighting the structural vulnerabilities faced by migrants in the context of the COVID-19 response. It called on governments to take specific action to protect the human rights of migrants. OHCHR continued to monitor, document and internally report on the situation of migrants in the Asia-Pacific region and to advocate for a human rights-based response to migration and COVID-19. The Office provided assistance to UNCTs to strengthen the protection of the rights of migrants in COVID-19 responses in countries such as Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, the Maldives and Thailand. It drafted a chapter on border governance and mainstreamed human rights into the Asia-Pacific Migration Report, which was launched by ESCAP and other partners on 18 December. The Office held a virtual session on rights-based border management for the Maldives Police and translated OHCHR's training materials on human rights at international borders into regional languages. In May, OHCHR organized a virtual expert consultation on the role of Private Security and Military Companies in immigration enforcement in the Asia-Pacific region. The Office was invited to co-chair the workstream on disaster displacement of the Issues-based Coalition on

Building Resilience and it organized a virtual conversation, in December, between 15 RCs from the region and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons.



Peace and Security

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



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

UN Human Rights Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) made good progress in strengthening human rights risk analysis in support of UNCTs, in line with the Human Rights up Front Initiative and the prevention agenda. The early warning system established in Myanmar, in 2019, was an example of a system-based approach to human rights risk identification and analysis for the UN. In 2020, the ERT was closely involved in strengthening human rights risk analysis in the CCAs for a number of countries in the region. With regard to the Thailand CCA, the ERT worked with the Thailand Team and SDG focal point, delivered risk analysis training to the UNCT/CCA drafting team and provided written inputs for the development of the risk analysis. The ERT also facilitated a human rights stocktaking exercise in Lao PDR, in February, which created the basis for a strong human rights risk

analysis in the draft CCA. In addition, the ERT delivered a workshop on risk analysis to the CCA drafting team in **Viet Nam** and prepared a draft risk matrix, which was included in the draft CCA.

In May, OHCHR and the UN Disaster Risk Reduction Office co-organized a webinar on human rights and COVID-19, with a focus on the rights of migrants, racism, xenophobia and hate speech, the impact of emergency measures on freedom of expression and the situation of persons deprived of their liberty. The Office's ERT contributed analysis to inter-agency initiatives, including inputs to the Secretary-General's policy brief on the impact of COVID-19 on South-East Asia and to a UNDP study on lessons for pandemic recovery.

The emerging crises in **Thailand**, resulting from the Government's response to the student-led pro-democracy movement, became an increasing area of focus as of July. The ERT produced regular reports as the situation developed. Following the adoption of the Omnibus Law in **Indonesia**, similar crises are emerging with the potential for severe consequences for economic and social rights, gender equality and environmental rights. This was a focus for the ERT in its rapid response function.

The ERT also increased OHCHR's visibility in IASC structures, including through contributions to the Regional Emergency Preparedness Group, the Reference Group on Gender in Humanitarian Action, the Risk Communications and Community Engagement Working Group and the COVID-19 Working Group. The ERT developed key messages for risk communications about COVID-19 for vulnerable groups, such as persons deprived of their liberty.

Furthermore, the information management function of the ERT was critical in supporting the early warning media analysis, which informed the risk analysis and prevention work of the Office. More specifically, the ERT used the NewsDesk system for the development of the Daily News Digest and the DEEP platform and Tableau for its analysis and visualization work. A dashboard on special procedures communications relating to fundamental freedoms and civic space was created for countries in the Asia region.

The NHRI Human Rights in Humanitarian Action community of practice continued to be supported during the COVID-19 crisis through a series of webinars. NHRI participants made significant progress in engaging on human rights in the context of COVID-19.



Mechanisms

M1 – NRMFs are established or strengthened. They report to the human rights treaty bodies and implement recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

16 17

OHCHR supported the creation and/or strengthening of mechanisms for integrated reporting and/or implementation of the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

UN Human Rights conducted two workshops on reporting to the human rights treaty bodies (in **Malaysia** and **Thailand**) and increased the profile of the National Recommendations Tracking Database to promote NRMFs among Member States. In 2020, the roll-out was in progress in **Thailand**, a formal request was received from **Malaysia** and was under

consideration and a roll-out was under consideration by **Cambodia**. The Office delivered a capacity-building training to the NHRI of **Malaysia**, with the participation of two CED experts, which included a discussion on the ratification process of ICPPED.

In **Malaysia**, no direct activities were initiated to enhance the capacity of the Government to ratify outstanding treaties, which was primarily due to a shift in the Government's priorities. Yet, discussions continued with the Government on increasing its capacity to systematically implement the recommendations emanating from the international human rights mechanisms, with a focus on the submission of timely and quality reports and the UPR follow-up process. Advocacy efforts were also directed at establishing an NRMF.

Strengthening the engagement of indigenous peoples in Asia with the international human rights mechanisms



During the regional consultation, in Bangkok, in November 2020, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, the former Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, met with representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. © OHCHR/Todd Pitman

The voices of indigenous peoples are often excluded from the mainstream conversations where they are most needed. This situation is even more critical in Asia, which is home to more than two-thirds of the world's indigenous peoples – totalling approximately 400 million.

In an effort to bridge this gap, the UN Human Rights Regional Office for South-East Asia partnered with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) and the Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education to hold a regional consultation, in November 2019. The conference brought together more than 100 representatives of

indigenous peoples, including academics, lawyers and representatives of CSOs from across Asia. Inputs gathered during the meeting were instrumental in the preparation of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples. The report was presented to the Human Rights Council, in September.

To continue these discussions, UN Human Rights collaborated with the Special Rapporteur and the AIPP to deliver two webinars, on 30 October and 26 November, during which the Special Rapporteur briefed indigenous representatives on the report's findings and a plan to implement its recommendations.

The webinars focused on land rights, climate change, the environment and HRDs and provided a meaningful platform for participants to engage with the Special Rapporteur.

The online sessions “proved timely and were very much needed,” said Alice Mathew, a native of Malaysian Borneo and the Regional Office's Senior Indigenous Fellow. “It is crucial to keep up the momentum and amplify indigenous voices, particularly in Asia,” she added. “We need more dialogue spaces with different stakeholders to exchange experiences, highlight challenges and share our best practices for solutions. While the richness and effectiveness of in-person discussions with the Special Rapporteur may not be replaced by online platforms, they give indigenous peoples direct access to the Special Rapporteur, humanize the UN mechanisms and offer a platform to exchange information and find joint solutions to the challenges we face. We cannot build back better unless the voices of indigenous peoples are heard.”

A final webinar in the series, focused on sustainable development, will be held in 2021.

SRI LANKA

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
21.41 million	66,000 km ²	0.782 (rank: 72/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2018)
Type of engagement		Human Rights Adviser	
Year established		2004	
Field office(s)		Colombo	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Sustainable Development Framework 2018-2022	
Staff as of 31 December 2020		4	
XB requirements 2020		US\$1,018,000	

Key OMP pillars in 2020

^{1 2 3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability

A2 – Sri Lanka, in accordance with HRC resolution 30/1, implements a comprehensive transitional justice strategy that is victim-oriented, gender-sensitive and in compliance with international human rights standards. This strategy includes an Office for Missing Persons (OMP), a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, a reparations programme and a credible, independent judicial accountability mechanism with a special counsel and the participation of foreign legal experts.

10 16

OHCHR contributed to the creation and/or functioning of oversight, accountability and protection mechanisms that operate in conformity with international human rights standards.

UN Human Rights continued to support transitional justice mechanisms, despite

the changing human rights environment. The OMP produced a landmark, comprehensive list of missing and disappeared persons and the Office for Reparations developed a draft policy which, if approved by the Cabinet, could offer basic redress to some categories of victims. No progress was made, however, with regards to the establishment of a truth commission or other accountability processes. Instead, the accountability agenda suffered serious pushbacks in the form of interference with court cases, scrutiny of former investigators and surveillance of CSOs that are active in this area.


Mechanisms

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

16 17

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

The new Government retained the standing invitation to the special procedures, however, no visits took place in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. Provided that travel restrictions are lifted in 2021, two visits are being planned by the Special Rapporteur on the right to education and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences. UN Human Rights offered support to the mandate holders, resulting in five communications that were issued in 2020 and two reports on past visits.


Peace and Security

PS5 – The Human Rights Working Group (HRWG) acts as an early warning mechanism in the event that the human rights situation deteriorates. It also contributes to the application of a human rights-based approach to specific programmes.

3 5 8 10 13 16 17 

OHCHR supported the integration of human rights into the programme policies of UN entities, with a focus on early warning and prevention.

UN Human Rights contributed to analysis and advice from the RC to the UNCT and headquarters. In addition, the RCO led a Conflict Risk Analysis for the UNCT,

with the support of the HRA, which emphasized prevention.

In 2020, the UNCT strengthened its application of the HRDDP. More specifically, it produced a general and preliminary HRDDP risk assessment for Sri Lanka and facilitated the preparation of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the implementation of the HRDDP. It also established a UNCT HRDDP Task Force that works alongside the HRWG.

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

16

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

With assistance from UN Human Rights, the HRCSL continued to screen peacekeepers in 2020, using the tools developed in 2018. Unfortunately, the formal independence of the Commission was significantly weakened through constitutional amendments that were introduced in October. The new commissioners were appointed in December. The procedure may have to be reviewed.



Development

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

1 11

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

UN Human Rights continued to advocate in relation to land issues. It closely followed the establishment of problematic bodies, such as the Presidential Task Force for Archaeological Heritage Management in the Eastern Province, which appear to primarily represent majority community sensitivities. While it is not expected that the Government will make further progress in establishing independent bodies in the near future, the HRA has increased its work on land issues as they are recognized as potential triggers for conflict.

TIMOR-LESTE

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
1.32 million	15,000 km ²	0.606 (rank: 141/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2018)
Type of engagement		Human Rights Adviser	
Year established		2013	
Field office(s)		Dili	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2015-2020	
Staff as of 31 December 2020		4	

XB requirements 2020**US\$519,000****Key OMP pillars in 2020**^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229**PILLAR RESULTS:****Accountability**

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

16

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

The new human rights training programme for the national army, which began in 2018, continued in the second half of 2020. The programme is organized by the NHRI, in partnership with UN Human Rights, and includes trainers from the Ministry of Defence and Security of Timor-Leste and the army. Three five-day training courses were delivered to 68

officers (six women, 62 men) that focused on the role of the army to respect and protect human rights in times of crisis, during searches, arrest and the use of force. An in-depth discussion on states of emergency was added in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and concerns regarding the actions of the military during the more restrictive initial states of emergency.

Moreover, three training courses were delivered to the national police. The training team included two trainers from the Police Academy. A total of 72 police officers (45 women, 27 men) learned about human rights when using force and during arrest and detention. In addition, one of the courses was specifically focused on women police officers. According to data collected by the NHRI, four police agents who attended the human rights training were involved in human rights violations in 2020, representing a decrease from

previous years. There is growing interest in these trainings, as evidenced by an increase in requests for additional trainings in 2021. Nevertheless, much remains to be done in a country that emerged from violent conflict less than 20 years ago, where impunity continues to be rife, police training is limited and investment in the police is low.

In consultation with the Office of the Provedor for Human Rights and Justice (PDHJ), the HRA reviewed the human rights manual for the capacity-building programme of the National Police of Timor-Leste, “Kna’ar polisia nian no protesaun ba direitus umanus.” The programme was launched by the PDHJ, in 2014, and attended by senior police officials. The review of the manual included the identification of lessons learned from the programme, its impact and ways to address challenges and enhance results to strengthen the respect for and protection of human rights. Recognition of the need to further reflect on lessons learned was partially prompted by the fact that existing legislation pertaining to the national police of Timor-Leste was amended and new legislation was adopted, creating the need for updated training tools.

**Non-discrimination**

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

5**10****16**

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

In 2020, 10 persons with disabilities, who were trained by UN Human Rights

under the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD), became lead facilitators and cooperated with OHCHR to deliver a training to 20 staff members (eight women, 12 men) from the Ministry of Justice on the toolkit for the prevention of gender-based violence against women and children with disabilities (produced in 2019 under the UNPRPD). The training focused on issues of equality and access to general court services. Within this project, OHCHR is contributing to the development of the terms of reference for the mapping of judicial services for women and children with disabilities who are victims of violence. It also aims to strengthen their capacity to ensure that judicial services are disability-inclusive, with a special focus on the police and the Public Defender's Office.

The HRA continued to support organizations of persons with disabilities in their calls for the ratification of CRPD, including through advocacy with different ministries. These joint efforts increased levels of support for and awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities and the ratification of CRPD at the highest levels of the Government and the Parliament. An increasing number of ministries are making efforts to better integrate disability and implement actions in line with the 2012 National Policy on the Inclusion and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. For example, the Ministry of Public Works issued a regulation that all building construction, public and private, needs to accommodate persons with disabilities. This was achieved through a series of advocacy events, led by the Association of Persons with Disabilities in Timor-Leste (ADTL), the platform for organizations of persons with disabilities in Timor-Leste under the UNPRPD project. Additionally,

to promote more inclusive and accessible information, especially for persons with disabilities, the Government of Timor-Leste and ADTL signed an agreement regarding the use of sign language during specific nationally televised events.

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



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

UN Human Rights continued to provide technical support to the ADTL in its advocacy for persons with disabilities. The ADTL launched a campaign featuring empowered persons with disabilities and positive role models of individuals who embrace inclusion and make use of traditional and social media to do so. The campaign is aimed at raising awareness about the equal rights of persons with disabilities and reducing the use of stigmatizing language and discriminatory behavior. It also reinforces calls for the ratification of CRPD. The campaign is funded through the UNPRPD.

On the occasion of Human Rights Day, OHCHR organized an exhibition of paintings made by Timorese artists to call attention to the impacts of COVID-19 on society's most vulnerable groups. Each of the 12 artists portrayed a different group. The exhibition will travel to Timor-Leste's municipalities throughout 2021. In anticipation of the exhibition, OHCHR

produced a booklet and a 2021 calendar, which include messages about equality, non-discrimination, participation, sustainable development and building back better, in order to ensure that human rights is at the centre of the country's recovery.

Furthermore, the HRA supported the NHRI to mark Human Rights Day with a seminar about the impacts of COVID-19 on the human rights situation in the country. This provided the NHRI with an opportunity to present the findings of its monitoring of the many states of emergency in place across the country. OHCHR also gave a presentation about the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. The seminar was attended by approximately 100 people and created an opportunity for dialogue between the NHRI, the general public and the Government on issues of concern.

OHCHR produced a research report about the situation of LGBTI persons in accessing education (secondary and university) in Timor-Leste, the level of inclusiveness and safety of schools and universities for LGBTI persons and recommendations to improve the situation. The HRA also developed a brochure with recommendations for students, teachers and families about promoting safe and inclusive schools. Bullying, stigma and discrimination significantly contribute to the incidence of school/university dropout rates among members of the LGBTI community, affecting their ability to access qualified employment opportunities. In December, NAFOFILA, a CSO, collaborated with OHCHR to organize a theatre performance in the Ainaro Municipality on the challenges faced by LGBTI persons in their communities. For instance, most discrimination and violence against LGBTI persons in Timor-Leste comes from their own families. Approximately 100 people attended the play and showed

great interest. After the performance, several participants offered positive feedback about the initiative, which kept the public engaged and portrayed the impact of discrimination, underlining the need to respect everyone's rights.

Participation

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



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

The Human Rights Defenders Network (HRDN), which was established in 2015 through a grant from UN Human Rights, is now composed of 11 CSOs. During the year, it conducted joint public advocacy, focused on addressing impunity and called for enhanced respect for human rights. As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded, the network concentrated on monitoring the restrictions established under the states of emergency in Timor-Leste. Two reports were published, publicized and distributed to national and international actors. The HRA supported the network, in particular by sharing guidance on human rights issues in the context of COVID-19, discussing strategies, supporting analysis and translating key documents. OHCHR also supported the HRDN's advocacy efforts by developing a one-year strategic plan, which includes a results and resources framework.

In addition, the HRA supported the organization of three two-day training courses

on human rights for youth representatives involved in the Community Police Council from 21 villages in Ainaro Municipality. These training courses were organized by the Commander of the National Police of Timor-Leste of the Municipality of Ainaro. OHCHR facilitated sessions on human rights, the rights of persons with disabilities and of LGBTI persons, while the police trainers focused on the role of the Community Police Council. This engagement contributed to empowering youth to respect and protect the rights of vulnerable groups in their community. The NHRI from the Manufahi Regional Centre was a partner in this initiative and shared information about its mandate and how to submit complaints.

Furthermore, the HRA supported the Movimento Feto Foin Sae Timor-Leste (MOFFE), a CSO working on women's issues, to organize a public debate competition with youth groups and youth from four secondary schools. The activity was organized in the context of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign. Over 300 participants were invited to deliver a strong pitch about women's rights. MOFFE also organized a campaign about the power of men to end violence and stand up for women's rights. These initiatives mobilized female and male youth to combat violence against women and children and promote and protect women's human rights in a country with a high prevalence of violence against women.

Development

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

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

In the context of COVID-19, UN Human Rights provided guidance and inputs and shared relevant standards and documents with the UNCT to integrate human rights into the prevention and response strategy to the pandemic, including within the socio-economic framework. The HRA also provided a briefing to the UNCT on the impacts of COVID-19 on the human rights situation in Timor-Leste and on the guidance regarding their engagement in the UPR process. Timor-Leste is planning to submit its State report in anticipation of its third UPR cycle, which is scheduled to take place in 2021. The RC requested OHCHR to activate a human rights working group and ensure that the UNCT contributes to the process.



Mechanisms

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

17

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

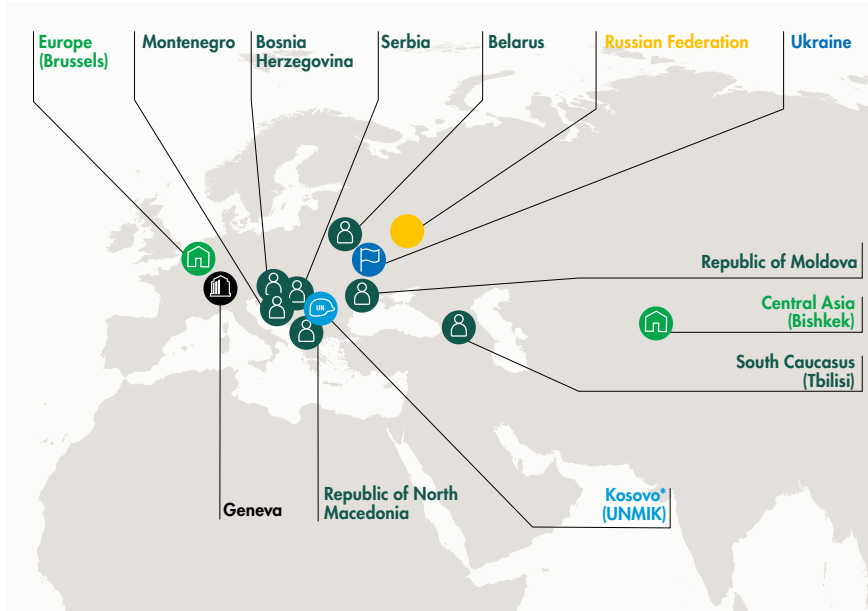
Due to COVID-19-related restrictions and the delay in the approval of the 2020 State budget, progress was limited on the engagement of the NHRI with the international human rights mechanisms, particularly in relation to reporting to the human rights treaty bodies. Yet, the NHRI held consultations and finalized its report for submission to CEDAW. UN Human Rights provided comments.

In view of new demands that have arisen in the context of the pandemic, OHCHR supported the NHRI to develop its monitoring and analytical capacities during the first two states of emergency that were declared in Timor-Leste. In addition to providing technical support, the HRA helped the NHRI to: develop a monitoring strategy that reflects its capacities and limitations under the state of emergency; develop a monitoring tool (using KoboToolbox) and technical support for the use of KoboCollect (a method for collecting data); draft two public reports on the first and second states of emergency and two weekly reports; prepare a legal analysis for the Parliament that questions the justification of the state of emergency under international human rights standards; and support legal research on

potential strategies for decreasing the prison population in light of COVID-19. This assistance enhanced the knowledge and skills of the NHRI staff, improved its working methodology and informed the Government and the general public about the essential role that the NHRI plays, particularly in moments of crisis.

Finally, the HRA facilitated the engagement of CSOs with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression following the news that the proposed draft Defamation Law will criminalize defamation and threaten the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

UN Human Rights in Europe and Central Asia



LEGEND:

Spotlights:

- Disabilities
- Youth
- Women

Shifts:

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

SDGs:



TYPE OF PRESENCE	LOCATION
Headquarters	Geneva
Country/Stand-alone Offices/ Human Rights Missions	Ukraine (HRMMU)
Regional Offices/Centres	Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan) and Europe (Brussels, Belgium)
Human rights components of UN Peace/Political Missions	Kosovo** (UNMIK)
Human Rights Advisers	Belarus*, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro*, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova*, Serbia and South Caucasus (based in Tbilisi, Georgia and also covering Armenia and Azerbaijan)
Other types of field presences	Russian Federation

* Human Rights Advisers deployed under the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group.
 ** Hereinafter, all references to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

In 2020, UN Human Rights' work in Europe and Central Asia covered a vast region with 54 countries that include members and candidates of the European Union (EU), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States as well as a number of disputed territories controlled by de facto authorities.

Notwithstanding the COVID-19 pandemic, OHCHR maintained strong engagement at country and regional levels from Geneva and through its field presences, including the Regional Office for Central Asia (in Bishkek) and the Regional Office for Europe (in Brussels); the human rights advisers (HRAs) in Belarus, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and South Caucasus; the human rights officers/project staff in the Russian Federation; the Human Rights Office in the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK); and the Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU).

In 2020, OHCHR responded to three consecutive crises in the region, resulting in the development of strategies that affirmed the centrality of human rights for prevention and protection, in accordance with the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights. Faced with post-election violence in Belarus, the Office secured temporary surge capacity to prepare a mandated interim oral update from the High Commissioner and to ensure dedicated support for the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus. In light of renewed hostilities in and around Nagorno-Karabakh, OHCHR took part in the intra-UN consultations

to define a common strategy of engagement and develop the terms of reference for an inter-agency mission with the aim of supporting the integration of human rights into humanitarian action. OHCHR also issued statements and press releases and produced internal situation reports through an ad hoc remote monitoring team. Finally, in the wake of post-electoral violence in Kyrgyzstan, OHCHR established an early warning information platform, which enhanced the early warning capacities of the UN Country Team/Resident Coordinator's Office (UNCT/RCO).

UN Human Rights supported the operationalization of the Secretary-General's Strategy in the Western Balkans by contributing to the development of regional projects for support by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). In addition, the Office took steps to strengthen its presence in the subregion by supporting the recruitment of a Senior Human Rights Adviser in Bosnia and Herzegovina, funded by the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF), who was deployed in February 2021.

As a member of the Peer Support Group for Europe and Central Asia – a body of the UN Development System that is responsible for the quality assurance of planning and programming documents – OHCHR provided advice to ensure the integration of human rights into Common Country Analyses (CCAs) in 10 countries (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey and Uzbekistan) and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) in 11 countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan).

OHCHR continued to monitor critical human rights issues related to people on the move, regardless of their migration status, and to pursue advocacy efforts. In September, OHCHR carried out a monitoring mission to Malta to assess the human rights situation of migrants transiting through Libya, with a particular focus on laws, policies and practices related to search and rescue and the human rights protection of migrants at sea.

Throughout 2020, the Office ensured support to missions of the High Commissioner, including to Finland, OSCE/Vienna, Switzerland/Bern and the Vatican. The Office also supported senior-level human rights advocacy through inputs for the High Commissioner's statements and press releases and in relation to human rights strategies and analyses. In line with the Secretary-General's plans to reinforce cooperation with regional organizations, the Office continued to extensively engage with the institutions of the EU on a wide range of policy issues and processes.

OHCHR successfully implemented old and new reporting mandates from the Human Rights Council (HRC) and the General Assembly, including those on the human rights situations in Belarus (reports of the Special Rapporteur and the High Commissioner's interim oral update to the HRC), Cyprus (HRC report), Georgia (oral update/report to the HRC) and Ukraine (regular periodic and thematic reports).

Key agreement in Pristina to promote human rights through data

On 17 January, following months of discussions that were facilitated by UN Human Rights, including at a meeting organized in Geneva, the Ombudsperson Institution of Kosovo (OIK) and the Kosovo Agency of Statistics (KAS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on human rights indicators in order to harness the power of statistics to advance human rights in Kosovo.

The development of human rights indicators will enable a more targeted collection of information, leading to deeper analyses and the more accurate identification of human rights challenges.

This is a vital step forward in “establishing and nurturing a culture of human rights in public institutions in Kosovo,” noted Jerome Bouyjou, the UN Human Rights Representative in Kosovo. “Using and relying on human rights indicators is crucial to promoting effective oversight tools in relation to laws, including, for example, laws on non-discrimination and gender equality,” he continued.

As a first step, OIK incorporated the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into its five-year strategy. On 14 October, a joint working group, composed of representatives of OIK and KAS, met for the first time to discuss the indicators and modalities of cooperation between the two entities, with a focus on the planned 2021 census.

This institutional commitment is in line with the Secretary-General’s Call to Action for Human Rights and the



Hilmi Jashari, former Ombudsperson (right) and Isa Krasniqi, former KAS Director (left), with the UN Human Rights Representative in Kosovo (centre), at the signing of the MoU between OIK and KAS, on 17 January 2020. © OIK

application of OHCHR’s *Human Rights-Based Approach to Data*, which emphasize the importance of human rights indicators in implementing human rights standards and commitments.

In addition to supporting policy formulations, impact assessments, transparency and accountability, human rights indicators contribute to ensuring that No One is Left Behind, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Jerome Bouyjou noted that the use of robust indicators will help formulate targeted recommendations and address identified gaps on the basis of credible and

quantifiable evidence. “With an upcoming census in 2021, the timing could not be better to further mainstream human rights into data collection exercises.”

BELARUS

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
9.45 million	208,000 km ²	0.823 (rank: 53/189 in 2019)	-
Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser		
Year established	2018		
Field office(s)	Minsk		
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2016-2020		
Staff as of 31 December 2020	2		

XB requirements 2020**US\$688,000****Key OMP pillars in 2020**^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.229**PILLAR RESULTS:****Accountability (A)**

A1 – Strengthened provision of legal aid to groups in vulnerable situations, including women victims of violence, Roma and persons with disabilities. Strengthened use of oversight mechanisms for places of detention and increased use of alternatives to detention.



OHCHR contributed to improving oversight, accountability and protection mechanisms that are compliant with international human rights standards, in particular by supporting access to free legal aid for vulnerable groups.

In partnership with the Ministry of Justice and through rounds of consultations with State authorities, CSOs and UN entities, UN Human Rights carried out an assessment of the free legal aid system

in Belarus, identifying existing gaps and formulating recommendations. This provides the basis for the development of a road map to improve legal aid provision, including in the context of the deteriorating human rights situation resulting from COVID-19. During the year, OHCHR worked with bar associations, lawyers and two CSOs to provide legal consultation services to 1,543 persons (1,054 women, 489 men), including persons with disabilities and survivors of domestic violence.

The HRA continued advocating for the alignment of the national drug policy and legislation with international human rights standards. In partnership with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, OHCHR carried out a comprehensive assessment of the country's drug policy, which was nearly finalized by the end of 2020.

In addition, the Office conducted a series of online and in-person trainings for members of the State monitoring commissions that exercise oversight functions in places of deprivation of liberty. Political and human rights developments that occurred after the presidential elections, however, led to the suspension of training activities on alternatives to detention and the social rehabilitation of ex-offenders.



Participation (P)

P6 – The UN and the Government consistently consult with human rights and gender equality CSOs when planning, implementing and evaluating programming.

16



OHCHR facilitated the participation of CSOs in UN responses to COVID-19 and in other UN processes.

UN Human Rights continued to engage with CSOs throughout the year. It helped to facilitate the work of the UN Task Force on human rights and vulnerable communities, supported the participation of CSOs and ensured their recommendations were included in UN responses to COVID-19. More specifically, OHCHR established an online platform that provided organizations with the opportunity to report on the human rights consequences of the pandemic, which in turn contributed to shaping the Office's response. During the pandemic, a Guidance Note on human rights was produced in the Russian language and widely circulated among key partners, including the Government. Letters were sent to the Ministries of Health, Labour and Internal Affairs, outlining detailed recommendations on various issues, such as addressing the needs of vulnerable groups.

Furthermore, the Office organized a series of online consultations for identifying priority areas in its equality and anti-discrimination efforts. Views from a broad range of partners were gathered, including activists working on the social reintegration of ex-offenders, the rights of persons with disabilities and Roma people. In addition, OHCHR and the RCO co-hosted three meetings to discuss

the views of human rights organizations regarding the UN's work in the country. After the presidential elections, in August, OHCHR remained in contact with the CSOs. Nevertheless, promoting their engagement in Government processes proved to be challenging as dialogue with State authorities was frequently interrupted. The Office continued to advocate for the protection of civic space and facilitated the engagement of CSOs with the international human rights mechanisms.



Peace and Security

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

3 5 8 10 13 16 17



Following the presidential elections, OHCHR dedicated a significant proportion of its work to developing analyses on the evolving human rights situation in the country in order to inform UN responses.

In particular, UN Human Rights provided targeted inputs to the RCO, supported communication and advocacy efforts with State counterparts and included human rights messages in letters that were addressed to relevant ministries. The activities of the UNCT Task Force on human rights and vulnerable communities, which was co-facilitated by OHCHR, were partially refocused in the second half of 2020 to address the human rights consequences of the post-electoral unrest. Furthermore, discussions were held within the UNCT around the

implementation of a Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) in 2021. The HRA provided expert advice on the issue.

In parallel, upon a request from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office developed a comprehensive analysis of human rights recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms to support the preparation of the country's next Human Rights Action Plan. In its advocacy work with State authorities and other partners, OHCHR continued to refer to recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies and other international human rights mechanisms.

CENTRAL ASIA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
Year established	2008
Field office(s)	Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), with field offices in Nursultan (Kazakhstan); Dushanbe (Tajikistan) and Tashkent (Uzbekistan)
Staff as of 31 December 2020	14

XB income	US\$703,904		
XB requirements 2020	US\$2,668,000		
XB expenditure	US\$729,657		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴	
72%	17%	10%	
\$528,774	\$127,141	\$73,742	
RB expenditure	US\$662,761		
Personnel	Non-personnel		
86%	14%		
\$569,803	\$92,958		

Key OMP pillars in 2020



⁴ Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.231

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability (A)

A1 – Governments act to ensure that legislation, policies and State practices with respect to the criminal justice system comply with international human rights standards.

16

OHCHR contributed to increasing the compliance of laws and policies with international human rights standards,

including in the areas of freedom of expression and movement, torture, countering terrorism and non-discrimination.

In **Kazakhstan**, the long-term advocacy efforts of UN Human Rights and its partners led to positive legislative changes, including the decriminalization of defamation, a decrease of the membership requirements for political parties and an amendment of registration requirements for workers' unions. Despite the Government's efforts to keep the public

informed and engaged, a restrictive law on peaceful assemblies was adopted.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, the Office supported the development of legislation to combat terrorism and submitted comments from the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. The Office also organized an event on the prevention of violent extremism with government representatives, CSOs and lawyers.

In **Tajikistan**, draft legislation on equality and non-discrimination was developed with the participation of CSOs. The Office supported the organization of a study tour, to Georgia, for members of the Working Group charged with drafting the law and facilitated consultative meetings with CSOs. It also provided expert advice on international standards. Furthermore, the Office built the capacities of 37 CSO representatives (23 women, 14 men) from different regions on equality and non-discrimination.

In **Uzbekistan**, OHCHR and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) trained 200 national actors on access to justice during COVID-19, with an emphasis on fair online trials and access to lawyers. OHCHR and its partners undertook strategic advocacy on human rights-compliant laws and practices, which resulted in the restoration of the right of detainees to meet with their lawyers and relatives. After the Government announced that it would create an Anti-Torture Committee, the Office shared examples of good practices in establishing independent investigation mechanisms to address allegations of torture and ill-treatment.

A1 – Institutions that train judges, law enforcement officials, the staff of security-related agencies, lawyers and other educational institutions, consistently include human rights in their training.

16 

OHCHR contributed to the delivery and institutionalization of human rights training for law enforcement officials and State authorities, including in relation to criminal justice, enforced disappearances, torture investigation, economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs) and non-discrimination.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, seven State Training Centres took steps to institutionalize a comprehensive training programme on non-discrimination. The training programme was based on an OHCHR manual on human rights, equality and non-discrimination that was produced in the Kyrgyz and Russian languages. In addition, one of the State Training Centres formally established a human rights centre. UN Human Rights finalized an e-learning course on non-discrimination, which is now available to 47,000 staff members of State agencies, and supported training delivered by the Advocates Training Centre to 60 lawyers on the newly adopted criminal law. Following the implementation of a pilot course in 2019, the Office advocated for the review of a training manual on multicultural education at the tertiary level. The manual was approved by the Kyrgyz Academy of Education in 2020 and is recommended for use in universities. The Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kyrgyzstan has begun testing the manual as part of the training materials for police officers.

In **Tajikistan**, OHCHR reached an agreement with the Training Centre of the Union of Lawyers on the incorporation of human rights into their training programme for lawyers.

In **Turkmenistan**, the Office contributed to establishing contacts between law enforcement, the judiciary and State bodies and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID). Two training sessions were organized, in July, to enhance the knowledge of participants on basic concepts of enforced disappearance and the WGEID's working methods.

In **Uzbekistan**, progress was made in relation to preventing torture and other forms of ill-treatment, in accordance with the OP-CAT. Specifically, OHCHR and the Office of the General Prosecutor's Academy trained 31 teaching and research staff who are involved in drafting policy and legislation on good practices in the development of independent investigation mechanisms on torture. The Office and the Academy also collaborated with OSCE and the National Human Rights Centre to deliver two training sessions on the Istanbul Protocol for prosecutors, lawyers and 25 medical staff working in places of detention. In addition, a manual on torture investigation highlighted decisions issued by the human rights treaty bodies in relation to Central Asia. OHCHR and the ICJ cooperated with the Supreme School of Judges to train teaching 95 judges, prosecutors and CSOs on the justiciability of ESCRs in national courts. Furthermore, OHCHR collaborated with the Chamber of Lawyers to train 25 lawyers on the rights to liberty, a fair trial, freedom from torture, the use of international human rights mechanisms and the application of international human rights law in national courts.

OHCHR and UNDP co-organized a series of eight webinars and one training session for 400 members of the judiciary and high-ranking law enforcement officials on the communications procedure of the Human Rights Committee.

A2 – National human rights institutions (NHRIs) are more effective, independent and interconnected, in accordance with the Paris Principles. They play a leading role in promoting and protecting human rights at the national level and in the region.

10 16 

OHCHR contributed to ensuring that the work of NHRIs in the region is in compliance with the Paris Principles, including through advocacy efforts and targeted training.

UN Human Rights continued to support collaboration among NHRIs in Central Asia through the regional platform of the Central Asian Support Initiative for NHRIs. It organized an awareness-raising session on the role of NHRIs in the context of COVID-19.

In **Tajikistan**, OHCHR supported capacity-building activities for 16 staff members of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, representatives of the Statistics Agency, the Presidential Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on human rights indicators and alternative reporting under the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The Office and the Ombudsperson discussed the steps that need to be taken to enhance the NHRI's compliance with the Paris Principles.

In **Turkmenistan**, the Office of the Ombudsperson increased its human rights

monitoring capacities in the context of COVID-19 by using thematic human rights indicators developed by OHCHR. The Office and UNICEF co-organized a webinar on alternative reporting under CRC and the Ombudsperson included a first alternative report to the human rights treaty bodies on this topic in the 2021 annual workplan.

In **Uzbekistan**, the NHRI took steps to enhance its public advocacy. For instance, the post of the Children's Rights Ombudsperson was created following the release of the 2019 capacity assessment report, which was jointly prepared by OHCHR, UNDP and the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF). OHCHR supported the Ombudsperson's Office to submit its first application to the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) and it was accredited with "B" status. OHCHR's advocacy led to the resumption of preventive visits to places of detention by the Ombudsperson's Office in August. Moreover, three civil society experts were trained to use an OHCHR monitoring questionnaire during the NHRI's visits to COVID-19 treatment facilities, a quarantine facility and places of detention. OHCHR's recommendations encouraged the Government to review the practice of requiring a 14-day quarantine stay in a container zone for individuals who crossed the border of Uzbekistan. The NHRI carried out advocacy with the Parliament to ensure eligibility of civil society experts as members of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM).



Participation (P)

P1 – CSOs, human rights defenders (HRDs) and marginalized groups increasingly claim their rights and promote the rights of their constituencies and participate more freely in public life.

16



OHCHR contributed to the increased use of national protection systems in compliance with international human rights standards by supporting strategic litigation and training programmes for HRDs, persons with disabilities and underrepresented minorities in State institutions.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, as part of an ongoing OHCHR-supported programme, 23 persons (14 women, nine men, including nine persons from ethnic minorities and six persons with disabilities) completed a three-month internship programme in State and municipal bodies of the Issyk-Kul region on increasing the participation of underrepresented groups in public life. The State Personnel Service proposed the formal establishment of the programme. In addition, OHCHR supported a public hearing for the Osh city budget. Approximately 250 participants, including persons with disabilities and individuals from ethnic minorities, discussed domestic violence and the absence of or barriers to accessing public facilities, clean drinking water and medical services.

The Office held two capacity-building events for government authorities to discuss the drafting and adoption of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation in 2021, including with the support of the Coalition for Equality. OHCHR's advocacy encouraged the Government to accept several UPR recommendations related to discrimination. Further,

14 strategic human rights cases relating to equality and non-discrimination were initiated by lawyers who had completed OHCHR's School for Strategic Litigation. One complainant received compensation for a child who had contracted HIV in the hospital. Other cases are pending. In total, 383 people received legal consultations and legal assistance was provided by three partner organizations for 114 cases in three different regions of the country.

In **Tajikistan**, the Office held two training sessions on the right to adequate housing in cooperation with the Union of Lawyers and the Independent Centre for Protection of Human rights. A total of 30 lawyers from Dushanbe, the Mountain Badakhshan autonomous region and the Sughd Province enhanced their knowledge about forced evictions and protection mechanisms.

In **Turkmenistan**, OHCHR, the RCO and UNDP convened two events for CSOs to discuss human rights during the COVID-19 pandemic and develop recommendations on ways to better support vulnerable groups and their recovery.

In **Uzbekistan**, the Office took steps to build the capacities of 44 new activists on human rights standards, monitoring and reporting, advocacy work and creating and managing CSOs. A total of 17 webinars were organized with the Centre for the Support of International Protection, resulting in the creation of three CSOs and initiatives to support persons with disabilities and women's rights, religious freedom and the rights of prisoners. In addition, OHCHR helped to organize seven seminars on CRPD and the SDGs, involving 180 participants from six Uzbek regions and the capital. Participants discussed challenges faced by persons with disabilities and ways to protect their rights under CRPD and the Law on the Rights

of Persons with Disabilities. Background materials were distributed in the Uzbek language and 20 per cent of the materials were available in Braille. OHCHR and the OSCE organized two high-level events with representatives from the Parliament and the Government, during which organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) outlined recommendations to combat discrimination and ensure inclusivity. The events concluded a one-month media marathon that was supported by the National Media Company “UzReport” to advocate for the ratification of CRPD. All media products were produced in accessible formats by and with persons with disabilities.



Development

D7 – When implementing the SDGs and other development plans, more Central Asian States and UNCTs adopt a human rights-based approach (HRBA) and recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.



OHCHR contributed to the integration of human rights into the UN and national frameworks for the SDGs and COVID-19 responses in Central Asia.

In 2020, UN Human Rights strengthened the capacity of national stakeholders to integrate human rights into their SDG implementation efforts through the collection of disaggregated data, the inclusion of vulnerable groups and linkages with recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. OHCHR, the International Centre Interbilim and the Open Society Institute organized a regional online forum entitled “Strengthening the right

to housing,” which included the participation of four NHRIs from the region and the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context. OHCHR also supported the online meeting of the Second Central Asian LGBT+ online platform and facilitated the participation of activists, CSOs and the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

In the context of COVID-19, OHCHR assisted the UNCTs in the preparation of Socio-Economic Impact Assessments (SEIAs) and Socio-Economic Response Plans (SERPs) by providing expertise on the use of human rights indicators.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, OHCHR and Equal Rights Trust co-organized an expert briefing for the UNCT on comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation. In **Tajikistan**, OHCHR co-chaired the UNSDCF results group on human rights and good governance and provided expertise on the application of a human rights-based approach in the CCA and the UNCT 2021-2022 workplan. It also advised on successful engagement with the UPR Working Group. In **Turkmenistan**, OHCHR raised the awareness of staff from the Office of the Ombudsperson, key State institutions and international partners on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) regarding forced labour, human trafficking and trade unions.

In **Uzbekistan**, OHCHR supported the drafting of the UNSDCF 2021-2025 with a strong focus on enlarging civic space. In addition, the Office worked with international partners to establish the Human Rights Coordination Group to streamline advocacy initiatives. As a result of these

efforts, the Government adapted SDG Indicator 16.10.1 to the national context and the State Statistics Committee included a question on discrimination against women in the 2020 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey.



Mechanisms

M1 – National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRFs) successfully fulfil their mandates. They engage with the international human rights mechanisms, coordinate reporting and follow-up, consult with relevant national actors and share information with them and the public.

16 17

OHCHR contributed to strengthening NMRFs and/or the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

UN Human Rights continued to strengthen the mandate and capacities of NMRFs and their cooperation with NHRIs, civil society and international organizations in the region. Support was provided to reinforce the NMRF legal frameworks (Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan), train NMRF staff and ministerial focal points on implementing and reporting on recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms (Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) and prepare the periodic reports and implementation plans of States (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan). OHCHR carried out 12 country-specific activities to enhance the effectiveness of NMRFs, including by eliminating delays in reporting to the human rights treaty bodies, improving consultations and ensuring recommendations are implemented. Moreover,

the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD) was rolled out in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan expressed their interest in piloting the NRTD.

Due to OHCHR's support, Central Asian States had only two overdue reports by the end of the year. The Office assisted with the preparation of State reports to the Human Rights Committee, CESCR and the UPR in Kyrgyzstan, CERD and CESCR in Tajikistan and the first mid-term UPR report in Uzbekistan.

The Office continued to advocate for the ratification by Central Asian States of outstanding international human rights treaties. In December, **Kazakhstan** ratified ICCPR-OP2 and declared its intention to ratify the OP-CRPD and the OP-CRC-IC. In **Uzbekistan**, the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was adopted in October, came into force in January 2021. The ratification of CRPD was included in the National Human Rights Strategy and the UPR Action Plan.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, OHCHR organized the first public discussions on UPR recommendations after the UPR review. As a result of these efforts, the country supported 83 per cent of the recommendations (seven per cent more than during the second UPR cycle).

In **Tajikistan**, the Office offered support to developing the National Human Rights Strategy 2030 through an inclusive process involving CSOs and international organizations. In **Uzbekistan**, some recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms were incorporated into the National Human Rights Strategy, which was adopted, in June. The National Human Rights Centre was tasked with monitoring the implementation of the strategy and a parliamentary

Human Rights Commission was established to oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms. As a follow-up to the Human Rights Committee's concluding observations, OHCHR supported the drafting by civil society experts of a draft NGO Code, which was shared with the Parliament and the Government.

Reparations for the mother of a child infected with HIV in Kyrgyzstan

With legal assistance provided by the UN Human Rights Regional Office for Central Asia and its CSO partner, Adilet Legal Clinic, Aigul¹⁶, the mother of a child who became HIV positive during his stay in a hospital, was awarded compensation after a legal battle that lasted more than six years and passed through three court instances.

As Aigul recounts, “In 2010, my son fell and lost consciousness. I took him to the city hospital where he was given a blood transfusion.” When his condition did not improve, she took him to the Centre for Maternal and Child Health Protection, in Bishkek. Tests determined that her son had received blood that was infected with HIV. “I never imagined that the hospital where I went to save my son would make him sick for life,” she said.

“I went back to the Kyzyl-Kiya hospital (in Batken province), but the hospital had already been informed and they had changed and archived his medical records.” Aigul continued, “I went to the police, to the Prosecutor’s Office – I explained what had happened. They ridiculed me and refused to take my statement. After unsuccessful appeals to local authorities, the General Prosecutor’s Office launched an investigation. Finally, in 2014, the Kyzyl-Kiya City Court ruled that my child had been infected with HIV due to the negligence of doctors.”

Nevertheless, her son continued to experience discrimination within their community, including when receiving medical care. As a result, they moved to Bishkek. Even in the capital, none of the schools Aigul approached would accept him for enrolment. She became depressed and suicidal.

“Then I took a training from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, where I learned a lot about human rights and how to resist discrimination and fight against stereotypes.”

The trainings were held throughout the year and it was here that she met the lawyers of the Adilet Legal Clinic. “With their help, I filed a complaint with the Supreme Court of Kyrgyzstan against the Ministry of Health and the hospital in Kyzyl-Kiya.” In December, the Court recognized Aigul’s right to compensation for the infection of her child and ordered the defendants to pay her two million soms (approximately US\$23,500).

“I am grateful to the Adilet Legal Clinic, who provided legal assistance through a project of the UN Human Rights Office, and whose staff was with me to the end.” Aigul is confident that her case will establish an emblematic precedent that will help others who have been infected to obtain compensation.

“I would like to say to all those who have been victims of negligence and injustice and to children who have HIV and their parents, fight for your rights! Let’s prove that people living with HIV are not dangerous to society. The time has come for us to unite and challenge the unfounded stereotypes about HIV/AIDS.”

¹⁶ Aigul’s name has been changed to protect her identity.

EUROPE

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	European Union and member states of the European Union
Year established	2009
Field presence(s)	Brussels, Belgium
Staff as of 31 December 2020	8

XB income	US\$654,200		
XB requirements 2020	US\$2,668,000		
XB expenditure	US\$503,449		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴	
41%	47%	12%	
\$206,846	\$238,684	\$57,919	
RB expenditure	US\$1,009,799		
Personnel	Non-personnel		
85%	15%		
\$854,342	\$155,456		

Key OMP pillars in 2020



⁴ Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability (A)

A2 – EU institutions and member states respond more effectively to threats to democracy and the rule of law in the EU.

16

OHCHR contributed to the expansion of the EU toolkit to tackle rule of law challenges inside the EU. The toolkit now includes: the annual rule of law monitoring report by the European Commission, which combines a regional-level report and 27 country-specific chapters; the rule of law peer review dialogue in

the EU Council; and the rule of law budget conditionality.

Throughout 2020, UN Human Rights engaged extensively with EU institutions, including the Commission, the European Parliament, the Presidencies of the EU Council and various other stakeholders, to promote the application of a human rights-based approach to the new EU rule of law mechanisms. In May, the Office issued a publication entitled *The case for a human rights approach to the rule of law in the European Union*, which articulates how international human rights law can provide direction for the scope, content

and methodology of the Commission’s annual report. The Office’s clear position on this topic enabled it to continue its advocacy on making linkages between human rights, democracy and the rule of law and the importance of defending civil society space. Despite ongoing differences regarding the scope of the EU rule of law mechanism, the first annual report of the Commission interpreted the rule of law to include media pluralism and institutional checks and balances, such as NHRIs and participatory processes. The preparation of the report involved extensive consultations and the European Council held its first peer review dialogues in November. In December, an agreement was reached on rule of law budget conditionality, linking EU disbursements to member states to their respect for the rule of law.

Non-discrimination

ND1 – The EU expands and implements its policies for equality and protection against discrimination to better reflect international human rights law, especially in relation to Roma, persons with disabilities, older persons, LGBTI persons and women.

5 10 16 17

OHCHR contributed to strengthening the EU policy framework for equality and protection against discrimination, with an enhanced focus on implementation.

UN Human Rights actively engaged in advocacy in the EU on a range of equality policy issues and ensured the regular dissemination of materials from the UN human rights system during the COVID-19 crisis. The Office also contributed to the consultation process for the European Commission’s new Roma Strategic

Framework for Equality, Inclusion and Participation for 2020-2030. To this end, the Office engaged with Roma organizations and EU institutions, emphasizing the key principles of an HRBA and the importance of a monitoring framework that is more conducive to accountability at the regional and national levels. In addition to the social measures contained in the previous EU framework, the new EU framework includes a focus on equality, participation and addressing anti-gypsyism. It makes linkages with the SDGs and incorporates a strengthened monitoring framework based on OHCHR-inspired indicators.

In 2020, the Office continued to combat racism and discrimination against people of African descent in the EU. In addition to participating in the multi-stakeholder EU High-Level Group on combating racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance for the last three years, the Regional Office promoted the International Decade for People of African Descent and supported advocacy on its key pillars. In cooperation with the European Network of People of African Descent (ENPAD), the Office organized four webinar training sessions on “Fulfilling the human rights of girls and women of African descent in the EU.” The programme brought together 64 young activists, experienced human rights advocates and community organizers from 13 EU countries. In September, the European Commission adopted the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan 2020-2025. The Plan includes actions to mainstream equality across EU laws, policies and institutions and to address systemic racism. Calling on all EU member states to adopt national action plans against racism (NAPAR) by 2022, it also incorporates guiding principles to assist member states in doing so, including by drawing on OHCHR practical guidance

on NAPARs. Following the adoption of Human Rights Council resolution 43/1 on systemic racism in law enforcement against Africans and people of African descent, OHCHR provided support to the mandated work, including through research and analysis and by laying the foundation for four regional consultations that took place in early 2021. On 2 December, the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery was commemorated at the European level for the first time. To mark the occasion of the Inaugural Commemoration of the European Day for the Abolition of the Slave Trade, the European Parliament organized a virtual event entitled “Recognizing the past, repairing the present, building the future.” The Regional Representative moderated afternoon discussions and the High Commissioner for Human Rights delivered the keynote address.

With regard to LGBTI equality, OHCHR supported exchanges of information and strengthened its strategic partnership with the LGBTI regional network, ILGA Europe, and its collaboration with the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. It also contributed to meetings of the European Governmental LGBTI Focal Points Network with advocacy in relation to international human rights standards in anticipation of the European Commission’s adoption, in November, of its first LGBTI Equality Strategy.

The Regional Office engaged with the European Commission on other equality policy initiatives, namely, its next 10-year Disability Strategy and its Green Paper on Ageing, both of which will be issued in 2021. Regarding the Disability Strategy, the Office worked closely with the OHCHR Senior Disability Adviser

at headquarters and prepared a letter from the High Commissioner to the EU Commissioner for Equality. It also submitted formal inputs to the EU online consultation. In relation to the Green Paper on Ageing, OHCHR advocated for the integration of a human rights perspective, building on its role in monitoring the impacts of the pandemic on older persons in care homes in Belgium and its ongoing collaboration with AGE Platform Europe. In October, OHCHR, AGE Platform Europe and the European Disability Forum co-organized a policy webinar on lessons learned from the pandemic about the human rights of older persons with disabilities in the EU. In December, the Office submitted a written contribution to the online consultation on the Green Paper road map, highlighting the importance of policy coherence between the Green Paper on Ageing, the Disability Strategy and the EU Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan.

In Belgium, UN Human Rights maintained contact with various partners and counterparts in relation to the draft National Action Plan against Racism and the work of the Special Parliamentary Commission on Belgium’s colonial past. It also contributed to raising awareness and capacity-building initiatives, notably in relation to the International Decade for People of African Descent and recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms regarding Belgium.

ND6 – The EU and its member states respect the right to information and procedural safeguards in migration processes and work towards ending the detention of children in migration.



OHCHR supported the capacity of the Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights to advise Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, on human rights-compliant policies.

UN Human Rights joined Frontex’s Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights, in January, thereby carving out a space to help strengthen the Forum’s capacity to advise on human rights-compliant policies that enhance the implementation of UPR recommendations. This responds to the UN Secretary-General’s Call to Action for Human Rights to support member states and other stakeholders in making better use of UPR outcomes. It also allows for daily engagement and building the capacity of Frontex to uphold human rights in the context of European border governance.

Throughout the year, the Regional Office drew attention to applicable international standards for the protection of the human rights of migrants. In cooperation with partners, the Regional Office continued to encourage the increased and accelerated relocation of migrant unaccompanied minors from camps and facilities in EU border countries to other EU member states. This necessitated mutually supportive advocacy and enhanced collaboration with the Council of Europe Special Representative on Migration and Refugees and the migration team of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions.

The new EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, which was tabled by the Commission, in September, contains several provisions that are relevant to human rights and proposes the establishment of an independent human rights monitoring mechanism at EU borders. In light of the escalating pushbacks at the EU borders, OHCHR consistently advocated for the creation of such a mechanism and it will continue to prioritize this objective during negotiations of the EU Pact with the European Council and the European Parliament.

 **Participation (P)**

P5 – National, regional and international actors respond more effectively to threats to civic space.



OHCHR’s advocacy efforts contributed to more effective actions from EU regional institutions in response to threats to civic space. The European Democracy Action Plan, the EU Strategy for the Effective Implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the EU Digital Strategy, all adopted in 2020, recognize the need to protect civic space in Europe, both offline and online. The EU’s seven-year budget 2021-2027 includes a €1.6 billion programme entitled “Justice, Rights and Values,” which allocates funds to support European CSOs working on democracy and human rights within the EU.

UN Human Rights raised awareness on the importance of protecting civic space in the EU through monitoring and advocacy across substantive topics. It also mainstreamed empowerment and participation into its advocacy and policy advice to the EU, including through engagement

with the EU rule of law mechanisms and in relation to the EU Disability Strategy, the EU Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan and the European Green Deal agenda. The Office continued to monitor various developments, for instance in Hungary and Poland, as well as the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on civic space. Further, it shared information with the international human rights mechanisms and engaged with regional actors. As a result, the EU Fundamental Rights Agency included a question about online attacks in its survey on civic space in Europe. In addition, its report on civic space includes findings about online harassment of HRDs (experienced by three quarters of the respondents). The EU Commission’s 2020 Rule of Law Report, issued in September, mentions the importance of “an enabling ecosystem,” including a free and active civil society.

The Office reached out to its civil society partners, NHRIs and equality bodies and their regional networks, shared information and expertise on the protection of civic space and HRDs, relayed key concerns and advocacy messages and called for submissions from the international human rights mechanisms. In December, the Office lent its voice to two major EU civil society events, namely, a policy debate on European venues to protect the right to peaceful assembly in the context of the rule of law framework and the launch of the *Civic Space Watch report 2020: Stories from the lockdown*, which took place during the Civic Pride Awards.

OHCHR also contributed to the public consultations on the EU’s Digital Services Act with a letter from the High Commissioner, highlighting key human rights messages and recommendations. In November, the Office collaborated with the Europe Office of the Centre

for Democracy and Technology (CTD) to organize an online high-level panel discussion on “Protecting democracy in the digital age,” which brought together speakers and participants from EU institutions, industries, the UN system and civil society.



Development

D7 – EU institutions make further progress in integrating human rights and a human rights-based approach, into EU external development programming.

1 2 5 8 10 17

OHCHR continued to promote the application of an HRBA to the work of the EU institutions involved in external action and development cooperation and the UNBT.

UN Human Rights continued to collaborate with the Human Rights Unit of the European Commission’s Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) through dialogues and the organization of several joint events. This included a policy dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and a webinar on “Building back better: How to place human rights at the heart of the COVID-19 response in the global South?” The webinar featured the participation of the EU Special Representative for human rights, the Head of the OHCHR Surge Initiative and the representative of the OHCHR Country Office in Guinea. In December, the 2020 edition of the DEVCO-led EU-NGO Human Rights Forum entitled “The impact of new technologies on human rights” included the High Commissioner, the UN Special

Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and the former UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

In 2020, the Regional Office and other members of the UN Brussels Team (UNBT) submitted inputs to the EU’s third Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in External Action (2021-2025) (GAP III). The joint submission was presented by the European Commission and the EU High Representative/Vice-President, in November, and endorsed by the German EU Presidency and 24 EU member states in December. It was well received by the Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS). In the UNBT’s joint submissions to the EU Green Deal consultations, the Office consistently stressed the importance of protecting human rights in all EU external action under the Green Deal, including trade and development assistance.

D7 – The EU and UNBT increasingly integrate a human rights-based approach into their work on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

1 2 5 8 10 15 16 17

OHCHR contributed to an increased understanding of the linkages between human rights and the People, Planet and Prosperity Pillars of the 2030 Agenda, both within the EU and in relation to EU external action.

With respect to social rights in the EU, UN Human Rights sent a formal written submission to the EU consultation process regarding the forthcoming EU Action Plan on the implementation of the EU Pillar

of Social Rights. Specifically, the Office advocated for the process to be anchored in international human rights standards and the SDG framework and for a better reflection of the findings and recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in the European Semester of the European Union. Together with ILO, OHCHR co-organized a webinar on “Strengthening social protection in the EU,” in the wake of COVID-19, which brought together over 120 participants, including high-level panelists from the Cabinet of the EU Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and social partners. The Office also helped to facilitate the virtual visits of the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights to EU institutions, which began in November, as the EU and its member states were negotiating COVID-19 recovery plans.

OHCHR undertook an active role in the new UNBT Task Force on the EU’s Green Deal in order to more fully engage with EU institutions. In addition to senior-level meetings, the Task Force contributed three submissions to the EU consultations on the then-draft 2030 Climate Targets, the draft Climate Adaptation Strategy and the Zero Pollution Action Plan, emphasizing the importance of integrating human rights guidance issued by the international human rights mechanisms. The Office also contributed to the report of the European Parliament’s Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI) (a subcommittee of the Committee on Foreign Affairs) on the impact of climate change and the protection of environmental HRDs.



Peace and Security

PS3 – EU external action is increasingly underpinned by international human rights norms and standards.

16

OHCHR contributed to a renewed commitment to international human rights norms in EU external action, as expressed in the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (2020-2024) and the EU's third Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in External Action (2021-2025).

In 2020, UN Human Rights increased its engagement with EU institutions in Brussels that are focused on EU external action, notably in peace and security, and provided greater support to the Office's engagement at headquarters and in field presences. The Office enhanced its working relationship with the EU Council Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM), DROI and EEAS and strengthened its relationship with the EU Special Representative for human rights and his Office. UN Human Rights supported several briefings and/or meetings between COHOM and EEAS with UN Human Rights staff members and UN special procedures mandate holders, including the Chief of OHCHR's Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea and the Independent Expert on the human rights situation in Somalia. In November, the Office collaborated with the European Commission and EEAS to co-organize an online event on human rights in multilateral action, with a panel composed of the Chief of OHCHR's Human Rights

Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division, the OHCHR Regional Representative for East Africa and to the African Union and the Head of the Human Rights Unit of the EU Delegation in Geneva.

OHCHR chaired the UNBT Task Force on the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy. Following the adoption of the Plan, in November, the Office organized two briefings with EEAS for members of the UNBT: the first on the Action Plan and the second on the new EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime that the EU adopted in December. The Regional Office also participated in the UNBT Task Force on the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and will strengthen its collaboration with the OHCHR Regional Office in Addis Ababa for triangular engagement with the EU and the African Union on human rights priorities.

REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
2.08 million	26,000 km ²	0.774 (rank: 82/189 in 2019)	"B" Status (2011)
Type of engagement		Human Rights Adviser	
Year established		2007	
Field office(s)		Skopje	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2016-2020	
Staff as of 31 December 2020		1	

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229

PILLAR RESULTS:

Non-discrimination (ND)

ND1 – National mechanisms for the implementation and monitoring of CRPD are effective, adequately resourced and comply with international standards.

5 10 16 

OHCHR contributed to enhancing the functioning of oversight, accountability and protection mechanisms that conform with CRPD standards.

UN Human Rights carried out capacity-building activities with the Office of the Ombudsperson following its 2018 designation as the entity responsible for developing and operationalizing a national monitoring framework for CRPD in cooperation OPDs. At the beginning of 2020, the monitoring framework was incomplete and no initiatives had been undertaken to facilitate the meaningful participation of OPDs in the monitoring process. The HRA intensified its engagement and advocacy efforts with all national partners to support the

participation of OPDs and CSOs in the monitoring functions. To gauge interest, the Office of the Ombudsperson conducted a nationwide survey and received support from the Office to develop a questionnaire and ensure broad participation. Approximately 20 OPDs and CSOs answered the survey. They expressed an interest in joining the monitoring framework and contributed to gathering information on key issues of concern for persons with disabilities. An event will be organized in April 2021 to launch the national monitoring framework.

OHCHR continued supporting the National Coordination Body for the implementation of CRPD, providing guidance to its Secretariat on improving coordination, consultations and reporting on the operational plan to implement CRPD recommendations. OHCHR also contributed to the UNCT's efforts to increasingly include disability in its processes and programmes. It organized the dialogue and reporting process around

the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) accountability scorecard for disability inclusion. The Office organized two broad consultations to inform the UNCT's application to the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UNPRPD MPTF) and prepared a UNCT-wide Disability Inclusion Action Plan for 2020-2021.

ND3 – National laws on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) protect women from SGBV and comply with international human rights standards.

5 9 10 

OHCHR contributed to improving the level of compliance with international human rights standards of laws and policies on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and protection against gender-based violence (GBV).

UN Human Rights led the UNCT's collective efforts to implement the Secretary-General's strategy to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) at the country level. The HRA mapped corporate PSEA policies of various entities and drafted a comprehensive PSEA Action Plan that was endorsed by the UNCT in July. The Action Plan provides a coherent approach to promoting an organizational culture of speaking up and reporting any sexual misconduct and establishing structures to ensure that victims are fully assisted and protected.

OHCHR followed up on the work initiated in 2019 to support the Working Group established by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy to draft the Law on Prevention and Protection against Gender-Based Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. More specifically,

OHCHR provided ongoing expert advice to ensure its compliance with international human rights standards and the integration of all aspects related to prevention, protection and the reintegration of victims. The Office continued to chair the UNCT Human Rights and Gender Theme Group with UN Women, thereby contributing to building awareness around legislation and policy frameworks on gender equality and gender-based violence.

Development

D8 – The State collects reliable data systematically and in a timely manner on the situation of women and groups at risk of discrimination.



OHCHR contributed to improving the compliance with international human rights standards of selected UNCTs, CSOs and government programmes and processes.

UN Human Rights continued to build the capacities of the UNCT, government partners and CSOs on a human rights-based approach to data and the benefits of its application. Technical advice was provided on human rights indicators to enhance UNCT programming and UNCT activities in support of the national SDG process. This included the process leading to the Republic of North Macedonia's first VNR, which took place virtually at the High-level Political Forum in July.

In particular, the HRA supported the mainstreaming of human rights into the development of the CCA, the new UNSDCF 2021-2025 and the SERP. The Office updated an internal matrix with

the most recent recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in relation to the Republic of North Macedonia and linked them to UNSDCF-specific outcomes. The matrix will be part of the Cooperation Framework and will continue to guide the UNCT towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Another positive result was the assessment of the country's SERP as a good example of human rights inclusion.

Mechanisms (M)

M2 – Civil society engages systematically with the international human rights mechanisms.



OHCHR supported the engagement of CSOs with the VNR process and reporting under CRC through expert advice, advocacy and capacity-building efforts.

UN Human Rights continued working with CSOs to strengthen their capacity to systematically engage in the reporting and follow-up process on recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in a coordinated way through formal and informal coalitions. The Office hosted quarterly meetings with human rights CSOs to inform them about the activities of the international human rights mechanisms. OHCHR also supported a network of CSOs, which advocates for the sexual and reproductive rights of marginalized groups, and helped them to submit a 'spotlight report' that independently assesses progress in this area as a complement to the country's first VNR report. In addition, the Office facilitated the engagement of the NHRI and CSOs with the Committee on the Rights of the Child, resulting in the submission of an alternative report to

the 2019 State Party report, with specific information on the situation of vulnerable children and harmful practices. The Committee will consider the report in February 2021. In parallel to these efforts, the Office continued to offer support to the NMRF, including in relation to the submission of the State Party report under the Convention against Torture.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
4.03 million	34,000 km ²	0.750 (rank: 90/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2018)
Type of engagement		Human Rights Adviser	
Year established		2008	
Field office(s)		Chisinau	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Partnership Framework 2018-2022	
Staff as of 31 December 2020		8	

XB requirements 2020**US\$859,000****Key OMP pillars in 2020**^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229**PILLAR RESULTS:**

Participation (P)

P6 – Vulnerable rights-holders, notably persons with disabilities, participate more frequently and more fully in forming public policy and drafting laws, including by taking public office.



OHCHR supported the meaningful participation of rights-holders, especially from vulnerable groups, in public processes linked to the COVID-19 response.

UN Human Rights supported the creation of an NGO Task Force on COVID-19 and Human Rights, which included 56 national and local NGOs, including from the Transnistria region. The HRA facilitated meetings of the 12 Task Force thematic groups. This provided members with opportunities to exchange good practices, discuss human rights concerns and solutions. A needs assessment conducted

among Task Force members as well as results of their discussions contributed to policy and programme design and implementation and was conducive to a better understanding of the needs of vulnerable groups during the pandemic. In addition, its analytical work on progress in implementing recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms shed light on interlinkages between the implementation of recommendations and human rights-based responses to COVID-19. The needs assessment was also used to guide OHCHR in the development of nine guidance notes (including four in easy-to-read format and two in Braille) on human rights in the context of the pandemic. Topics covered the rights to health, work and social protection, the rights of older persons and persons with disabilities and human rights-compliant restrictive measures and communications. The guidance notes, along with nine localized human rights indicators that were developed with

seed funding, became an integral part of the SERP, were used to advocate for human rights-based responses with State authorities and will support the drafting of a human rights impact assessment of COVID-19 in 2021.

The Office continued building the capacities of representatives of vulnerable groups in the Transnistrian region with a particular focus on advocacy for the inclusion of human rights in public agendas. In collaboration with UNDP, three meetings were held with 100 persons (67 women, 33 men) to enhance their knowledge and gather views on possible response measures on various issues, such as the right to health and the rights of persons with disabilities during the pandemic.

In addition, UN Human Rights conducted media campaigns on COVID-19-associated stigma, in coordination with WHO and the European Union, through the production of four videos, four podcasts and 40 visuals. It mounted a campaign on vulnerable groups in the Transnistria region through eight media products. The Office led a campaign entitled “Recover better together: Human rights for all,” with support from the RCO and six UN entities. The campaign featured members of vulnerable groups who shared their reflections on ways to improve the human rights-based response to the pandemic and was promoted through 14 videos, six online events, five media op-eds and 15 posts on social media. This culminated with the online End-Of-Year Human Rights Talk “Moldova and COVID 19: Ensuring a human rights-based approach to response and recovery measures.” During the high-level event, the Ministers of Education and Health, NHRIs, CSOs and UN partners discussed their COVID-19 responses from a human rights perspective.



Non-discrimination (ND)

ND1 – Laws, policies and practices more effectively prevent and prosecute discrimination against women, persons with disabilities, Roma and other minorities.



OHCHR continued its advocacy efforts to support the increased compliance of legislation and policy with international human rights standards.

Following extensive advocacy undertaken by UN Human Rights, the Transnistria de facto authorities approved the creation of an intersectoral working group that is mandated to draft a regional human rights framework. OHCHR developed a road map for this process, which the de facto authorities supported, based on an approach that includes the participation of CSOs. The HRA will further strengthen the capacities of members of the working group in 2021 through training initiatives.

In parallel, OHCHR trained 28 HRDs (20 women, eight men) and members of CSOs in the Transnistria region to increase their capacity to advocate for the rights of underrepresented groups and act as human rights trainers. The Office conducted an assessment of the human rights situation of Roma in the region, which served as a basis for launching a dialogue between Roma CSOs and de facto authorities on access to education, work and social protection. The assessment was also used to develop a road map and action plan for establishing the first institution of Roma community mediators.

UN Human Rights continued to support the Group for Parents of Children with Disabilities. The Group conducted an online campaign to mark the tenth anniversary of the ratification of CRPD, which

led State authorities to undertake a commitment during a high-level event to ratify the OP-CRPD in 2021. In addition, the HRA helped to develop a set of standards for legal aid entitled Quality Standards for Legal Aid for Persons with Disabilities and ensured their compliance with international human rights law.

The Office continued to train media professionals and promote a more inclusive and non-discriminatory national media narrative, focusing on human rights in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, 30 media and communications staff from State institutions increased their knowledge about pro-diversity and pro-equality approaches to media work.

UN Human Rights worked successfully towards mainstreaming human rights into the work of UNCT members and key documents. It developed a guidance document on the application of a human rights-based approach to SEIAs, which is being used by various UN entities and became an integral part of the SERP. UN Human Rights also ensured that human rights were included in the theory of change for disability inclusion, the CCA and the SERP, the latter of which was considered to be a good example of human rights mainstreaming by the UNSDG Task Team on Leaving No One Behind, Human Rights and the Normative Agenda. Moreover, OHCHR contributed to the increased engagement of the UNCT and CSOs with the international human rights mechanisms, resulting in UNCT joint submissions to CAT and CEDAW, the submission of alternative reports to CEDAW by CSOs and consultations with CSOs and other relevant stakeholders during the drafting process of the State Party report to CERD.



Mechanisms (M)

M1 – A national mechanism implements and reports on outstanding international human rights commitments in an integrated and participatory manner.

16 17

OHCHR continued supporting the two key national human rights mechanisms established in 2018 by facilitating the mid-term evaluation of the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) and building capacities for enhanced engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

Following the 2018 approval of the NHRAP and the establishment of the Permanent Human Rights Secretariat as the mechanism for coordinating implementation, UN Human Rights developed a road map on the interlinkages between the NHRAP, nationalized SDG targets and the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms as well as a methodology to collect data and assess achieved results under the NHRAP. This contributed to the successful mid-term evaluation of the NHRAP and to mainstreaming human rights into the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process.

OHCHR continued building the capacities of the members of the National Human Rights Council (the NMRF) and its focal points, including on the NRTD. The Office's advocacy efforts led to the first meeting of the NMRF, in September, with the participation of State institutions, NHRIs and CSOs representing vulnerable groups, during which participants were consulted on the mid-term review of the NHRAP. Furthermore, OHCHR supported the development of standing

operating procedures (SOPs) for the use of the NRTD.



Accountability (A)

A1 – Law enforcement institutions have substantially improved systems and procedures that protect the human rights of women, persons with disabilities, Roma and other minorities and victims of torture and ill-treatment.

16



OHCHR contributed to improving systems and procedures to protect the human rights of persons with disabilities and others by providing expert advice to develop human rights-based curricula.

Building on the work carried out in previous years to train staff from residential institutions for persons with disabilities on the prevention of torture and ill-treatment, UN Human Rights supported the development of a new educational curriculum and the design of training materials to enhance the capacities of staff from the National Social Assistance Agency (NASA), particularly those who provide assistance to persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities in residential institutions and through community services. The new curriculum adopts a human rights-based approach to disability, focuses on the elimination of stigma and discrimination and seeks to enhance support for independent living and community life. It will be rolled out in 2021 through training of trainers activities.

Finally, OHCHR pursued its work with the Carabinieri, a law enforcement agency, to support the development of an extensive human rights curriculum, including a chapter on the use of force and the

prevention of torture and ill-treatment. The Office will initiate a training of trainers programme in 2021.

Defending the rights of Roma and older persons in the Transnistria region

In 2020, Dmitry Chechel and Margarita Kirichenco applied for a 10-month human rights training of trainers programme that was organized in the Transnistria Region by UN Human Rights in Moldova. Together with 26 other HRDs and CSO representatives, they were selected to enhance their knowledge, from October, about international human rights standards and mechanisms, a human rights-based approach, monitoring, reporting and advocacy work. Both Dmitry and Margarita were inspired to participate in the training programme after receiving assistance during the year.

Dmitry has a severe disability and lives in the Transnistria region. During the pandemic, the already limited access to specialized health care in the region became more challenging for persons with disabilities, especially individuals like Dmitry who require ongoing medical care and access to medicine and rehabilitation services.

Margarita is an ethnic Roma woman. She lives in Tiraspol, in the Transnistria region, with her two children and her dependent grandmother. She works in a pharmacy and is the family's sole provider. COVID-19 created various challenges as her children had to attend online education without adequate space or equipment.

In response to the pandemic, UN Human Rights established an NGO Task Force on COVID-19 and Human Rights and conducted a needs assessment, in April, of 56 CSOs working to assist members of vulnerable groups. In June, UN Women took steps to identify beneficiaries of humanitarian assistance based on the needs assessment conducted by OHCHR. Margarita and Dmitry were among 1,200 persons who received a food and hygiene package. This assistance enabled Dmitry to save money that he used to purchase medicine and medical services.

In July, Dmitry realized that there were other persons more vulnerable than him and decided to increase his previous engagement with the CSO, We are Volunteers. He became the volunteer coordinator and provided assistance and counselling to older persons. The support Margarita received encouraged her to become a volunteer as well. She assisted the CSO, Shatiyor over Dniester, to deliver 150 food and hygiene packages to Roma persons living in different areas of the Transnistria region.

By the end of 2020, Dmitry recognized that he had gained considerable knowledge about human rights and the responsibilities of duty-bearers. He plans to apply this knowledge to promote the rights to health, work and a decent standard of living by becoming a professional HRD and trainer. He also began working with Glin, a CSO, which advocates for the rights of patients. Margarita noted that she acquired an increased capacity to assist other Roma persons to address the inequalities they face and enjoy the rights to health, education and work without discrimination. In addition to coordinating the education and health component of the work of Shatiyor over Dniester, she plans to become a Roma community mediator in the future.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
145.93 million	17,098,000 km ²	0.824 (rank: 52/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2014)
Type of engagement	Human rights staff (Other type of field presence)		
Year established	2008		
Field office(s)	Moscow		
UN partnership framework	-		
Staff as of 31 December 2020	5		

XB requirements 2020

US\$1,014,000

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229

PILLAR RESULTS:



Participation (P)

P6 – Human rights higher education programmes expanded and institutionalized in the Russian Federation and selected Commonwealth of Independent States countries.



OHCHR contributed to improving the narrative on human rights by raising awareness about and integrating human rights into university curricula across the Russian Federation.

UN Human Rights continued to support the first Master's programme in the field of human rights in the Russian Federation, namely, the Human Rights Master's Programme Consortium, through the development of the curricula and the elaboration of teaching materials. The Office provided expert advice to the authors of

three new and four updated textbooks, including on business and human rights, the environment and climate change. It further contributed to the organization of professional development courses on human rights and the SDGs for 18 teaching staff (ten women, eight men) from eight Master's Programme Consortium universities, with participation from high-profile lecturers.

In addition, the Office facilitated the access of students and teachers to key reference materials, including through five resource centres in Consortium universities. The pool of OHCHR communication resources on the impacts of and responses to COVID-19 was integrated into an online platform used by Russian universities. The Office also facilitated access to training opportunities, including seven webinars and events that focused on the

human rights of ethnic minorities, issues linked to new technologies and five lectures that were organized by the Office with the Federal Ombudsperson's Office.

Throughout the year, the Consortium pursued discussions regarding its objective to expand the Programme to the southern regions of Russia. The decision to expand the Programme has been supported in principle and will be formalized after COVID-19-related restrictions on in-person meetings are eased.



Development

D2 – Business actors effectively implement the UNGPs.



OHCHR contributed to raising awareness and enhancing capacities on the UNGPs, including by strengthening its partnership with three major representatives of the business sector.

UN Human Rights continued to promote the implementation of the UNGPs and underline the risks of business-related human rights abuses, which increased in the context of COVID-19, particularly with regard to decent work and social protection. The Office strengthened its partnership with two major representatives of business, namely, the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RUIE) and the UN Global Compact National Network. Both of these entities have a keen interest and role to play in the improvement of corporate respect for human rights.

To mark UN75 and Human Rights Day, OHCHR organized a videoconference with the Global Compact National Network and the RUIE on the topic "Respect for human rights as a corporate

responsibility indicator.” One of the speakers was a member of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises. The 122 participants, representing businesses, State institutions, civil society and international organizations, enhanced their knowledge about the HRDDP. More specifically, they noted that country-specific challenges require better regulation, effective enforcement of existing rules and contextual, bottom-up and inclusive initiatives. In 2021, OHCHR will support the Global Compact National Network to carry out an institutional analysis of business and human rights in the Russian Federation, focusing on coherence and the degree of compliance of national policy/legislation with the UNGPs.



Mechanisms (M)

M2 – Awareness of and knowledge about the use of the international human rights mechanisms increased among NHRIs and government representatives.

17

OHCHR contributed to enhancing awareness and the use of international human rights mechanisms, including through capacity-building and outreach activities.

UN Human Rights continued to build capacities to enhance engagement with the international human rights mechanisms. In cooperation with the Federal Ombudsperson’s Office and the Centre for Human Rights Education, OHCHR organized an in-person and online workshop on international human rights mechanisms, which was attended by human rights commissioners from all 30 regions of Russia. A keynote speech on discrimination, the role of the human

rights treaty bodies and the practices of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was delivered by Professor Alexey Avtonomov, Vice-Rector of the Institute of International Law and Economy and former Chair of the Committee. Participants gained knowledge on a variety of issues, including the critical role of NHRIs in strengthening the national human rights protection system.

OHCHR also produced and disseminated information among the general public and essential partners to enhance awareness of and knowledge about the international human rights mechanisms and their recommendations. The OHCHR field presence maintained the Russian version of OHCHR’s main website, with a focus on COVID-19 issues and the translation into Russian of OHCHR materials, including a general guidance note, eight thematic notes, 20 statements and press releases issued by the High Commissioner and 35 special procedures media products. During the year, approximately 400 new web pages were created that posted 151 web stories and 126 news updates, with more than 500,000 views. By the end of the year, the Office had produced a compilation of Russian language materials from OHCHR and the UN about COVID-19 and human rights, including guidance and policy briefs related to vulnerable groups. It also updated the Russian language compilation of UN documentation on women’s rights and gender issues, which was distributed to national partners.



Non-discrimination (ND)

ND1 – NHRIs and CSOs significantly strengthen their anti-discrimination work, with a particular focus on domestic violence, gender equality, disability and the rights of indigenous peoples, in compliance with international human rights standards.

5 10 16

OHCHR contributed to increasing awareness on the compliance of legislation/policy with international human rights standards in relation to the rights of women, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities.

Throughout the year, UN Human Rights raised awareness about the human rights situation of members of vulnerable groups. It used social media to disseminate information and reached out to strategic partners to share knowledge, including thematic guidance notes, in Russian, on the impacts of COVID-19. The Office created and published five stories and contributed to 12 campaigns on racial discrimination, gender, migration, journalists, violence against women, youth, indigenous peoples, UN75 and building back better in the context of the pandemic. OHCHR also participated in an expert seminar on the rights of indigenous children in the Arctic context, organized by the Association of Ethno-Cultural Centres and Organizations for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage (Republic of Karelia).

To celebrate International Women’s Day and the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the Office joined forces with essential partners and organized round-tables to discuss challenges and solutions on selected topics. Participants

included representatives from the UN, the Council of Europe, CSOs, HRDs and academia, State Duma deputies and staff from the Federal Ombudsperson's Office, journalists and medical doctors. On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Moscow city Ombudsperson, the Forum of Moscow Women and OHCHR organized an event on "The rights of women in a modern megapolis," highlighting gender equality at work and in society, social protection, family life and violence against women. Furthermore, an expanded United Nations Gender Theme Group meeting was devoted to the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign. Participants in both events stressed the need to address violence against women in the context of COVID-19. On the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, OHCHR and UNIC dedicated a round-table on inclusive approaches to COVID-19 responses. Participants noted the importance of long-term actions aimed at including persons with disabilities in social and economic policies.

SERBIA

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
8.74 million	88,000 km ²	0.806 (rank: 64/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2015)
Type of engagement		Human Rights Adviser	
Year established		1996	
Field office(s)		Belgrade	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Development Partnership Framework 2016-2020	
Staff as of 31 December 2020		4	

XB requirements 2020

US\$765,000

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229

PILLAR RESULTS:

Non-discrimination (ND)

ND1 – The Government adopts or reforms five policies, laws or practices that prevent or sanction discrimination in a manner that ensures they comply with human rights standards. In doing so, it pays particular attention to the rights of women, persons with disabilities, LGBTI persons, Roma, migrants and refugees.



OHCHR contributed to improving the level of compliance of policies and legislation with international human rights standards by providing expert legal advice to key partners.

Throughout the year, UN Human Rights delivered technical guidance to a variety of partners, including public authorities, the NHRI, CSOs, criminal sanctions services and the RCO/UNCT on the inclusion of

human rights in COVID-19 responses. The HRA also maintained strong partnerships with the Prime Minister's Team for Social Inclusion and the newly appointed Ministry for Human Rights. Civil society partners consistently relayed UN guidance, resulting in the improved compliance of measures adopted by the Government with international human rights standards. Furthermore, an interactive and real-time mapping of needs and risks in substandard Roma settlements informed the delivery of immediate emergency support to inhabitants in the context of COVID-19.

The new National Strategy for the Improvement of the Position of Persons with Disabilities was adopted after a policy gap of five years. OHCHR facilitated the consultative process, which led to the development of a text that is largely compliant with CRPD standards, and supported public discussions around the

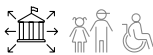
Strategy's Action Plan. In addition, the Office advocated for the inclusion in the Strategy and Action Plan of a proposal on the creation of an independent monitoring mechanism for the implementation of CRPD. To this end, it provided expert guidance to the NHRI in taking the first steps towards the formal establishment of such a national mechanism, in line with article 33 of CRPD. This was further discussed on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, jointly organized by the NHRI and OHCHR. Moreover, a final draft of the new Anti-Discrimination Strategy was produced in June.

Partnerships to advance advocacy efforts around youth rights were strengthened and resulted in the preparation of the Report on Youth Rights in Serbia. The report was written by young people, through a participatory process, and it was published in March 2021. OHCHR also supported an eight-month online campaign on COVID-19 and youth, resulting in more than 9,000,000 hits on social media from March to December. The campaign attempted to better understand the effects of the pandemic on youth and communicated risks in youth-friendly language, including through testimonies that were presented by young people of different backgrounds.



Participation (P)

P6 – Organizations of persons with disabilities, organizations of national minorities and other human rights CSOs are more visible, are consistently included in relevant policy and decision-making and engage more frequently with UN mechanisms and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



OHCHR enhanced the level of meaningful participation of rights-holders, especially youth, in selected public processes.

UN Human Rights provided continuous support to the Platform of Organizations for Cooperation with UN Human Rights Mechanisms, which includes 20 leading diversified CSOs that work together on regular reporting, monitoring and follow-up. Together with the OSCE Mission to Serbia, the Office offered expert guidance on engagement with international human rights mechanisms, public authorities and other stakeholders. In 2020, the Platform was well represented in different discussion and decision-making forums that were convened by the NMRF.

The HRA also provided guidance to CSOs to ensure their increased participation in the processes for the nationalization and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This included co-hosting training sessions on human rights and the 2030 Agenda with the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) and co-organizing a global webinar on SDGs and LGBTI rights with the Rainbow Academy. As civic space continued to shrink, support from UN entities was of critical importance for the monitoring of human rights by CSOs, including in the context of COVID-19. In particular, support from UN Human Rights resulted in the preparation of over

40 thematic reports, statements or communications that were submitted by CSOs to the Government, the courts or the international human rights mechanisms. Advocacy efforts undertaken by CSOs helped to raise awareness on the impacts of emergency measures on human rights. Furthermore, the Office continued to support the empowerment of youth leaders as human rights advocates, resulting in their enhanced participation in reporting and monitoring activities as well as communication initiatives in the context of the pandemic.

The new Government's establishment of a designated Ministry for Human Rights opened avenues for vulnerable groups to have an impact on policies and support reform in a number of areas, such as equal access to rights for LGBTI persons and persons with disabilities. The Office and civil society partners enhanced the advocacy capacities of a group of self-advocates with intellectual disabilities about human rights and CRPD. As a result, the group organized the first public event on this issue and held meetings with the Minister for Human Rights and the Equality Commissioner.



Mechanisms (M)

M1 – The NMRF verifies that recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms are implemented. It uses human rights indicators.

16 | 17

OHCHR contributed to the enhanced functioning of the mechanisms for integrated reporting and/or the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

The newly created Ministry for Human Rights and Social Dialogue took over the functions of the NMRF Secretariat. This institutional change, coupled with COVID-19, generated delays. Nevertheless, Serbia finalized its first UPR mid-term report, in December, with support from UN Human Rights. Representatives of all government sectors, the NHRI and the judiciary participated in the drafting process of the report. Civil society actors participated as observers. A joint UN mid-term report was prepared and a mid-term report was submitted by the Platform of Organizations for Cooperation with UN Human Rights Mechanisms. In addition, the Office provided technical assistance to expand the use of human rights indicators, in line with recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies. The NMRF produced a draft Action Plan for the implementation of UPR recommendations.



Accountability (A)

A1 – The judiciary more often and more comprehensively references international human rights law in domestic decisions.

16

OHCHR promoted the increased use of international human rights law and jurisprudence in court proceedings and decisions by providing technical assistance to the State Judicial Academy.

UN Human Rights continued supporting the State Judicial Academy in its efforts to increase the understanding of binding international human rights norms and their application in domestic proceedings. The Office redesigned and updated the online database, created in 2018, on the Judicial Academy's web portal to support the direct application of international human rights law in judicial proceedings. To this end, it improved cross-referencing between the norms of the international human rights treaties and their interpretation by their respective monitoring bodies, relevant case law of the European Court of Human Rights and domestic legislation and court rulings.

Finally, with support from the Judicial Academy and OHCHR, the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court of Cassation continued to develop case law markers to monitor references to and the application of international human rights treaty law. Progress was slower than foreseen due to COVID-19 and the related state of emergency.

SOUTH CAUCASUS

Type of engagement	Human Rights Adviser (based in Georgia); Human rights staff (based in UNCT Azerbaijan)
Countries of engagement	Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia
Year established	2007
Field office(s)	Baku (Azerbaijan) and Tbilisi (Georgia)
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2016-2020 (Armenia); UN-Azerbaijan Partnership Framework 2016-2020; United Nations Partnership for Sustainable Development 2016-2020 (Georgia)
Staff as of 31 December 2020	8

XB requirements 2020

US\$1,110,000

Key OMP pillars in 2020



PILLAR RESULTS:

Participation (P)

P4 – In at least one country, persons with disabilities make increasing use of national protection systems.

8 16  

OHCHR helped to increase the use of national protection systems in Azerbaijan that are compliant with international human rights standards, including by providing free legal advice, and supported the adoption of compliant legislation on persons with disabilities in Georgia.

One of the highlights of the year was the adoption, in Georgia, of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. UN Human Rights increased its advocacy efforts at the beginning of the year and

provided assistance and guidance during the drafting process. The HRA conducted a preliminary study on the extent to which Georgian legislation protects the rights of persons with disabilities, assessed its compatibility with CRPD and developed recommendations for the Government and the Parliament. This contributed to the adoption of legislation, on 14 July, that is largely in line with international standards and increases protection for persons with disabilities. Following the adoption of the law, OHCHR advocated for the ratification of the OP-CRPD. It also met with the Human Rights Secretariat in the Prime Minister's Office to discuss the preparation of a draft regulation to establish a coordination mechanism, as envisaged by article 33 of CRPD, with a strong role for CSOs. The legal community increasingly used

protection opportunities created by the law. More specifically, OHCHR provided assistance to the Georgian Bar Association and the State Legal Aid Service, including through the design of a training curriculum for lawyers. In addition, the Office cooperated with a group of legal experts to assess if the Government's COVID-19 restrictions took into account the needs of persons with disabilities. It subsequently issued a set of recommendations for the Government in 2021. Finally, OHCHR supported the Ministry of Education and Science and three colleges to organize online courses on employment during the pandemic. A total of 20 persons with disabilities participated in the courses.

In Azerbaijan, UN Human Rights continued to provide free legal assistance to members of vulnerable groups, with support from the European Union. In order to offer this service and to assist people affected by COVID-19 and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the Office cooperated with the Ombudsperson and the Bar Association to reinforce its work in Baku and deploy lawyers to other regions (Barda, Imishli, Gabala, Masalli and Sheki). As a result, 982 individuals (486 women, 496 men), including unemployed persons, persons with disabilities, older persons, pensioners and internally displaced persons (IDPs) received legal assistance during the year. The services demonstrated a clear linkage between political rights (access to justice) and protection of social and economic rights, with a focus on family law, social security, labour and property rights and the rights to health and education. Since 2018, a total of 1,777 persons have been assisted through these services, many of who are based outside of the capital. This assistance has encouraged the development of a pro bono culture among private legal professionals, supported the elaboration of

a civil legal aid system in the country and contributed to prevention efforts.

OHCHR continued supporting the legal aid resource centre through capacity-building and outreach activities designed for CSOs, journalists, lawyers and representatives of the UN system and the diplomatic community. Topics included the right to freedom of expression during the parliamentary elections, women's rights and gender equality.

Accountability (A)

A1 – The National Human Rights Action Plan in Georgia continues to comply with international human rights standards and is periodically updated to reflect recommendations issued by the international and regional human rights mechanisms. The High School of Justice, the police academy and the Legal Affairs Committee in Parliament, as well as the Bar Association and its Training Centre in Georgia, deepen their knowledge of international human rights standards.

16

OHCHR contributed to the increased compliance of several key national institutions in Georgia with international human rights standards, including the Human Rights Secretariat and the Office of the State Inspector.

UN Human Rights continued to engage with the newly created Office of the State Inspector, which is mandated to conduct investigations of human rights violations allegedly committed by law enforcement officials. In recent years, the Office and CSOs strongly advocated for the establishment of this institution as a measure of prevention and to build public confidence in the Government. In 2019, OHCHR

supported the initial stages of its creation. As the load of cases under investigation increased in 2020, the Office provided capacity-building assistance and expert advice aimed at strengthening its independence, including through legislative amendments and ensuring the separation between investigative and prosecution functions. A total of 15 investigators (three women, 12 men) participated in training on topics such as the right to life, the obligations of State authorities, the effectiveness of investigations and the right to privacy in the context of secret surveillance and communication tapping. Furthermore, the HRA raised awareness within the international community about the work of the institution, supported its strategic planning and provided guidance on personal data protection.

OHCHR assisted the Human Rights Secretariat in the Prime Minister's Office with the elaboration of the National Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan and the National Strategy for the Integration of National Minorities. In particular, it ensured their compliance with international human rights standards and the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. In June, the Office and the Human Rights Secretariat co-organized a high-level inter-agency Human Rights Council that was chaired by the Prime Minister. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the inclusion of human rights in the country's response to COVID-19 and for the NHRI and CSOs to identify human rights concerns that were observed during the pandemic. A first draft of the National Human Rights Strategy was written over the summer. In the Fall, the HRA organized an online meeting with the Human Rights Secretariat and key stakeholders to discuss comments and the finalization of the process.

In addition, UN Human Rights, IOM and UNHCR co-organized training sessions to build the capacities of 12 staff members of the Human Rights Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs to investigate hate-motivated crimes. Pursuing its long-standing cooperation with the Georgian Bar Association, the Office delivered two online training sessions to 48 lawyers (28 women, 20 men) on human rights in the context of emergency measures and two in-person trainings on international human rights standards for 43 members of the Georgian Bar Association from Western Georgia.

A5 – The UN assistance efforts in the justice sector of the South Caucasus substantially integrate international norms and standards and the processes for discussing these issues are further institutionalized by the UN and the governments of the region.

16

OHCHR contributed to mainstreaming human rights standards into UN common country programmes and COVID-19 response measures in the region.

UN Human Rights facilitated the mainstreaming of human rights into CCAs and UNSCDFs in all three countries by organizing a series of workshops and conferences. In October, the Cooperation Framework was finalized and signed in Georgia. The HRA also supported the UNCT's efforts to assist the Government of Georgia in developing its response to COVID-19, including by providing expert advice and recommendations on legal aspects of emergency measures and their impacts on social and economic rights and the rights of ethnic and religious minorities.

In **Azerbaijan**, OHCHR increased the knowledge of national stakeholders about the impacts on human rights of COVID-19 and responses, particularly for vulnerable groups. The Office conducted 14 online briefings and translated and distributed nine targeted guidance notes and statements that were produced by OHCHR, the human rights treaty bodies and the special procedures. Specific training activities were also organized with the Ombudsperson's Office and its four regional centres on the role of NHRIs in integrating human rights into preparedness and response efforts. A total of 104 participants attended the training. OHCHR also contributed to UNDP and UNICEF initiatives to assess the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic, including through the use of thematic human rights indicators and by ensuring the inclusion of vulnerable groups in the assessments.



Non-discrimination (ND)

ND7 – Officials, journalists, lawyers, university and high school students increasingly advocate for and work to create inclusive and diverse societies.



OHCHR contributed to increasing the level of engagement of judges, government officials and students in combating discrimination on the basis of religion and sexual orientation.

UN Human Rights continued its advocacy efforts in **Georgia** to combat discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation. The Office and other partners drafted a statement on behalf of the international community to commemorate the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.

Ambassadors from 21 countries and representatives from the European Union, the Council of Europe and the European Union Monitoring Mission endorsed the UNCT statement's call for equality of LGBTI persons. Furthermore, OHCHR and the Supreme Court co-organized a training session for judges on minority rights and combating discrimination on the grounds of religion and sexual orientation and delivered a training of trainers to three judges of the Appellate Court on these topics.

Throughout the year, OHCHR assisted the State Ministry of Reconciliation and Civic Equality to develop a Strategy on Civic Equality and Integration (2021-2025), which will guide the Government's efforts to ensure equality for all of its citizens before the law and in practice. The HRA organized a summer school on business and human rights for 20 university students (18 women, two men) on topics such as combating discrimination in the private sector.

In addition, OHCHR continued advocating for better protection of the rights of religious minorities. The Office monitored the case of three high school graduates who were scheduled by the Ministry of Education to take the National Graduation Exams on a day that their religion prohibits work. OHCHR carried out targeted advocacy with State authorities and engaged with defence lawyers, who filed an urgent case in the local court. In a groundbreaking decision, the court compelled the Ministry of Education to administer the test to the students on an alternative date. This represents one of the first cases in which a Georgian court handed down a decision in favour of religious minorities on the grounds of freedom of religion or belief.

In **Azerbaijan**, UN Human Rights provided assistance with the development of a human rights curriculum for a Master's degree at Baku State University. The Office created a working group with university representatives and legal practitioners to assess gaps in existing programmes and propose a new curriculum based on international good practices for human rights education.

UKRAINE

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
43.73 million	604,000 km ²	0.779 (rank: 74/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2014)
Type of engagement	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU)		
Year established	2014		
Field office(s)	Kyiv; field offices in Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kramatorsk, Luhansk, Mariupol and Odesa		
UN partnership framework	United Nations Partnership Framework 2018-2022		
Staff as of 31 December 2020	53		
XB income	US\$6,806,005		
XB requirements 2020	US\$6,379,000		
XB expenditure	US\$4,720,956		

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229

PILLAR RESULTS:



Accountability (A)

A1 – State institutions hold to account a higher proportion of those who are responsible for grave violations of international human rights law or international humanitarian law.



OHCHR contributed to increasing the compliance of State institutions and programmes with international human rights standards, including in relation to the administration of justice.

UN Human Rights continued advocating for the investigation of the 2014 killings and violent deaths at the Maidan protests and in Odesa. To increase evidence-based

knowledge and awareness about obstacles to the impartial administration of justice, it issued two briefing notes that highlighted the lack of progress in the investigations and prosecutions, with infographics and targeted recommendations provided to the Government and the international community. The HRMMU also advocated for accountability in a high-profile case of police violence which included torture, ill-treatment and rape.

Persistent and coordinated advocacy efforts undertaken by the HRMMU resulted in progress made in enhancing accountability for serious human rights and international humanitarian law violations. For instance, the Constitutional Court of Ukraine repealed Criminal

Code article 375, which infringed on the independence of judges. The Cassation Criminal Court of the Supreme Court modified its practices to help ascertain that plea bargains are voluntary. The Office of the Prosecutor General made a commitment to tackle unlawful warrantless arrests in relation to “continuous crimes” and to cease charging individuals with terrorism who are linked with armed groups of the self-proclaimed republics in eastern Ukraine. At the same time, a draft law was developed to amend the in absentia prosecution procedure, which is expected to facilitate the prosecution of those responsible for serious international human rights law and international humanitarian law violations. Furthermore, the State judicial administration annulled requirements linked to digital signatures, improving access to online court hearings in the context of COVID-19. The European Court of Human Rights referred to the HRMMU’s findings in its emblematic judgment on the right to liberty pending trial, which is expected to change national practices on arrest and pretrial detention.

In 2020, OHCHR published a report on *Human Rights in the Administration of Justice in Conflict-Related Criminal Cases in Ukraine*, which examines human rights violations in criminal proceedings and processes related to the armed conflicts in eastern Ukraine and Crimea.¹⁷ The report is based on information gathered from 2014 to 2020 and provides comprehensive recommendations for the Government, including on the right to a fair trial. It was launched during an online event with over 80 representatives

¹⁷ All references to Crimea should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 75/192.

of civil society and the international community, which was live streamed on the HRMMU's Facebook page to reach a broader audience. More than 50 media articles made reference to the report.

In the context of the 2020 local elections, the HRMMU increased its efforts to raise awareness among its partners of issues of concern and the potential for violence. Despite tensions between supporters of different political parties, the combination of early warnings, preventive advocacy and coordinated actions of other stakeholders resulted in overall peaceful elections. The actions of law enforcement agencies present were assessed by the HRMMU as adequate and sufficient for providing security.

Peace and Security

PS3 – State authorities and non-State actors promote and protect the human rights of populations living in territories affected by conflict.



OHCHR contributed to increasing the level of compliance of legislation/policy with international human rights standards on the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

UN Human Rights is the only entity (at the national and international level) that has maintained a comprehensive record of conflict-related civilian casualties in Ukraine, which is disaggregated by sex, since the conflict began in April 2014. The HRMMU's advocacy, including its public reports, ad hoc and monthly updates, briefings, statements and protection by presence activities, had a deterrent effect and influenced the behaviour of parties to the conflict, contributing to an 11 per cent

decrease in civilian casualties in 2020, compared to 2019. While an increase in civilian casualties was noted at an earlier stage of the COVID-19 pandemic, in March, high-profile public engagement efforts undertaken by the HRMMU, in early May, are believed to have contributed to subsequent decreases. At the end of the year, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the National Strategy for the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflicts until 2030, which the HRMMU had been advocating for since 2018. The Strategy has been submitted to the President's Office for final endorsement.

The HRMMU contributed to improving the understanding of State and non-State actors about violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. It issued two periodic public reports and an update, which mainstreamed women's rights and detailed recommendations for addressing human rights and international humanitarian law challenges, including in conflict-affected eastern Ukraine and Crimea. Using data gathered through its monitoring activities, the HRMMU drafted the Secretary-General's interim and final reports on the human rights situation in Crimea. The reports were prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 74/168 and included data and analysis on the unlawful military conscription of men into the Russian armed forces. A briefing note on documented violations in social housing in Crimea was also released.

Similarly, the HRMMU contributed to raising awareness on the human rights impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by releasing three briefing notes and a dedicated thematic report on people in vulnerable situations, such as homeless persons, older persons, Roma and persons with disabilities. Public reporting

and consistent advocacy helped raise the awareness of authorities about groups and individuals particularly in need and in danger of being left behind.

Ongoing fact-based advocacy and common messaging with the UN and other partners resulted in the coming into force of Cabinet of Ministers resolution 1157 in February. This simplifies the freedom of movement of children under the age of 16 between Crimea and mainland Ukraine if they are accompanied by at least one parent and removes the requirement for a notarized approval from the second parent. It also allows children residing in Crimea, from 14 to 16 years of age, to travel alone between both areas if they are students in mainland Ukraine. Similarly, the National Bank of Ukraine amended a resolution to end the discriminatory exclusion of Crimean residents from the full spectrum of banking services. Finally, the HRMMU and the Resident Coordinator (RC) stepped up their early warning advocacy on hate speech and incitement to violence against Roma, thus contributing, on two occasions, to the prevention of an escalation of tensions and attacks against Roma.

PS3 – State authorities adopt and implement laws and programmes that prevent sexual violence from occurring in the context of conflict, violence and insecurity. They investigate and prosecute cases of sexual violence.



OHCHR helped to strengthen oversight, accountability and protection mechanisms to ensure their compliance with international human rights standards by providing expert legal advice on conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV).

UN Human Rights continued leading efforts to prevent and address CRSV and achieved significant progress in terms of policy and law development, including by strengthening investigation processes. In cooperation with UN Women, UN Human Rights developed a set of recommendations for State officials to ensure that initiatives to prevent, respond to and combat CRSV are in line with international criminal law and international humanitarian law. This resulted in the drafting of Law No. 2689, which provides for the implementation of provisions of international criminal law and international humanitarian law regarding criminal prosecution for international crimes, including sexual violence. The HRMMU provided technical comments on the Ministry of Social Policy's draft national action plan for implementing Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. It also contributed to the development by UN Women of an early warning indicators matrix that will help the Government promote comprehensive approaches to preventing and responding to CRSV.

In the context of COVID-19, the HRMMU prepared a joint UNCT submission to the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, which contributed to raising the awareness of all stakeholders on the increase of domestic violence against women during the pandemic. Together with UN Women, the HRMMU organized a training session for women human rights defenders (WHRDs), which provided an opportunity to gather views from across the country on specific challenges faced by WHRDs in their work.

PS3 – The UN's early warning systems and strategies in Ukraine integrate and update human rights information and analysis.



OHCHR supported the application of human rights-based approaches to UN responses to COVID-19, the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan and other key UN documents and programmes.

UN Human Rights continued supporting the integration of human rights into the work of the UNCT. It coordinated the activities of the UNCT Human Rights Working Group, including joint submissions to the international human rights mechanisms, the elaboration of the national human rights strategy, its action plan and a methodology to assess their implementation, and the elaboration of recommendations to the Parliament regarding a draft law on minorities. Moreover, the HRMMU regularly updated the Working Group about human rights issues and efforts, activities relating to the international human rights mechanisms and other matters of common interest, thereby contributing to ensuring a UN “Delivering as One” approach.

The HRMMU provided inputs to the UNCT's assessment of the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 in Ukraine by analysing the human rights impacts of the pandemic, with a focus on vulnerable groups, and ensured that human rights were mainstreamed into the UN response plan. The HRMMU also supported the integration of human rights concerns, as identified during its monitoring work, into the joint work of the UNCT/ Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict. In particular, the HRMMU highlighted issues linked to COVID-19 restrictions on freedom of movement in

the conflict zone in light of the closure of the contact line from late March until mid-June. Approximately 60 per cent of the persons who regularly crossed the contact line before the lockdown were women who were significantly affected by restrictive measures. The HRMMU ensured that specific challenges linked to the protection of civilians and human rights were integrated into the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan for Ukraine and the HCT protection strategy.

In parallel, the HRMMU engaged with the international human rights mechanisms and submitted joint UNCT reports to CESCR, CEDAW and CRC. A joint UNCT report was also submitted to a group of 12 special procedures as a contribution to their thematic reports to the General Assembly and Human Rights Council on the impacts of COVID-19 on the enjoyment of human rights in Ukraine.

Finally, the HRMMU contributed to the UN social cohesion campaign to raise awareness on issues linked to the enjoyment of social and economic rights by residents of the self-proclaimed republics in eastern Ukraine. The HRMMU updated a set of briefing notes that were submitted to the Government and the Parliament on various topics, including: the payment of pensions to IDPs and persons residing in territory that is controlled by armed groups; the freedom of movement across the contact line in eastern Ukraine; the birth registration of children born in armed group controlled territory; and the inclusion of IDPs. In addition, the Human Rights Working Group Task Force on hate speech, led by the HRMMU, drafted a common action plan addressing hate speech, which was later endorsed by the UNCT in May. Since then, the HRMMU has monitored and compiled hate speech incidents recorded

by UNCT partners on a quarterly basis for the Resident Coordinator.



Mechanisms (M)

M1 – The Government of Ukraine implements recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms that affirm international human rights principles, standards and good practices.

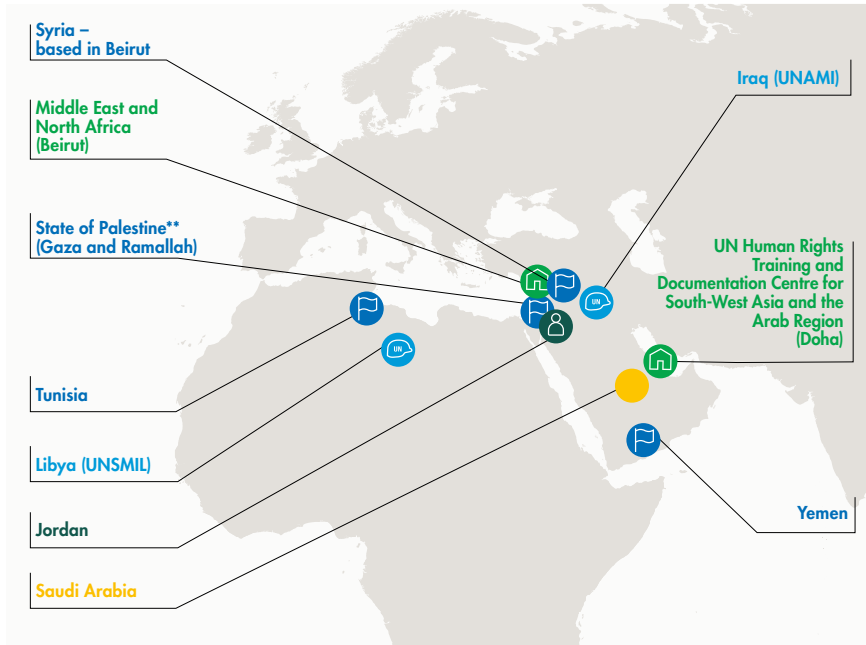
16 17 

OHCHR supported the final drafting of the National Human Rights Strategy and its Action Plan (NHRAP) as a national mechanism for integrated reporting and the implementation of outstanding recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. The Office also contributed to the monitoring and evaluation methodology on the implementation of the strategy and action plan.

By providing technical advice and supporting the drafting process of the new NHRAP, UN Human Rights contributed to shaping the Government's human rights policy, thereby ensuring its compliance with recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. The HRMMU established a dedicated task force and coordinated inputs from UN entities, consequently increasing the credibility and impact of the UNCT in relation to the Government. The UNCT proposed a series of amendments, including on issues linked to remedies and reparations to civilian victims of the conflict, the right to a fair trial and accountability, gender mainstreaming at the national and local levels and ensuring non-discrimination, with special attention paid to members of vulnerable groups, such as LGBTI persons, Roma and persons with disabilities, and the promotion of social cohesion. After several revisions,






the NHRAP is expected to be finalized in 2021. Several recommendations put forward by the HRMMU and the UNCT were incorporated into the latest version of the NHRAP.

UN Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa



TYPE OF PRESENCE

LOCATION

 Country/Stand-alone Offices/ Human Rights Missions	State of Palestine**, Syrian Arab Republic (based in Beirut, Lebanon), Tunisia and Yemen
 Regional Offices/Centres	Middle East and North Africa (Beirut, Lebanon), UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha, Qatar)
 Human rights components of UN Peace/Political Missions	Iraq (UNAMI) and Libya (UNSMIL)
 Human Rights Advisers	Jordan*
 Other types of field presences	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

* Human Rights Advisers 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:



Shifts:



SDGs:



In 2020, the work of UN Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa region covered 19 countries. The Office supported two regional offices/centres, the Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa 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); one human rights adviser (HRA) in the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Jordan; two human rights components in UN Peace Missions in Iraq and Libya; and a project presence to build national capacity in human rights-related fields in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

OHCHR 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, among other actions, contributions to mandated reports, communications and the issuance of press releases on critical human rights issues as well as the facilitation of online meetings with permanent missions 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.

Abuses and violations of international humanitarian law continued to be reported in a number of States in the region in the context of violence and armed conflicts, including mounting civilian casualties, damage to civilian infrastructure and extensive displacements. In 2020, the spread of COVID-19

led to an accentuation of these violations and a worsening of the overall human rights situation across the region. The pandemic had a disproportionate impact on countries that are engaged in conflict and those with weaker economies and fragile political systems. It also resulted in devastating consequences for vulnerable groups and put significant pressure on the region's health systems, some of which were already suffering from chronic deficiencies. This compounded the impacts of the pandemic and negatively affected government responses in providing adequate health care in the face of surging cases. Socio-economic rights were also negatively impacted, prompting large-scale demonstrations and civil unrest in some countries. Women were disproportionately affected by COVID-19 as existing social and economic inequalities were further entrenched. In this context, OHCHR intensified its strategic advocacy and monitoring and its engagement with governments, regional organizations and CSOs, including through technical cooperation.

Concerns regarding the administration of justice remained a key issue in some States in light of multiple reports of arbitrary arrests, torture and ill-treatment, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and trials that did not meet the standards for a fair trial. The death penalty was applied in a number of States, including for child offenders. Many of the restrictive measures imposed in the context of the pandemic were used to curtail the rights to freedoms of opinion, expression, religion, association and peaceful assembly, which limited civic and digital spaces and generated serious concerns.

Discrimination in law and in practice continued to be reported against women and groups in vulnerable situations,

including people on the move, ethnic and religious minorities and the LGBTI community. Concerns also persisted in relation to incitement to hatred and violence. Restrictions on economic, social, and cultural rights (ESCRs) were documented, including in the context of access to social services, housing, education and employment, leading to the marginalization of women, youth and minority communities across the region.

During the course of the year, OHCHR 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. To this end, the Office monitored, publicly reported and ensured strategic advocacy on the human rights situation, in parallel with increased engagement, technical cooperation and capacity-building with States. OHCHR called for the promotion of human rights and the protection of civilians in situations of armed conflict, particularly in light of the pandemic, including through the preparation of reports and briefings to the Human Rights Council (HRC), the General Assembly and the Security Council.

In order to encourage increased engagement with and provide capacity-building support to key partners, UN Human Rights collaborated with the Qatari National Human Rights Committee, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), the European Parliament and the International Federation of Journalists to co-organize an international conference, in February, on “Social media: Challenges and ways to promote freedoms and protect activists.” The conference, which was held in Doha, brought together more than

250 governmental and non-governmental organizations, human rights defenders (HRDs), media workers, the tech community, NHRIs and the international human rights mechanisms. In addition, the Office organized regional workshops and eight webinars that focused on the implementation of the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights” to enhance civic space and address hate speech in social media. Other webinars were conducted on keeping the faith in times of hate and confronting COVID-19 from the prism of faith, gender and human rights, in cooperation with Religions for Peace, CEDAW and the Special Rapporteurs on freedom of religion or belief and on minority issues.

In August and September, OHCHR held a series of four virtual exchanges with Egypt’s Supreme Standing Committee for Human Rights on follow-up to the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

In the context of enhancing an understanding of the international human rights mechanisms, the Office organized a two-week virtual training programme entitled “Orientation for junior diplomats on international human rights mechanisms” for participants from Member States of the Arab region. A total of 21 junior diplomats (13 women, eight men) attended the training from Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar, Somalia, the State of Palestine, Syria and Yemen. In November, OHCHR organized a three-day virtual training entitled “The role of media in promoting and protecting human rights in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic” for young journalists from Member States of the Arab region. The 15 participants (seven women, eight men) attended the training from Jordan,

Morocco, Oman, Qatar, the State of Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen.

To address the situation of persons in detention, OHCHR and the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) launched an advocacy campaign on the situation of prisoners in Libya. Initiatives included the preparation of letters from the High Commissioner to senior officials, follow-up letters from UNSMIL and press briefings to draw attention to the issue. As a result, 1,500 prisoners were subsequently released. The Office also engaged in advocacy with the Egyptian Government and the Ministry of Interior announced the release of 837 prisoners. It is unclear whether any political prisoners were released. Further, Morocco released 5,600 prisoners. OHCHR and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran undertook joint advocacy on the situation of prisoners through multiple interventions, including the presentation of the report of the Special Rapporteur to the Human Rights Council, which focused on detention conditions in Iran and an OHCHR web story on the situation of political prisoners in the context of COVID-19. The authorities subsequently announced the temporary release of up to 200,000 prisoners in the context of COVID-19. In the second half of 2020, most were reportedly ordered to return to prison. In the State of Palestine, UN Human Rights produced a set of guidance notes to provide information on applicable human rights standards during the emergency, including specific obligations and recommendations related to detention and the treatment of detainees during the state of emergency.

During the year, the UN Human Rights Regional Office in Beirut launched nine consecutive advocacy campaigns to

raise awareness about the human rights implications of COVID-19. The campaigns shone a spotlight on those who may be more marginalized and at-risk in the pandemic, including women and migrant workers, and disseminated thematic messaging on xenophobia, hate speech, trafficking in persons, the right to privacy and access to health care. As part of the technical cooperation project between OHCHR and the Saudi Human Rights Commission, a seminar was organized on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The Regional Office also promoted the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign by hosting a regional conference with CSOs entitled “Towards full equality in nationality law.” More than 55 civil society representatives from across the region brainstormed advocacy strategies to promote the full realization of equality in nationality laws.

IRAQ: UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR IRAQ (UNAMI)

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
40.22 million	435,000 km ²	0.674 (rank: 123/189 in 2019)	"B" Status (2015)
Type of engagement		Peace Mission	
Year established		2004	
Field office(s)		Baghdad, Basra, Erbil, Kirkuk and Mosul	
UN partnership framework		-	
Staff as of 31 December 2020		36	

XB requirements 2020

US\$808,000

Key OMP pillars in 2020

^{1,2,3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p.229**PILLAR RESULTS:****Participation (P)**

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

16

OHCHR contributed to protecting civic space and the rights to life and freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and the rights of minorities through advocacy work.

UN Human Rights and UNAMI jointly continued to monitor and document human rights violations and abuses against participants of demonstrations that were held in the central and southern governorates and in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). UNAMI's Human Rights Office (HRO) engaged in advocacy with stakeholders to protect the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and to opinion and expression. More specifically, it issued two public reports entitled *Demonstrations in Iraq: 3rd update (Abductions)*, in May, and *Human rights violations and abuses in the context of demonstrations in Iraq: October 2019 to April 2020*, in August. The latter publication is based on approximately 900 interviews that were conducted and identifies various concerns regarding the use of live ammunition against peaceful demonstrators, targeted killings, abductions, arbitrary arrest and the detention of civil society

activists and HRDs. Further, it raises concerns about the failure to protect peaceful demonstrators, a lack of accountability and continuing attacks against civic space in Iraq.

The Office's public reports, press statements and engagement with the Government, civil society, the Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights (IHCHR) and the international community helped to consolidate key messages and increase public awareness about the obligation to protect the rights to freedom of assembly and expression. Through its advocacy efforts, the HRO drew attention to the challenges faced by minority group activists who continue to flee to the Kurdistan region or Turkey due to a lack of trust that the Government is willing and/or able to protect them. This distrust is being fueled by cases of blatant impunity.



Non-discrimination (ND)

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 the grounds of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, orientation, disability and other differences.

5 10 16

OHCHR contributed to protecting the human rights of women and girls and vulnerable groups, including LGBTI persons, persons with disabilities and members of minorities, through advocacy and awareness-raising initiatives.

As women and children and Iraq’s most vulnerable groups (persons with disabilities and minorities) continued to face multiple challenges, enhancing equality and countering discrimination were among the core priorities of UN Human Rights and UNAMI’s HRO during the year.

The Office highlighted the situation of the Sunni Arab community, which was subject to the ISIL occupation. In particular, the HRO documented the situation of women and girls who are perceived as being affiliated with ISIL and focused

on access to education for adolescents. In February, a report was issued on *The Right to Education in Iraq: Part One – The legacy of ISIL territorial control on adolescent’s access to education in Iraq*. The report is based on interviews and focus group discussions conducted between November 2018 and January 2019, involving 237 children and young adults in six camps of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Ninewa governorate as well as other persons from Mosul and Erbil. The report documents several challenges they faced while living under ISIL occupation between 2014 and 2017, including the years of formal education that the children lost, an insufficient number of schools, inadequate teaching schedules and barriers to school enrolment, such as restrictions on movement and access to civil documentation. A follow-up report on the obstacles that continue to hamper girls’ access to education was prepared in 2020 and issued in January 2021, entitled *Access to education in Iraq: Part Two – Obstacles to girls’ education after ISIL*. It notes the obstacles embedded in traditional gender roles and norms, including familial levels of education, poverty, protection and trauma. Both reports recommend concrete measures to address challenges related to gender norms and call for an enabling environment for girls’ education.

The HRO completed a collection of peace narratives from 51 youth that will be issued in 2021 under the title *Voices of Iraq’s youth: Human rights narratives from Iraq and the Kurdistan region of Iraq*. This compilation contributes to the documentation of initiatives undertaken by Iraqi youth to promote the human rights of religious minorities at the grassroots level. In 2021, a multimedia platform will enable users to upload peace narratives with photos and materials to

promote dialogue with and protection for religious minorities, while emphasizing local peace initiatives leading to social change.

Furthermore, the HRO monitored the human rights of LGBTI persons in Iraq and engaged with CSOs. The LGBTI community continued to face widespread discrimination, including hate speech, and their heightened vulnerability was exacerbated by COVID-19. The Office and its partners raised awareness on this issue and delivered online training sessions to national colleagues on LGBTI rights.



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 safety and dignity when it is safe to do so) and access basic humanitarian assistance at all times.

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.

The security environment in Iraq remained fragile and the protection of civilians continued to be a concern, particularly in the context of security incidents involving armed groups, pro-government militias and foreign armed forces.

The HRO closely monitored the impact of security-related incidents causing harm to civilians and other protection concerns. In 2020, the overall security environment

steadily improved with a noticeable reduction of conflict-related harm, the lowest level since 2008. In 2020, the Office documented 527 civilian casualties (421 men, 38 women, 68 children) representing a 42 per cent decrease compared to 2019, with 907 civilian casualties recorded (768 men, 35 women, 104 children). UNAMI attributed 72 per cent of civilian casualties to ISIL remnants in Iraq, 22 per cent to unknown armed groups, five per cent to Turkish forces, five per cent to pro-government forces and the remaining one per cent to other armed actors, including pro-government militias. Of the total civilian casualties, 36 per cent were caused by improvised explosive devices (IEDs), 36 per cent by small arms fire, 10 per cent by the use of indirect fire (mortars), five per cent by air strikes and the remaining 13 per cent by explosive remnants of war or unexploded ordnance, hand grenades and summary executions. Turkish military air strikes targeting the positions of PKK elements in northern Iraq remained a concern, as air strikes resulted in civilian casualties and/or caused damage to civilian property.

Children continued to be the victims of armed violence and acts of terrorism. In 2020, the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) documented 29 grave violations against children, affecting a total of 20 children (17 girls, three boys) in the Kirkuk and Salah al-Din governorates.

The HRO, UNICEF and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict engaged with the Government on finalizing the draft National Action Plan on the recruitment and use of children and support for their rehabilitation and reintegration. The HRO provided expertise to support the alignment of the draft

with international human rights standards and supported the Government in its implementation. The HRO also collaborated with UNICEF and Justice Rapid Response to implement a training programme for members of the CTFMR on documenting child rights violations and enhancing child protection. The workshop resulted in the launch of a peer network to exchange experiences and strengthen the child protection framework in Iraq.

PS4 – Access to justice is guaranteed to all sectors of Iraqi society, communities and individuals in relation to human rights violations, abuses or crimes, regardless of when or where they were committed or by whom. Community reconciliation is built on respect, mutual understanding and trust. It aids national reconciliation processes and ensures justice for the victims of human rights violations and abuses.

16

OHCHR strengthened the engagement of civil society, the IHCHR and the Government with the international human rights mechanisms, with a focus on cases of enforced or involuntary disappearances.

In 2020, enforced disappearances remained a serious human rights concern in Iraq. UN Human Rights and UNAMI's HRO followed up on cases of alleged enforced disappearances carried out by pro-government forces, in Anbar, in 2015 and 2016. It collected information to support the Government in meeting its obligations in line with international human rights law. New interviews were conducted with the families of the alleged victims, government representatives, community leaders, CSOs and other interlocutors. In August, UN Human Rights/

UNAMI published a special report entitled *Enforced disappearances from Anbar governorate 2015-2016: Accountability for the victims and the right to truth*. The report provides an account of the scale and scope of the issue and advocates for the Government to adopt measures that will ensure accountability for perpetrators and redress for victims.

As part of its ongoing efforts to promote the engagement of Iraq with the international human rights mechanisms, the HRO supported the engagement of civil society, the IHCHR and the Government with the CED Committee, during its nineteenth session. The session was held virtually, for the first time, in September and October. Based on confidential information received from various stakeholders, including UNAMI, the Committee engaged in an interactive dialogue with the Government's delegation to review efforts undertaken to protect persons from enforced disappearance. In its concluding observations, CED outlined recommendations concerning legislative reform, accountability, search procedures and a consolidated database of missing persons and mass graves. The Committee also requested that the Government provide responses in relation to 275 (out of 492) urgent actions on individual cases that have not been addressed. The HRO will continue to provide technical assistance to the Government for the implementation of CED recommendations, including on the alignment with international standards of the draft Law on the Protection of Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

In December, the Office delivered a three-day online workshop for civil society representatives entitled "Introduction to the human rights framework to protect persons from enforced disappearance." Workshop participants discussed the role

of civil society in this area. More specifically, they strengthened their capacities to monitor and report on human rights and undertake advocacy. They also learned how to submit communications to CED and the special procedures.

Moreover, the HRO supported the engagement of Iraq with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID), as a number of outstanding cases are under review by the Working Group. The Government participated in a virtual dialogue during the Working Group's 121st session. In June, a joint committee was established by the Federal Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government to intensify the search for Yazidi persons abducted by ISIL.



Accountability (A)

A1 – Iraq fully respects the rule of law in the administration of justice, in full compliance with standards on the right to due process and to a fair trial guaranteed under international law and the Constitution of Iraq. Allegations of torture are fully investigated, victims are provided with appropriate protection, care and compensation and those responsible are held accountable according to law. Iraq fully complies with international standards in relation to the treatment, care, protection and rehabilitation of women and children who are in the criminal justice system. All sectors of Iraqi society have equal access to justice, particularly those who may be marginalized, such as women, ethnic and religious and other minorities, persons with disabilities and youth. The Government ensures that any person who violates international human rights law, international humanitarian law or international criminal law is held accountable before competent courts

that fully respect due process and fair trial standards, including through legislation that grants Iraqi courts jurisdiction over international crimes and after Iraq becomes a signatory to the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

16

OHCHR increased its engagement with the High Judicial Council (HJC) on fair trial standards to promote judicial and legal reforms in accordance with international human rights standards.

UN Human Rights and UNAMI's HRO continued to implement its detention and trial monitoring programme throughout 2020. Specifically, it engaged in advocacy and provided technical assistance to State officials to promote fair trial guarantees, in accordance with the Constitution of Iraq and international human rights law. In particular, the Office conducted 97 detention monitoring interviews (four women, 93 men). The HRO also monitored 26 trials (22 in Baghdad and four in Erbil). Beginning in April, the Office engaged in advocacy with the Iraqi Government, including the HJC, the Ministry of Justice, the President (through the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Iraq) and the Prime Minister's Office, to promote measures for reducing the number of detainees in detention facilities in the context of COVID-19. On 18 August, the HJC announced that the judiciary had released 17,585 persons to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in places of detention. The Ministry of Justice reported that approximately 300 prisoners had been released based on a special presidential pardon to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in prisons.

In January, UN Human Rights/UNAMI issued a report entitled *Human rights in the administration of justice in Iraq: Trials*

under the anti-terrorism laws and the implications posed to justice, accountability and social cohesion in the aftermath of ISIL. The report covers the period from May 2018 to October 2019 and is based on UNAMI's monitoring of 794 criminal court hearings across Iraq, with the support of the HJC. The Office's advocacy efforts resulted in the HJC's agreement to develop guidelines for the conduct of judicial investigations and trials to ensure their alignment with international human rights standards. The guidelines will address issues such as the judicial response to claims of torture and ill-treatment and fundamental legal safeguards, including access to lawyers.

In February, the Office and the IHCHR organized a training session for representatives of 15 CSOs on engaging with the Human Rights Committee regarding the implementation of ICCPR. As part of its technical assistance programme, the HRO and the HJC co-organized a two-day online workshop, in November, for 16 Iraqi judges and judicial and international human rights experts. The participants discussed steps to strengthen an effective legal defence, evidentiary standards, judicial oversight of detention and reasoning of judgments. Following the workshop, new guidelines will be issued for the conduct of judicial investigations and trials in 2021.

A3 – Women and children who are 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 continued to promote judicial and legal reforms to ensure accountability for victims of SGBV/CRSV crimes.

In 2020, the situation faced by survivors of CRSV in Iraq was exacerbated by challenges related to the COVID-19 health emergency. From 1 January to 30 September, the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) recorded 30 incidents perpetrated by armed actors (defined by the GBVIMS as members of an armed group, police, State military or security officials). Of these, 29 incidents (97 per cent) were reported by female survivors, consistent with the pattern that females are the most vulnerable to CRSV due to gender inequalities and negative social norms. Between January and November, the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on grave violations against children in armed conflict (MRM) verified six cases of CRSV that occurred prior to 2020. In all six cases, the survivors were Yazidi returnees from Syria who arrived in Iraq during the course of 2020. Survivors were kidnapped and held as sexual slaves by ISIL, in August 2014, in and around the Sinjar District, Ninewa governorate.

In Iraq, cases of CRSV were significantly underreported due to a fear of reprisals, social stigma, a lack of trust in the justice system and security concerns. On 2 March, a criminal court in Baghdad sentenced a former ISIL member to death

following his conviction for charges under articles 2 and 4 of the Anti-Terrorism Law (Law No. 13 of 2005). This was the first case where a survivor provided oral evidence in open court regarding kidnapping, trafficking and rape endured at the hands of a former ISIL member. This is an important step in ensuring accountability for CRSV crimes.

Finally, the HRO engaged with the Government, UN partners and CSOs to promote measures for the prevention of and accountability for the crime of CRSV, in line with the six priorities outlined in the Joint Communiqué on prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence. In particular, the Office engaged with the Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (MARA) Technical Working Group on conflict-related sexual violence to strengthen monitoring of CRSV cases and prevention efforts.

Iraq: Raising awareness about human rights through art

“Public art is an effective tool to provoke discussion on the human rights dimensions of COVID-19, including the increased risk of domestic violence, stigma, discrimination, access to health care for women and girls and access to education for all Iraqi children,” said Danielle Bell, Chief of the UN Human Rights Office in Iraq.

During 2020, UN Human Rights launched an art and illustration-based campaign to raise awareness about the human rights impacts of COVID-19. Available in Arabic, Kurdish and English, the campaign was built around mutually reinforcing elements, including rap songs, cartoons, murals, posters, videos and post-cards, which were disseminated in person and through social media.

From April to June, seven young Iraqi artists produced vibrant and colourful cartons to dispel rumours about the virus, address stigma and discrimination and commend the courage and resilience of health-care workers, with support from the Al-Amal Association and UN Human Rights.

“I wanted to show that [COVID-19] is a disease that can be treated and that people who are sick should be treated, not punished,” said Evan, an Iraqi artist, based in Turkey, who wanted to help stem the consequences of stigma through her cartoons.

“Standing together and showing solidarity with people affected by COVID-19, especially marginalized and vulnerable groups, is a social responsibility,” said Hasan Wahab, from the Al-Amal Association. “It requires multiple collaborative efforts

to reduce violence and limit the spread of the virus across Iraq.”

The campaign also sought to highlight the human rights consequences of the pandemic, including an increase in domestic violence, limited access to education and decreased access to health-care services.

With the support of UN Human Rights, Imprint of Hope, a CSO, worked with artists to produce 20 murals, ranging from 20 to 45 metres in length, in 10 of Baghdad’s neighbourhoods. The murals aimed to counter stigma and discrimination and were painted on the walls of medical clinics, schools, a university, a local government building and on the side of a bridge.

To mark Human Rights Day, 10 December, UNAMI launched three rap songs, namely, “New World (COVID-19),” “Together” and “Final Advice.” The songs were written and performed by The Golden Nenous (an Assyrian rapper), Raz (a Kurdish artist) and Mr. Legendary (from the Arab community). The lyrics of each song stressed that our response to the pandemic needs to prioritize human rights, adherence to health protection measures and the health of others. Recorded in Arabic, Kurdish and the modern Assyrian, or neo-Aramaic or Syriac language, the songs were widely circulated in Iraq, particularly among minority communities, including the Christian Assyrian and Kurdish communities.



Painting murals in the Hurriya neighbourhood, Baghdad. © OHCHR/Iraq

LIBYA: UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT MISSION IN LIBYA (UNSMIL)

Population size ¹	Surface area ¹	Human Development Index ²	NHRI (if applicable) ³
6.87 million	1,676,000 km ²	0.724 (rank: 105/189 in 2019)	"B" Status (2014)

Type of engagement	United Nations Support Mission in Libya
Year established	2011
Field office(s)	Tripoli and Tunis, Tunisia
UN partnership framework	UN Strategic Framework 2019-2020
Staff as of 31 December 2020	10

XB requirements 2020	US\$191,000
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Key OMP pillars in 2020

^{1 2 3} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229**PILLAR RESULTS:****Accountability (A)**

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 for cases of gender-based violence (GBV) operate in conformity with international human rights standards.

As a result of sustained advocacy efforts undertaken by UN Human Rights and the Human Rights, Rule of Law and Transitional Justice Service (HRS) of UNSMIL, specialized courts were set up to address violence against women and children in Benghazi and Tripoli. Another major development was the appointment, on 11 October, of five women judges (out

of a total of six judges) to the newly established courts. Together with UN Women and UNICEF, the HRS undertook a comprehensive training programme for the appointed judges. To further advance the rights of women and children in Libya, and following a request from the Chief Justice, the HRS agreed to roll out a specialized training programme, in 2021, for criminal justice actors, including prosecutors. In December, the HRS cooperated with UN Women and UNFPA to launch a project to revise the draft law on combating violence against women and girls. Twelve Libyan legal experts, including 10 women, met on two occasions and agreed on a plan of action.

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 that individuals who are unlawfully detained are released.



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.

UN Human Rights and UNSMIL's HRS provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice and the Supreme Judicial Council to screen and release detainees as a mitigation measure against the spread of COVID-19. Between August and October, the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Public Prosecutor announced that more than 1,410 individuals had been released from prisons across the country. The HRS also advocated for the provision of basic health care to prisoners with the Ministry of Justice and the judicial police. Health-care units were operationalized in several prisons and some correctional facilities were sanitized. Medical screening was conducted throughout the year and procedures for visits were reviewed to prevent the spread of the virus. Eight women prisoners were transferred from a Special Deterrence Force (SDF) facility under the Ministry of Interior, to the Judicial Police/al-Jdayda prison in Tripoli. In addition, 44 women and 66 children were initially transferred from Al-Jawiya to Tummina prison, in Misrata, before being transferred to the al-Jdayda prison, which employs women guards. The al-Jdayda prison granted access to the HRS and other monitors.

In November, the HRS successfully advocated for the release of 350 migrants and asylum seekers from detention centres run by the Ministry of Interior's Department for Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM). Furthermore, in the context of the UNDP Policing and Security Joint Programme, technical support was provided to the judicial police to support the adoption of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the management and organization of detention facilities, in compliance with international human rights standards.

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.

16

OHCHR contributed to enhancing the compliance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law of accountability mechanisms and transitional justice systems through advocacy with the judiciary and other parties.

Between May and December, the International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Working Group, co-chaired by UNSMIL's HRS, the Netherlands and Switzerland, held five meetings. The meetings focused on enhancing the promotion and protection of human rights in Libya through accountability and justice, with an emphasis on fact-finding and strengthening national capacities for the search and identification of mission persons. One meeting was dedicated to capacity-building measures linked to the exchange of prisoners, the sick and wounded, detainees and the de-mining of cities and roads, especially

in highly populated/residential areas. Another meeting focused on transitional justice, as a follow-up to the outcomes of the Libya Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF). Libyan counterparts, including the Minister of Justice, the Director of the General Authority for the Search and Identification of Missing Persons and CSO representatives were invited to present concerns, challenges and recommendations on the way forward.

Furthermore, the HRS organized regular in-person and virtual meetings and consultations on the role of judicial leadership within the ongoing peace process. Expert advice was provided to the newly elected Supreme Judicial Council on the status of the judiciary and prosecutorial system, including on their critical role in ensuring justice for conflict-related detainees as part of a sustainable peace process. Despite continuing challenges, the unified administration of justice noted that there were signs of improvement, as demonstrated by the collaboration of the members of the Supreme Judicial Council and the resumption of legal proceedings in the south, Sirte and Derna. Between August and October, the advocacy efforts undertaken by the HRS resulted in 11 court hearings inside the al-Jdayda prison, with the consequent release of eight detainees.

Participation (P)

P1 – National and international stakeholders strengthen their networking and coordination. CSOs provide assistance, including legal aid, to HRDs 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.

On 11 November, Libya underwent its third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Prior to the review, UN Human Rights and the HRS provided support to the Government and CSOs to engage in the process. It also facilitated the preparation of submissions on human rights gains and challenges and ways forward that would enable all stakeholders to work together to improve the human rights situation in Libya. As a follow-up to a UPR training for women HRDs (WHRDs) that was organized in 2019, an effective network of WHRDs was established in 2020, resulting in the creation of tools to monitor GBV cases in the country. On 6 October, the HRS and the Embassy of Canada organized a meeting, during which CSOs discussed their inputs to the review process and strategies to disseminate their recommendations with key stakeholders. This facilitated constructive engagement and transparent and meaningful discussions that fed into the broader UPR process.

The HRS collaborated with the co-chairs of the International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Working Group to gather the views of diverse and representative individuals to ensure that

the LPDF proceedings were inclusive and rights-based as a means of achieving sustainable peace. Two consultative dialogues with civil society actors were held, in October and November, which included the participation of WHRDs. A number of principles were incorporated into the LPDF road map, including the importance of achieving equality between women and men, promoting and protecting human rights and pursuing comprehensive national reconciliation based on the principles of transitional justice, in parallel with fact-finding initiatives and reparations for victims. Firm commitments were undertaken to secure the increased engagement of women in these processes. For instance, a quota was established to ensure that women are selected for a minimum of 30 per cent of ministerial and deputy appointments. The LPDF road map was unanimously accepted by participants as an integral component of Libya's path towards sustainable peace and was annexed to the final outcome document of the LPDF.

The HRS provided technical advice to the international CSO Migrants Rights Forum and Legal Aid Coalition through virtual meetings and facilitated their engagement with other international networks.



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 protecting civilians, upholding freedom of expression and combating discrimination against women and migrants.



OHCHR contributed to the increased awareness of the international community regarding the human rights situation in Libya.

Since the withdrawal of Libyan Arab Armed Forces (LAAF), on 5 June, UN Human Rights and the HRS closely monitored the situation in Tarhuna. A large number of mass graves were found in and around the town and a total of 115 human remains had been exhumed by the end of 2020. The slow identification process of the human remains led to public calls for expedited action and response. The International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Working Group advocated for the provision of technical and financial support to the General Authority for the Search and Identification of Missing Persons. The HRS also conducted a comprehensive factual and legal analysis of more than 80 documented cases.

In addition, the HRS successfully engaged with the UNCT to set up Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. The HRS provided information on human rights violations of women, including in detention, and conflict-related sexual violence to the International Criminal Court, the Panel of Experts on Libya and the Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Type of engagement	Regional Office
Countries of engagement	Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates
Year established	2002
Field office(s)	Beirut, Lebanon
Staff as of 31 December 2020	14

XB income	US\$2,935,091		
XB requirements 2020	US\$9,708,000		
XB expenditure	US\$2,043,564		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴	
76%	13%	11%	
\$1,546,115	\$272,93	\$224,519	
RB expenditure	US\$216,546		
Personnel			
100%			
\$216,546			

Key OMP pillars in 2020



⁴ Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:

Participation (P)

P1 – Two countries act to ensure that the legal, policy and accountability environment protects civil society groups, HRDs and activists.

16

OHCHR contributed to the increased compliance with international human rights standards of legislation and policies related to the protection of civic space through awareness-raising and advocacy efforts.

In 2020, UN Human Rights launched nine consecutive social media campaigns related to COVID-19 and human rights, with a focus on access to health care, the rights of women and migrant workers, xenophobia and hate speech, the right to privacy and trafficking in persons. The latest social media campaign on the right to privacy was exceptionally well-received and was disseminated by UN channels (i.e., UNIC in Beirut, the Regional Documentation Centre in Qatar and OHCHR-Tunisia) and non-UN channels (human rights groups and independent

bloggers). Engagement with the campaign was high, with a total of 1,769 post impressions. As a result, HRDs and bloggers from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region contacted the Office, alleging that their personal phone lines were tapped by intelligence services or that their personal accounts were blocked on communication platforms such as WhatsApp and TikTok.

The Office remained committed to engagement with young human rights advocates and mainstreamed youth participation into all of its activities. To this end, it expanded its youth network with an additional 76 youth advocates, increasing the membership to over 150 young women and men. In December, the Office organized a regional webinar on the right of youth to participate in public affairs. Young women and men from the Arab region voiced their concerns regarding their lack of participation in the political field. This led to the development of recommendations for States on addressing obstacles to youth participation and inclusion at the national, regional and international levels. Participants were encouraged to send the recommendations to officials in their respective countries, with support from OHCHR.

In addition, OHCHR supported an initiative to develop a code of conduct for parliamentarians in Lebanon, which was translated into Arabic. It encouraged parliamentarians to sign a pledge to combat incitement to hatred and discrimination and avoid using pejorative or discriminatory language. The next step will be a decision by the parliamentary Human Rights Committee.

P4 – A network of WHRDs in the region is strengthened after increasing its capacity to participate and address areas of concern.



OHCHR developed the capacity of a network of WHRDs from the Arab region, contributing to an increase in women's engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

Throughout 2020, UN Human Rights continued to support the WHRD-MENA Coalition. The Coalition, which was established with the support of the Office in 2019, unites 40 WHRDs from at least 25 national organizations in 14 countries from the MENA region. In 2020, the Coalition organized a regional online symposium on inequalities between women's and men's rights under nationality legislation. This topic is of critical importance in the MENA region where only one out of 18 Arab countries provides for equal rights between women and men in its nationality legislation.

In 2020, OHCHR began implementing a two-year advocacy campaign to raise awareness on this issue. The WHRD-MENA Coalition was a crucial advocacy partner at the national level. It prepared and disseminated recommendations to the media, religious and community leaders and legislative bodies in the region. In partnership with the Maharat Foundation, the Office organized a webinar on the "Role of media in advocating for full equality in nationality law," with a focus on strategic media approaches to advocacy for full equality. The participants reflected on the negative impact of this legislated inequality between women and men and solicited OHCHR's guidance to launch a campaign, in 2021, to appeal to legislative bodies and decision-makers

to amend discriminatory legislation. Furthermore, the Office and civil society partners hosted a regional conference during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence on enhancing equality in nationality laws. The conference brought together 55 representatives of CSOs from across the region to brainstorm on advocacy strategies related to this issue.

 **Non-discrimination (ND)**

ND1 – National laws, policies and practices combat discrimination more effectively, particularly discrimination against religious, ethnic and national minorities, persons with disabilities, migrants and women. Authorities in at least three countries work actively to Leave No One Behind, including by addressing the root causes of inequality and linking implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with human rights.



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

UN Human Rights initiated a study on the root causes of discrimination, in law and in practice, against ethnic and religious groups, with recommendations for policymakers to strengthen the legal protection and the participation of minorities. Advocacy efforts will be undertaken in 2021. In addition, the Office collaborated with the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect to engage religious leaders and policymakers in efforts to combat incitement to hatred and promote religious tolerance.

On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, OHCHR facilitated a virtual workshop on the application of a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to media coverage in Saudi Arabia. In addition, on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the Office organized virtual workshops on human rights standards in labour courts and on digital inclusion as a means of promoting the rights of persons with disabilities in work and in education. Finally, OHCHR continued to support the creation of a Master's programme on human rights at a university in Saudi Arabia.

ND4 – The image of women in public life is more positive and diverse. Traditional stereotypes are challenged regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in society and the family.



OHCHR contributed to increased levels of awareness of State institutions in relation to gender-based violence.

UN Human Rights and other UN partners provided technical assistance to the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW). The NCLW organized a meeting for governmental and non-governmental institutions on the creation of a specialized national coordination committee that would implement initiatives to combat gender-based violence in accordance with the Lebanon National Action Plan on United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2019-2022). The members of the National Steering Committee 1325 approved the establishment of the new committee. Subsequently, the Office participated in meetings on definitions of violence against women with representatives of CSOs, UN

agencies and ministries, with a focus on “the development of standard definitions of violence against women for internal security forces, courts, hospitals and service centres to improve and analyse all data.”

ND6 – Member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) take steps to abolish the Kafala (sponsorship) system.



OHCHR contributed to increasing the compliance with international human rights standards of migration policies and programmes of selected State institutions.

UN Human Rights pursued its work in the region to abolish the Kafala sponsorship system of migrant workers. As a result of ongoing advocacy efforts undertaken by the Office and other partners, **Lebanon’s** Ministry of Labour adopted a new standard unified contract (SUC) for the employment of migrant workers. Its application was suspended by the Shura Council, at least temporarily, after being successfully challenged by recruitment agencies. In **Qatar**, reforms were introduced into the labour law in September. For instance, a non-discriminatory minimum wage was established for all workers, including migrant workers, and the requirement to provide a No Objection Certificate when switching jobs was removed. Although the reforms were scheduled to be implemented in October, the implementation date was postponed by six months due to delays.

Peace and Security

PSS – The Regional Office acquires dedicated capacity to provide early warning analysis and responses.



OHCHR contributed to enhancing awareness and knowledge on the right to freedom of religion and on minority rights.

In February, during the regional round of the Oxford University moot court competition, in Lebanon, UN Human Rights rolled out components of the #Faith4Rights toolkit, with a focus on ethnic and religious minorities and human rights. Participants, including youth and university students, discussed the Rabat Plan of Action and the human rights duties of religious leaders. In particular, they exchanged substantive views on the toolkit, with an emphasis on Module 4 (the relationship between State and religion) and Module 6 (the rights of minorities). During the discussions, the Office identified youth participants who could further engage with these initiatives. Moreover, OHCHR finalized a study on the promotion and protection of ethnic and religious groups in the MENA region, which will be broadly disseminated among key stakeholders in 2021. The study will be a cornerstone for all activities related to freedom of religion or belief, including the regional roll-out of the #Faith4Rights framework and toolkit.

Mechanisms (M)

M1 – National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRFs) are established and strengthened in three countries in the subregion and their mandates are comprehensive and clear.



OHCHR contributed to strengthening the effective functioning of NMRFs by providing technical support through its Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme.

In 2020, UN Human Rights organized eight training sessions on reporting to and following up on recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms for 451 representatives of governments, UNCTs and HRDs from six countries in the region (Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Syria).

The NMRF in **Lebanon** requested technical support from the Office on drafting its State Party report to CEDAW. OHCHR provided information on reporting guidelines, highlighted good practices and offered advice on gender mainstreaming in reporting. In **Qatar**, OHCHR and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a three-day training on NMRFs with 35 participants from State institutions, the NHRI and CSOs. Participants enhanced their knowledge about the role of the NMRF, including its engagement, coordination, consultation and information management functions, and increased their awareness about the importance of establishing a permanent NMRF in Qatar. In **Saudi Arabia**, the Office organized a virtual consultative meeting on the simplified reporting procedure, bringing together 25 members of the Saudi National Permanent Committee.

STATE OF PALESTINE*

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
5.10 million	6,000 km ²	0.798 (rank: 115/189 in 2019)	"A" Status (2015)
Type of engagement	Country Office		
Year established	1996		
Field office(s)	East Jerusalem, Gaza, Hebron and Ramallah		
UN partnership framework	United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2022		
Staff as of 31 December 2020	34		
XB income	US\$5,521,309		
XB requirements 2020	US\$3,181,000		
XB expenditure	US\$2,125,110		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴	
73%	16%	10%	
\$1,557,254	\$347,395	\$220,462	
RB expenditure	US\$2,309,952		
Personnel	Non-personnel		
85%	15%		
\$1,953,287	\$356,665		

Key OMP pillars in 2020

* Reference to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with General Assembly resolution 67/19.

^{1,2,3,4} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229 and p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:
Accountability (A)

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’ monitoring work, supported by strong legal analyses, contributed to guiding technical assistance in order to increase the knowledge and the capacity of the Palestinian Government to implement its obligations under the international human rights treaties. For instance, the Office supported the Government to develop the Family Protection Bill. To this end, it provided

a legal analysis of the draft Bill’s implications for the domestic legal framework. This fed into discussions during the Government-led national consultations with key civil society stakeholders, held in February, to discuss a revised version of the document. On 11 May, the Bill passed the first reading by the Cabinet. The Bill has not been adopted.

Another example was OHCHR’s ongoing advocacy to place the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) Law on the Government’s agenda and its recommendations to bring it in line with international standards and recommendations issued by SPT. OHCHR also provided technical assistance in this regard. The Office organized several meetings and events with the Ministry of Interior and National Security, which led to a final draft Law on the NPM that was submitted for adoption in December.

The Office pursued its engagement with the Security and Justice Sector Working Groups. In coordination with its international partners, OHCHR advised on priority interventions for improving the integration of human rights into the security sector. As a result, the Ministry of Interior’s 2021 workplan outlined steps to establish the NPM, provide continuous training of law enforcement officers and staff from internal complaints/accountability units on applicable human rights standards, ensure timely reporting to the human rights treaty bodies and increase dialogue with civil society actors.

In the context of COVID-19, OHCHR published guidance notes on access to justice and on the deprivation of liberty, which include information on applicable minimum human rights standards. The guidance notes were widely disseminated among local institutions within the security and justice sectors. In addition,

OHCHR produced COVID-19 guidance notes to provide advice on the rights of women and children and persons with disabilities. The Office also undertook several awareness-raising actions regarding the right to privacy and to combat stigmatization during the pandemic.

A1 – Palestinian duty-bearers have agreed to and sustained a de facto moratorium on the death penalty in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt) and have 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.

A de facto moratorium on the death penalty was upheld in the West Bank and no new death sentences were handed down by courts in the West Bank in 2020. In Gaza, UN Human Rights continued monitoring and documenting cases where death sentences were handed down by courts and advocated for a formal moratorium with Gaza authorities. In a positive development, no executions were carried out in 2020. OHCHR continued to liaise with human rights organizations and UNRWA on the death penalty, including by sharing information and implementing joint outreach activities. To commemorate World Day against the Death Penalty, the Office produced three videos based on dramatized scenarios depicting the perspectives of different people who were sentenced to death. The videos were used to raise awareness about the ineffectiveness of the death penalty as a deterrent sanction in today's society. Additionally, the Office collaborated with the Independent Commission

for Human Rights (ICHR) to prepare a television episode focusing on the abolition of the death penalty.

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

16 

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

UN Human Rights carried out regular monitoring work and documented over 120 emblematic cases of violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, many of which were included in reports to the General Assembly and Human Rights Council. The Office continued to increase its monitoring of the human rights of women, girls and members of the LGBTI community. OHCHR produced five mandated reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly to inform Member States about the human rights situation in Palestine and outlined recommendations for the international community. The Office also provided inputs to other mandated UN reports, including reports to the Security Council, through the Children and Armed Conflict mechanism, to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee and Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and continued to engage with the UNCT and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) to ensure the wide dissemination of its findings. The Office regularly briefed

the diplomatic community in Jerusalem, Ramallah and Tel Aviv on the human rights situation in the oPt, based on its first-hand monitoring work.

A1 – Israeli and Palestinian detention policies and practices more closely conform with international human rights standards. The number of cases of arbitrary detention, ill-treatment and torture has declined.

16 

OHCHR continued to monitor cases of arbitrary detention, ill-treatment and torture and advocated for increased conformity with international human rights standards of practices within Israeli and Palestinian detention facilities.

UN Human Rights monitored detention conditions in both the West Bank and Gaza with very good access to detention facilities. UN Human Rights visited a total of 27 facilities (16 were controlled by the Palestinian Authority and 11 were controlled by the de facto authorities in Gaza). Access to Palestinian detention facilities was further improved following an agreement with the Palestinian Authority on access to its Military Intelligence Detention facilities in the West Bank and due to improved cooperation with the Security Forces Justice Commission, which is responsible for the detention, investigation and prosecution of members of the Palestinian Security Forces. OHCHR's advocacy efforts related to the human rights situation, in particular regarding arbitrary detention, and its concerns about fair trial guarantees and treatment in detention led to increased awareness among the diplomatic community and international organizations and to aligned messaging with Palestinian Security Forces, such as

the European Union Coordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support (EUPOL COPPS). Relevant cases that were referred to the special procedures and information on human rights concerns that were identified through monitoring, together with emblematic cases, were included in reports to the General Assembly and Human Rights Council.

Although the Office lacks access to Israeli detention facilities where Palestinians are being held, OHCHR conducted remote monitoring and the documentation of individual cases of Palestinians who are being detained by Israeli authorities. It publicized some of these cases in a Secretary-General report to the General Assembly. Coordination of advocacy efforts with key UN agencies continued and was particularly important in relation to the arrest and detention of children and outlining the impacts of COVID-19 on detainees. To commemorate the International Day of Victims of Torture, the Office conducted an awareness-raising campaign targeting the public, civil society and institutions. A set of information cards were circulated through social media, brochures for victims of torture were widely distributed through partner organizations and service providers and a comic book-style brochure was prepared and published by CAT.

Finally, the Office provided training to the Public Prosecution's Human Rights Unit on the State of Palestine's international human rights obligations, with specific focus on the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment. This training was the first in a series aimed at supporting the public prosecution in fulfilling its role to protect human rights.



Participation (P)

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 monitor and document the situation of HRDs and journalists and to raise the awareness of both Israeli and Palestinian authorities on their obligations related to the protection of civic space.

Civic space in the oPt continued to shrink as all duty-bearers detained HRDs and journalists, particularly those exercising freedom of expression online. In 2020, UN Human Rights monitored and documented at least 24 cases of civic space-related violations against HRDs and journalists. The High Commissioner's report to the HRC (A/HRC/43/70) highlights concerns about the use by Israel of ill-treatment and coerced confessions and the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly (A/75/336) raises further concerns about the possible systematic use of torture and ill-treatment by Israeli authorities in relation to HRDs and persons with specific political affiliations. In addition, concerns were raised with the Palestinian authorities and the de facto authorities in Gaza regarding the ongoing detention of HRDs and journalists. Moreover, Israeli Security Forces continued to crackdown on civic space in East Jerusalem, with increased raids and closures of cultural and human rights organizations. In the context of anti-CEDAW campaigns that took place in 2020, in the West Bank, WHRDs were the targets of increased threats and harassment online.

OHCHR initiated a mapping of human rights organizations in the oPt, including a risk assessment based on previous incidents and the vulnerabilities and capacities of organizations. Throughout the year, the Office contributed to raising the awareness of local and international organizations on available protection mechanisms and met with them to discuss threats faced by HRDs and opportunities for joint advocacy. In particular, OHCHR organized two events on the occasion of Human Rights Day with a focus on HRDs and freedom of expression. At the first event, 12 diplomats and members of the donor community participated in a round-table to discuss civic space challenges. The second event, entitled "Speak without fear: Freedom of expression and press in the West Bank," was organized in cooperation with the Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and included 28 participants. The Office released an online [Human Rights Quiz](#) to mark the occasion, reaching over 2,000 players in the first week.

Non-discrimination (ND)

ND3 – Israeli practices (as the occupying power) and Palestinian laws, policies and practices increasingly comply with international human rights standards with respect to SGBV and other discriminatory practices against women, as an initial 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.

In January, the High Commissioner awarded UN Human Rights Country Office in the oPt with the UN Human Rights Gender Accreditation, concluding a year-long programme that significantly strengthened the capacity of the Office to carry out gender-sensitive monitoring and follow-up activities on the human rights concerns of women and girls. In August, with support from headquarters, specialized training was delivered to increase the capacity of the Office to monitor and document gender-related killings. A mapping exercise was undertaken to identify key actors and women’s rights issues. This enabled the Country Office to strengthen its monitoring in the following areas: GBV and gender-related killings; the arbitrary detention of women and the detention of pregnant women and women with children in Palestinian detention facilities; the situation of women in Israeli detention facilities; and attacks against WHRDs by all duty-bearers. The initiatives strengthened regular exchanges with women’s organizations, which ensured that the Office was better informed about developments concerning women’s rights

and therefore better prepared to raise issues of concern with authorities. All of this contributed to a report of the High Commissioner to the Human Rights Council, which examines the situation of human rights of women and girls in the oPt in a comprehensive manner.

OHCHR conducted a series of training sessions for WHRDs, in Gaza, including on how to submit individual communications to CEDAW. A core group of activists was subsequently established. Members of the General Union of Palestinian Women, along with other WHRDs from the West Bank, were equipped with knowledge about the international human rights mechanisms and how they can be used to effectively promote the rights of Palestinian women.

The Office marked the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence with the biggest campaign it had launched to date. The campaign was implemented, in partnership with the Palestinian Ministry of Women’s Affairs and the UNCT, to raise public awareness about gender equality and the obligation to end gender-based violence. It also highlighted relevant domestic mechanisms and services. The messages were disseminated through social media platforms, LED displays and TV and radio broadcasts throughout the oPt.

Development

D7 – A growing number of the Government’s actions to promote its National Programme of Action (NPA) respect international human rights obligations. These actions and others that are designed to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are supported by a United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which is human rights-based.

16 

OHCHR helped to improve the level of compliance with international human rights standards of the policies, programmes and practices of the UNCT and State institutions, including through awareness-raising, technical assistance and training.

UN Human Rights engaged in technical discussions with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior and others on the mainstreaming of human rights standards and integrating SDG16 Targets and Indicators into national strategies, including the National Policy Agenda and its sector strategies and budget programming. The Office contributed to a government-led programme that aims to develop the capacities of officials in relation to SDG16. To this end, OHCHR integrated a human rights perspective into the training modules prepared by the Ministry of Justice as part of a comprehensive training toolkit for government officials. A first training session took place in November.

The Office participated in UNCT thematic working groups to integrate human rights into the work of UN partners and the policies and strategies of Palestinian authorities. Through the UNCT Data Group, OHCHR delivered inputs to the

mapping of data gaps, indicators and data sources to ensure the inclusion of those who may be more vulnerable, such as women, children and persons with disabilities. Following the outbreak of COVID-19, the Office worked closely with the Government, UN partners and CSOs to ensure the application of an HRBA to COVID-19 responses. Targeted guidance notes were prepared on various issues, including detention, justice, women, children and persons with disabilities.

D8 – The State of Palestine’s official institutions, the ICHR and civil society increasingly use human rights indicators to guide their activities and decision-making.



OHCHR contributed to the institutionalization of human rights indicators in selected areas.

UN Human Rights continued working with the Government, the ICHR and CSOs on the use of human rights indicators to measure the implementation of the State of Palestine’s obligations under the international human rights treaties. The Office collaborated with WHO and consulted with relevant Government and civil society stakeholders, in the West Bank and Gaza, to develop a set of human rights indicators related to the right to health, while also ensuring the inclusion of those who may be more vulnerable. The right to health indicator framework is expected to be finalized in 2021.



Mechanisms (M)

M2 – Palestinian CSOs, the ICHR and non-traditional human rights organizations increasingly use the international human rights mechanisms to assist Palestinians in claiming their rights and to hold both Israel and the State of Palestine accountable in accordance with their human rights obligations.

17



OHCHR contributed to the enhanced engagement of the NHRI and CSOs with international human rights mechanisms by developing their capacities.

UN Human Rights held strategic discussions with the ICHR to coordinate efforts in promoting the human rights agenda in both Gaza and the West Bank on the basis of the State of Palestine’s human rights treaty obligations. In particular, OHCHR provided support to enhance the ICHR’s role in providing guidance to and building the capacities of national institutions and CSOs.

The Office continued to engage with civil society across Palestine. It organized a series of events to raise their awareness and provide advice about successfully interacting with the human rights treaty bodies, with an emphasis on CEDAW, CERD and CRPD and alternative reporting. A general technical training was also provided to national institutions, including the Ministry of Women’s Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Specific training on CAT and ICCPR was delivered to actors from the Security and Justice Sectors, including prosecutors, military judges and law enforcement officials working in internal complaints units. Furthermore, the Office coached disability counsellors and disability outreach staff in selected CSOs (11 men, seven women)

on the application of an HRBA to issues related to disability and making connections between provisions of CEDAW and CRPD. In the context of COVID-19, OHCHR provided training on remote human rights monitoring and safety precautions for civil society partners.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
17.50 million	185,000 km ²	0.567 (rank: 151/189 in 2019)	-
Type of engagement	Country Office		
Year established	2018		
Field office(s)	Based in Beirut, Lebanon with presence in Gaziantep, Turkey and Amman, Jordan		
UN partnership framework	-		
Staff as of 31 December 2020	14		

XB income	US\$2,125,131		
XB requirements 2020	US\$4,232,000		
XB expenditure	US\$2,390,929		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴	
76%	14%	10%	
\$1,823,242	\$336,453	\$231,234	

Key OMP pillars in 2020

^{1 2 3 4} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229 and p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:**Peace and Security**

PS5 – Early warning actions issued by OHCHR are regularly used by the international community and UN actors in the context of preventive action.



OHCHR contributed to efforts by the international community to raise human rights issues with the Government, including by providing data and information on specific human rights concerns and disseminating protection messages to key stakeholders.

Throughout the year, UN Human Rights provided extensive information and

analysis on human rights issues to humanitarian, political and policy partners working on the Syrian context, including in relation to the human rights impacts of COVID-19. These activities situated the Office as a key protection player. OHCHR contributed regular analyses and reports on the human rights situation in Syria, which were included in the Secretary-General's bimonthly reports to the Security Council on Syria. The Office also widely disseminated its analyses and advocacy messages to over 500 humanitarians, policymakers, donors, CSOs and journalists, including through statements, press briefing notes, thematic digests and flash reports.

In addition, OHCHR provided advisory support to humanitarian actors to ensure strong and legally accurate messaging on violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. This included protection messages on the al-Hol camp, the situation of alleged former ISIL fighters and their families, medical units and the overall protection of human rights in the context of COVID-19 responses. The Office shared guidance documents that were produced in the context of the pandemic and promoted the inclusion of human rights in public and private advocacy efforts by senior humanitarian actors. Particular emphasis was placed on ESCRs, such as the rights to health, water and sanitation, work, social security, food, adequate housing and education. Furthermore, OHCHR briefed humanitarian leadership, including the Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Regional and Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinators and the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) on messaging related to the human rights-based approach. The Office also facilitated the engagement of humanitarian actors with relevant international human rights mechanisms, including the special procedures mandate holders.

The Office continued to engage with the UNCT/HCT and contributed inputs to the quarterly MRM Global Horizontal Note and the annual report of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence. In addition, it supported the inclusion of human rights in the development of the Common Country Analysis (CCA) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). OHCHR regularly briefed the Whole of Syria (WoS) Strategic Steering Group (SSG) and participated in biweekly UNCT and HCT meetings and

those of associated working groups. The Office contributed to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Principals and Technical Working Groups on issues such as child protection, return and reintegration and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

OHCHR contributed to an increased willingness of humanitarian actors to engage on human rights issues. The value added of OHCHR's involvement in the humanitarian response on Syria was reflected in the lessons learned assessment, which was conducted in 2020. The assessment was based on inputs received from 34 key informants, including senior humanitarian actors, from all three hubs and from headquarters, in Geneva.



Participation (P)

P4 – Civic space in the Syrian Arab Republic has expanded, allowing 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.

UN Human Rights enhanced its outreach efforts to civil society partners who are operating in the governmental regions in Syria to implement a variety of projects, including in relation to femicide (so-called 'honour killings'), the stigmatization of youth at school on the basis of their geographical origin (primarily IDPs) and the adoption of a code of conduct by a coalition of CSOs and media workers to tackle the root causes of online hate speech. In 2020, the Office initiated a partnership

with five community-based CSOs and provided them with small grant support and technical advice in relation to the abovementioned projects. In November, OHCHR conducted a three-day online training on the application of an HRBA to advocacy work for 18 CSO representatives (12 women, six men) who were based within or outside of Syria.

In addition, the Office facilitated the monthly meetings of the Human Rights Reference Group, in Gaziantep. Discussions focused on new working modalities, including the transition to online programming, and responses to emerging patterns of violence, such as the increased incidence of GBV and drug use. Moreover, participants shared information on the deteriorating human rights situation in Syria caused by the worsening violence and conflict, the country's economic collapse and COVID-19, which the shattered health system could not effectively address.

From 8 to 10 June, OHCHR-Syria held an online workshop entitled "Fostering the engagement of civil society organizations with human rights mechanisms to advocate on human rights violations related to enforced disappearances." The event brought together a group of 21 representatives, including 10 women, from human rights groups and Syrian family victims' associations. The first day of the workshop was dedicated to the international human rights system and the working methods of the WGEID. On the second day, OHCHR facilitated a series of dialogues on the rights to truth, reparations and an effective remedy, in accordance with a victim-centred and human rights-based approach. Finally, during a two-hour session, participants engaged in a dialogue with a WGEID member and the OHCHR Secretariat on

enhancing future engagement, particularly with regard to allegations in individual cases. The workshop identified practical ways of empowering victims of enforced disappearance to claim their human rights and promote the rule of law in relation to missing persons.

On 22 June, OHCHR and the Delegation of the European Union to Syria co-organized a webinar on "The role of women, youth and civil society in building Syria's future," as part of the Brussels IV Conference. The Deputy High Commissioner opened the meeting and a panel of five Syrian civil society representatives (four women, one man), who are based in Syria and in the European Union, made presentations on the empowerment of women and of youth, child protection and social cohesion. More than 8,800 participants followed the online discussions.

The Office provided a briefing to 33 Syrian civil society participants on how to submit inputs to the Human Rights Committee prior to its drafting of the list of issues in the context of Syria's review under ICCPR. This resulted in the submission of seven alternative reports from Syrian organizations.



Accountability (A)

A3 – Accountability initiatives address SGBV. 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.

UN Human Rights undertook several activities during 2020 to highlight the

importance of accountability for SGBV, including in the context of COVID-19. In April, the Office supported the outreach efforts of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences by translating her questionnaire on SGBV into Arabic and ensuring its wide dissemination to partners working on Syria, in cooperation with UN Women. In addition, OHCHR held a webinar on the impacts of the pandemic on the human rights of women in Syria, as a contribution to the global campaign to address violence against women and in the lead-up to Human Rights Day. A total of 40 persons (26 women, 14 men) participated in the webinar, including representatives of women's rights groups operating in different areas in Syria, notably Damascus, Sweida, Idlib and Hasakeh, as well as representatives from the OHCHR Women's Rights and Gender Section (WRGS) and UN entities engaged in the Syria humanitarian response.

OHCHR also supported advocacy efforts on SGBV by senior humanitarian actors inside and outside of Syria, notably on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Finally, a joint statement was issued, on 9 December, by the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator and the UNFPA Regional Director to mark the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

TUNISIA

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
11.82 million	164,000 km ²	0.740 (rank: 95/189 in 2019)	"B" Status (2009)
Type of engagement		Country Office	
Year established		2011	
Field office(s)		Tunis	
UN partnership framework		United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2015-2020	
Staff as of 31 December 2020		13	
XB income		US\$2,022,029	
XB requirements 2020		US\$3,052,000	
XB expenditure		US\$1,159,480	
Personnel		Non-personnel	PSC⁴
65%		23%	11%
\$757,049		\$272,066	\$130,365

Key OMP pillars in 2020



^{1 2 3 4} Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229 and p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:

Participation (P)

P1 – Laws, policies and practices more fully protect the right to participate and civic space, including online. Civil society operates in an increasingly safe and enabling environment.

16

OHCHR contributed to improving the level of compliance of legislation and policies with international human rights standards related to the protection of civic space.

The end of 2020 was marked by a heated public debate on freedom of expression in

relation to the regulation of the media and the audiovisual communication sector. A draft bill, which was introduced to the Parliament by the Al-Karama party, was deemed an attempt to establish financial, and therefore political, control over the media, thereby endangering the diversity and transparency of the sector. On 7 October, OHCH-Tunisia delivered a speech during an online event that was co-organized with the Independent High Authority of Audiovisual Communication (HAICA) on “The future of the legal framework for the audiovisual communication.” The event was part of an intense advocacy campaign to highlight threats to the independence of the sector's regulatory

body and the transparency of the media. The participants strongly recommended the adoption of a comprehensive draft law, which is in compliance with international human rights standards and was submitted by the Government to the Parliament. Following concerted advocacy efforts by CSOs and HAICA, with OHCHR's support, parliamentary discussions on the draft law were adjourned. The Government indicated that it would engage in further consultations before presenting its own draft to the Parliament.

Throughout the year, the Office monitored and investigated cases related to restrictions on the right to freedom of expression and raised the awareness of relevant stakeholders, particularly the police and the judiciary, about persisting concerns regarding regulations, practices and the protection of civic space. OHCHR documented a wide variety of violations of the right to freedom of expression of journalists and bloggers, which were manifested through arrests and incriminations, verbal and physical attacks and restricted access to information. Tunisian citizens were also imprisoned, prosecuted and questioned for their social media posts.

As part of the celebration of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, the Office co-organized a press conference with the National Union of Tunisian Journalists (SNJT), Article 19 and UNESCO. Participants, including public authorities and representatives from the main parliamentary blocs, discussed the findings of the fourth annual report on the safety of journalists in Tunisia. Of particular note is the decrease in the number of attacks reported in comparison with the previous period (from 208 to 155) and the introduction of an indicator on public

indictments (authorities failed to respond to 85 per cent of the reported attacks).

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



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

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UN Human Rights and the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA), the Office supported the integration of an HRBA into the work of the Ministry. The MoU focuses on the rights of citizens to social protection and due process and the responsibilities of imams and preaching staff, as community leaders, to prevent violent extremism. In 2019, OHCHR provided technical assistance to support the preparation of a new legal framework that: regulates the professional environment of imams and professional worship staff, resulting in the adoption of a decree at the end of the year; enhances access to health care and maternity leave; and outlines their human rights obligations. As a follow-up, the Office helped to organize a workshop, in February, to present the decree and its implications to the regional directors of MoRA and other ministerial actors. As a result, 1,188 women working as religious teachers of children now have access to maternity leave. Two more decrees, issued in August, reinforce the rights of clerical staff, in particular their right to health and social coverage (Decrees No. 762 and No. 763).

In addition, OHCHR supported the creation of a Monitoring Unit within MoRA, to receive, analyse and report on complaints about alleged human rights violations committed by or against imams and professional worship staff. The Office organized two three-day training sessions for the 17 staff members of the new Unit, including three women and a representative of the Trade Union of Imams and Worship Staff. While the Unit originally focused on Muslim clerics, OHCHR's advocacy resulted in the extension of its mandate to cover Christian and Jewish clerics. The Office supported the exchange of experiences between the new Unit and similar mechanisms that monitor hate speech, violence and attacks against journalists, including the SNJT and HAICA. Moreover, a hotline was created to enable clerics who are victims of violations to contact the Unit. The new hotline was modelled on the hotline established by the Ministry for Women's Affairs to assist women victims of violence. On 24 November, MoRA issued a public statement on the operationalization of the new hotline, acknowledging the valuable contribution of OHCHR. The MoRA Monitoring Unit issued a first trimestral report, which provided quantitative and qualitative disaggregated data by gender. The report was presented on the occasion of Human Rights Day, during a conference entitled "Defending my rights is defending the rights of others."



Peace and Security

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.

Following the Government's decision to publish the final report of the Instance vérité et dignité (IVD) in the Official Gazette, the Minister for Human Rights requested support from UN Human Rights to organize an information campaign in July. The campaign included key messages on the value of transitional justice, which were shared on various social networks with a hashtag to mobilize Internet users. The campaign included a radio spot and two video spots that were broadcast on television and disseminated on social media and an urban poster campaign that was implemented throughout the country with assistance from UNDP. The Minister for Human Rights organized a press conference to highlight the steps that needed to be taken to advance transitional justice. OHCHR facilitated online discussions with CSOs on their role to support the Government in designing an action plan to implement the recommendations contained in the report.

Moreover, the Office undertook advocacy with national and multilateral partners regarding the importance of transitional justice to Tunisia's ongoing democratic transition. It engaged with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence and cooperated with civil society and institutional partners

to disseminate the Special Rapporteur's latest report on memorialization processes.

OHCHR also monitored the trials before the Specialized Criminal Chambers and supported the attendance of representatives of victims' associations. Extensive work was undertaken to produce a manual for the magistrates of the Specialized Criminal Chambers. The manual includes content on transitional justice principles, the legal frameworks that are applicable to specific cases and comparative jurisprudence from international tribunals.

In partnership with the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) and UNDP, the Office organized a workshop on the preservation of memory and the management of archives. The event involved the online participation of foreign experts who presented examples of memorial initiatives in the transitional justice contexts of various countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.



Non-discrimination (ND)

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.

5 10 16

OHCHR continued to support the prevention of discrimination and the promotion of the rights of women, LGBTI persons and persons with disabilities.

Despite the adoption of legislation, two years ago, on the creation of a national commission to fight racial discrimination, the commission has not been established. UN Human Rights and civil society partners continued to train lawyers on CERD and national legislation to provide free legal assistance to victims of racial discrimination. This resulted in the training of more than 120 lawyers in various governorates. In October, one of the trained lawyers obtained an historical judgment that allowed his client to remove a reference to slavery from his family name. In addition, the Office delivered a workshop to organizations of persons with disabilities to enhance their capacities to submit an alternative report to CRPD. It also convened two retreats with CSO representatives and members of the parliamentary committees that are involved in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. The objective of the retreats was to develop the knowledge of participants on relevant legal standards and increase their joint capacities to facilitate the harmonization of relevant legislation with CRPD.



Development

D7 – National stakeholders adopt an HRBA when monitoring and evaluating the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. Elected representatives and public servants at the local and regional levels are aware of their obligations with respect to economic, social and cultural rights.

OHCHR substantially contributed to ensuring the integration of international human rights standards into the policies, programmes and practices of State institutions.

UN Human Rights trained relevant stakeholders on ESCRs. A total of 98 administrative judges (54 from Tunis, 44 from the regional chambers) participated in an initial training session and 22 lawyers from the Tunisian Bar Association and representatives from CSOs participated in a training of trainers. Eight participants were hired to train their peers in subsequent workshops.

In the context of COVID-19, the Office reorganized its work to conduct a study on vulnerable populations and groups that are traditionally left behind and to assess the impacts of the Government's response measures to manage the crisis. OHCHR interviewed 11 UN agencies and conducted 12 focus group discussions with representatives of vulnerable groups. The Office carried out a human rights-based analysis of macroeconomic indicators. Meetings with key ministries were requested to enable the verification and validation of the information collected. The findings will be used for advocacy and will include recommendations for both the Government and the UN system in Tunisia.

The Office actively mainstreamed human rights throughout the drafting process of the 2021-2025 UNSDCF. It also provided numerous technical comments in relation to the CCA and delivered a training to approximately 25 staff members from 17 UN agencies in Tunisia. OHCHR coordinated inputs from concerned agencies and presented them at working-level meetings with governmental counterparts. The evaluation of the UNSDCF, which was undertaken by the UN Development Operations Coordination Office (DOCO) noted that the “outcomes reflect changes in the performance of rights-holders to exercise their rights, including the most marginalized, and duty-bearers to respect, protect and fulfil those rights.”

In June, the Office participated in the design of a questionnaire. It was disseminated through networks of CSOs to gather the views of youth and teenagers, including those from vulnerable groups, on Tunisia's future UNSDCF. OHCHR collaborated with partners from the UNCT working group on youth and teenagers to organize a consultation forum with youth.



Accountability (A)

A1 – Law enforcement institutions and the prison administration more fully respect international human rights standards.

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 addition to increased monitoring of the situation of vulnerable populations in detention during the period of confinement due to COVID-19, UN Human Rights and UNDP co-organized two webinars, which enabled the NPM to present its recommendations after monitoring and visiting places of deprivation of liberty, including sites of obligatory confinement that were used to prevent the spread of the virus. In September, the Office and the NPM co-organized a two-day workshop to raise awareness about the situation of vulnerable persons in detention in the context of COVID-19. Participants included representatives of the prison administration and civil society. During the workshop, the situation of LGBTI persons in detention was publicly mentioned, for the first time, in the presence of public officials.

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.



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

UN Human Rights continued to enhance the capacity of judges to address cases of violence against women in accordance with international human rights standards, including by respecting the rights of victims and challenging gender stereotypes. The Office carried out a series of activities to advance the effective implementation by the judiciary of General Law No. 2017-58 on violence against women. Furthermore, OHCHR finalized and distributed a trainer's manual and organized an in-depth session of training of trainers for 14 judges who were selected by the Ministry of Justice.



Mechanisms (M)

M1 – The NMRF, the NHRI, CSOs and the UNCT engage with international human rights mechanisms.



OHCHR continued to provide support and technical assistance to NHRIs, civil society and UN partners and promote their engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

UN Human Rights and the Danish Institute for Human Rights provided technical cooperation to support the creation of a commission for the harmonization of national human rights

legislation with international human rights standards. The Commission was established in 2019, in coordination with the Ministry of Human Rights. Two online workshops were organized to develop the capacities of commissioners and coordinate their activities with the NMRF. During the workshops, the Office presented the upgraded Universal Human Rights Index (UHRI) as a key reference for recommendations on legislative reform. The workshop enabled the commissioners to define their work methodology, particularly in relation to interactions with relevant stakeholders on the harmonization of legislative text, and paved the way for the preparation of their first action plan.

In addition, OHCHR assisted the NMRF to organize two consultations with CSOs for the preparation of its State Party report to CEDAW, which was submitted on time. It also supported the NMRF in discussions regarding its report, in March, on the implementation of its obligations under ICCPR. Furthermore, the Office provided assistance for the creation of the [NMRF website](#), which will facilitate interactions with CSOs. The website will host the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD) and a special issue of the Official Gazette on the international human rights treaties ratified by Tunisia, which was printed with support from OHCHR for the benefit of judges and lawyers.

YEMEN

Population size¹	Surface area¹	Human Development Index²	NHRI (if applicable)³
29.83 million	528,000 km ²	0.470 (rank: 179/189 in 2019)	-

Type of engagement	Country Office
Year established	2012
Field office(s)	Sana'a, Aden
UN partnership framework	United Nations Strategic Framework for Yemen 2017-2020
Staff as of 31 December 2020	15

XB income	US\$1,107,145	
XB requirements 2020	US\$7,697,000	
XB expenditure	US\$3,364,774	
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴
59%	30%	11%
\$1,988,233	\$1,018,050	\$358,491

Key OMP pillars in 2020

¹²³⁴ Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 229 and p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:

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.

5 16 

OHCHR continued to strengthen the capacities of relevant authorities of the Government of Yemen, based in the temporary capital in Aden, and the de facto authorities in Sana'a and other

stakeholders by monitoring, documenting and reporting on human rights violations, including those affecting vulnerable groups, with a focus on detention facilities and ESCRs.

Throughout the year, UN Human Rights conducted a total of 314 field visits in governorates in the north and south of Yemen to verify alleged cases of human rights violations and abuses. Due to movement restrictions in the context of COVID-19, the field monitors and human rights officers used remote modalities to monitor a total of 782 cases. From 1 January to 31 December, the Office verified 977 civilian casualties (333 persons killed, 644 injured),

five cases of enforced disappearance, 198 cases of arbitrary detention, 18 cases of extrajudicial killings, 52 attacks against civilian objects, 43 violations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and 162 cases of gender-based violence, including CRSV, child marriage, SGBV and domestic violence.

OHCHR continued to monitor guarantees of a fair trial and detention conditions in prisons, with an emphasis on the impacts of COVID-19 on detainees. Due to the limitation of movement in the context of the pandemic, in-person monitoring was only possible for one trial and three prison visits. It is worth noting that the de facto authority declared that there were only four cases of COVID-19 infections, while no cases were declared in prisons. This policy of denial created challenges for the remote monitoring of COVID-19 in prisons.

The Office conducted thematic research on ESCRs, with a focus on the rights to health, education and food, which was used to prepare draft thematic reports of various length that are being finalized. OHCHR identified patterns of violations of women's rights and collected and verified information on GBV, early marriage and CRSV, which informed the Secretary-General's annual report on CRSV and were used in preparing the 2021 workplan. Information was also collected on the situation of displaced women, the impact of the armed conflict on women's health and the right to education of women and girls. In addition, the Office collected data on the situation of persons with disabilities and prepared a report on the impact of the armed conflict on this group, which will be released in 2021.

During the reporting period, OHCHR prepared 12 monthly updates and 24 biweekly reports on the human rights

situation in Yemen. The findings of human rights monitoring activities were shared with key protection actors, including the RC/HC, the UNCT and through the MRM on grave violations of child rights. The Office engaged with humanitarian partners and CSOs in the Protection Cluster to ensure the mainstreaming of protection concerns into humanitarian action, with a focus on those who are most vulnerable. OHCHR's reports contributed to the development of 14 advocacy initiatives, including statements and press briefings that were issued by the High Commissioner and the special procedures on urgent human rights issues.

Furthermore, the Office organized a meeting, in Sana'a, to strengthen the knowledge and capacities of OHCHR field monitors, particularly with regard to GBV, SGBV, CRSV and women's economic, social and cultural rights.

In collaboration with CSOs and the Ministries of Human Rights in areas under the control of the competing authorities, the Office organized a series of workshops to raise awareness on the rights of women and persons with disabilities. Two workshops were organized on the occasion of International Women's Day. The first was held from 7 to 8 March, in Sana'a, to review the report of the Ministry of Human Rights on the situation of women and the second was held from 10 to 11 March, in Aden, to raise awareness about the availability of protection mechanisms for women. To mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, on 3 December, the Office organized four training workshops throughout Yemen for participants from CSOs, including the Union of Persons with Disabilities. OHCHR also developed a short film on the right to education of persons with disabilities. In December,

to commemorate Human Rights Day, the Office coordinated with the Ministries of Human Rights of the Government of Yemen and of the de facto authorities to deliver two seminars on international human rights law and international protection mechanisms. An animation film, a song and a calendar with human rights messages were also produced.

Accountability (A)

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 contributed to strengthening the capacities of national institutions to address, prevent and reduce human rights violations by providing training, technical advice and support.

Throughout the year, UN Human Rights held meetings and reinforced its collaboration with the Yemeni National Commission to Investigate Alleged Violations of Human Rights (NCIAVHR) and the Ministries of Human Rights. From March to November, the Office held three capacity-building sessions for commissioners and staff members of the NCIAVHR to enhance their knowledge about international human rights standards and strengthen their operational capacities. In March, a four-day training workshop was held on "Arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance: International standards for human rights monitoring and documentation." Participants included 14 investigators (two women, 12 men) from the NCIAVHR,

based in Aden and neighboring governorates. In October, the Office conducted another workshop, in Aden, for 37 field monitors of NCIAVHR (eight women, 29 men) on national and international legal frameworks, international standards for the monitoring and documentation of violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law and to discuss the challenges they face in their everyday work. In November, OHCHR and UNITAR collaborated with NCIAVHR to deliver a workshop, in Aden, for the 37 field monitors on the use of geospatial information technology for investigating human rights violations. These activities were described in the High Commissioner’s report on technical assistance to NCIAVHR, which was presented to the HRC at its forty-fifth session in September. The HRC mandate to continue this technical support was renewed at the same session.

Furthermore, OHCHR developed the capacities of the Ministry of Human Rights of the Internationally Recognized Government of Yemen (IRG) by conducting a four-day workshop, in Amman, in March, on “Human rights monitoring and documentation of human rights status in prisons and detention facilities.” A total of 16 staff members (four women, 12 men), including two from Aden and 14 from other governorates, took part in the workshop. In November and December, the Office conducted two other human rights training sessions, in Aden. Participants included 27 representatives (11 women, 16 men) from the Ministry of Human Rights and CSOs from other governorates and 25 representatives (19 women, six men) from the Ministries of Interior, of Defense and of Justice, the Office of the Attorney General and the Women National Committee. Finally, OHCHR enhanced the capacities of 27

representatives (eight women, 19 men) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Human Rights of the de facto authorities on “Human rights monitoring and documentation in prisons and detention facilities,” in February and March, in Sana’a.



Participation (P)

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



OHCHR contributed to an increased capacity of civil society actors to refer specific cases to humanitarian and protection service providers and to engage with the international human rights mechanisms.

During the reporting period, UN Human Rights held awareness-raising sessions for local CSOs, across eight governorates, on monitoring human rights violations and international and national protection mechanisms, with a focus on GBV, SGBV and CRSV. In total, 184 participants (109 women, 75 men) increased their knowledge about available protection mechanisms for civilians and victims of human rights violations. Emphasis was placed on women’s rights and their capacities to support victims and those in need of protection, including through their referral to relevant humanitarian and protection service providers across Yemen. These actions resulted in an enhanced engagement of CSOs with OHCHR and the special procedures in relation to cases of alleged human rights violations.

Finally, the Office and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation organized a three-day training workshop for civil society representatives on the “Promotion and protection of women’s rights and NGO

reporting to CEDAW.” The participants subsequently monitored violations of women’s rights and published their findings in a report that was submitted to CEDAW, in October, entitled *Report of the Civil Alliance for Rights and Feminism (CARF) in Yemen on the Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)*.

Improved conditions for women inmates in a detention centre in Yemen

In recent years, several studies by organizations conducting detention monitoring, including the League of Mothers of Abductees, found that detainees in Yemen often face poor conditions. Detention centres tend to be overcrowded and unsanitary and inmates have limited access to health care.

This was the case for women detainees in the Al-Hudaydah central prison. The women had to sleep on the ground on old, worn out mattresses. They did not have enough clothes or personal hygiene products and they had no access to health services. They also lacked essential services, such as adequate lighting and food

supplies, even when they were accompanied by their children.

As part of its regular monitoring of the human rights situation in the country, the Office conducted numerous visits to the Al-Hudaydah central prison and raised its concerns about the conditions of detention with relevant authorities. The Office also engaged with UNFPA and a local CSO to coordinate the provision of urgent humanitarian aid and services to the women. As a result, authorities began to provide basic services and support to improve the women's living conditions, including psychosocial counselling, health examinations, open days and support for reunification.

“This is nothing less than a total transformation of the Centre,” said Sameera Balah, the UN Human Rights field monitor in the Al-Hudaydah area. “This is ensuring human rights in action.”

The women's section of the prison was provided with new furniture, including cupboards, beds and mattresses. The latrines were rehabilitated and proper lighting was installed in the rooms. In addition, sewing machines were provided so that the women could learn new skills while in detention.

One woman detainee noted: “I feel that my dignity is restored and that I am respected as a human being.” As witnessed during multiple visits to the women's section by UN Human Rights, the sense of euphoria among the administration and the detainees remained high for an extended period of time.



The Al-Hudaydah central prison, in Yemen, before support was provided to improve the conditions of women inmates. © OHCHR

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

Type of engagement	Regional Centre
Countries of engagement	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
Year established	2009
Field office(s)	Doha, Qatar
Staff as of 31 December 2020	7

XB income	US\$262,900		
XB requirements 2020	US\$920,000		
XB expenditure	US\$217,895		
Personnel	Non-personnel	PSC ⁴	
76%	12%	12%	
\$166,362	\$26,465	\$25,068	
RB expenditure	US\$1,021,202		
Personnel	Non-personnel		
66%	34%		
\$676,959	\$344,243		

Key OMP pillars in 2020



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

⁴ Please refer to Data sources and notes on p. 231

PILLAR RESULTS:

Accountability (A)

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.

UN Human Rights and UNAMI organized a two-day online workshop, in November, to discuss the highest standards of justice in the Iraqi judicial system. The event brought together 16 judges from different courts in Baghdad, Iraq as well

as international human rights and judicial experts from Egypt, Lebanon and Tunisia. Participants exchanged views on an effective legal defence (the role of the judiciary), judicial responses to claims of torture and ill-treatment, evidentiary standards and human rights, judicial oversight of detention and conviction and sentencing (reasoning of judgments and criteria). Future workshops will involve judges and prosecutors with the aim of developing guidelines for the conduct of judicial investigations and trials in accordance with directives of the Iraqi High Judicial Council and international human rights standards.

The Regional Centre published the *Set of principles relating to the protection and promotion of human rights through taking action to combat impunity* as well as 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*. It also reviewed and published the Arabic translation of *Who's responsible: Attributing individual responsibility for violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law in United Nations commissions of inquiry, fact-finding missions and other investigations*. These publications will be distributed to regional partners and members and staff of United Nations-mandated investigations and UN Human Rights field presences with a monitoring mandate.

Participation (P)

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

16

OHCHR contributed to increasing the level of awareness of representatives of NHRIs, CSOs and journalists on international human rights standards related to the protection of journalists.

On the occasion of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, in November, UN Human Rights organized a virtual workshop on the “Safety of journalists and ending impunity in conflict situations.” The round-table brought together 30 participants (15 women, 15 men), including journalists, representatives of NHRIs, CSOs and activists from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, the State of Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen. It focused on the guarantees provided by international human rights law to protect journalists, the efforts undertaken to increase the safety of journalists in the Arab region, the existing tools to reduce risks and the experiences of the Regional Office in the State of Palestine and Yemen to end impunity for crimes against journalists. Recommendations issued by participants at the end of the meeting focused on the adoption of an international convention or protocol to protect journalists, the establishment of a UN fund to support victims of violations of freedom of opinion and expression and one to support victims of press and media violations.

In the same month, the Office organized a three-day virtual training on “The role of media in promoting and protecting human rights in the light of the COVID-19

pandemic.” A total of 15 young journalists (seven women, eight men) from Jordan, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, the State of Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen participated in the workshop. The topics of the training included human rights standards and mechanisms in the context of COVID-19, the application of an HRBA in journalism and the role of media and the influence of social networks in engaging constituencies around human rights, with a particular focus on the impacts of the pandemic on vulnerable groups.

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

16

OHCHR 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.

In June and July, UN Human Rights and the Qatari National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) held two online workshops on the integration of an HRBA in COVID-19 responses and on the role of NHRIs in human rights monitoring and reporting in Qatar. The 63 workshop participants included representatives from the NHRC and CSOs and various ministries (Foreign Affairs; Interior; Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs; Public Health; Business and Trade; and Commerce and Industry). Participants enhanced their knowledge regarding good practices on the role of NHRIs and the integration of human rights principles into COVID-19 responses.

In July, the Centre organized an online workshop with the International Centre for Human Rights Education (Equitas) and Amnesty International’s Human Rights Academy on “Opportunities to use communication technology for human rights education.” The workshop gathered together 35 representatives (22 women, 13 men) from the Ministry of Education, NHRIs and CSOs as well as experts, journalists and students from Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the State of Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen. Participants shared their experiences with using communication technology for human rights education.

Development

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



OHCHR contributed to increasing the capacities of the League of Arab States (LAS) on integrating international human rights standards related to ESCRs into their work.

In June, UN Human Rights and the LAS conducted an online workshop on ESCRs. A total of 13 LAS participants (seven women, six men) enhanced their knowledge on the working methods of CESCR and the special procedures and engaged in practical exercises. In particular, the training focused on the rights to health, education and adequate housing and how COVID-19 is impacting on the enjoyment of ESCRs. In parallel, the Regional Centre reviewed the publications *Land and human rights: Standards and application* and *Land and human rights: Annotated compilation of case law*. These

publications provided the sector with short, user-friendly guides on applicable international human rights law, international humanitarian law and criminal law standards.



Mechanisms (M)

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

16 17

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

In March, UN Human Rights and the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs co-organized a three-day training on NMRFs, in Doha. The 35 participants from the NHRI, CSOs and various Qatari ministries (Foreign Affairs; Interior; Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs; Education and Higher Education; and Culture and Sports), focused on good practices in establishing NMRFs. The training covered the four primary capacities of NMRFs (engagement, coordination, consultation and information management) and provided a briefing on the NRTD. In Qatar, ad hoc reporting committees were established to draft the State Party reports to the human rights treaty bodies and a permanent committee was established for reporting to the UPR Working Group. Participants discussed the development of a road map for the establishment of an NMRF in the country and suggested that an interministerial committee is the most suitable model for reporting to the international human rights mechanisms and following up on their recommendations.

In addition, the Centre prepared a joint publication with the Human Rights Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Qatar's obligations under international human rights law (ratifications of international human rights treaties, reporting status, reservations, declarations and objections, recent concluding observations and recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR in relation to Qatar and Qatar's voluntary pledges and commitments). A similar publication was prepared for the NHRI of Kuwait.

In August, UN Human Rights organized a two-week virtual training programme for junior diplomats from States of the Arab region. As part of OHCHR's efforts to enhance the engagement of these States with the UN human rights system, the training aimed at raising awareness and increasing understanding about the international human rights mechanisms. A total of 21 participants (13 women, eight men) from Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar, Somalia, the State of Palestine, Syria and Yemen attended the 17 training sessions, which covered a broad range of subjects, including: the mandate of UN Human Rights and the historical development of human rights within the UN system; human rights terminology; mainstreaming gender into human rights work; international human rights treaties with a focus on the CEDAW Committee; the Human Rights Council, the UPR and the special procedures, with a focus on the work of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; international humanitarian law and its relationship with international human rights law; and the engagement of NHRIs and CSOs with the international human rights mechanisms.

Non-discrimination (ND)

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 interlinkages 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 the rights to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief through training activities.

In December, UN Human Rights organized a workshop on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities for the staff of the Qatari Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs. The 15 participants (13 women, two men) learned how to promote the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society, with an emphasis on the guiding principles underlying CRPD and Qatar's obligations under the Convention. The training also highlighted the role of State authorities in promoting and respecting the rights of persons with disabilities. The Centre prepared a publication on the general comments issued by CRPD and ensured its wide dissemination.

UN Human Rights and the Arab Network for Tolerance co-organized a virtual round-table discussion, in November, entitled "Towards encouraging tolerance and acceptance of difference in matters

related to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief." The round-table brought together 25 participants (10 women, 15 men), including journalists, NHRIs, CSO representatives and activists from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the State of Palestine, Syria and Tunisia.

ND3 – Enhanced support for adequate legal and policy frameworks to address GBV, promote the autonomy and choices of women and girls and eliminate discriminatory provisions in areas such as inheritance, nationality, labour, access to credit and legal standing.



OHCHR contributed to enhancing the knowledge of various stakeholders about the role of national mechanisms to prevent and combat violence against women.

As part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign, UN Human Rights organized a virtual panel discussion on "The role of national bodies and mechanisms concerned with combating violence against women in the Arab region." A total of 47 representatives from State institutions, NHRIs and CSOs (37 women, 10 men) from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Qatar, the State of Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen participated in the discussion and exchanged experiences.

UN Human Rights at headquarters

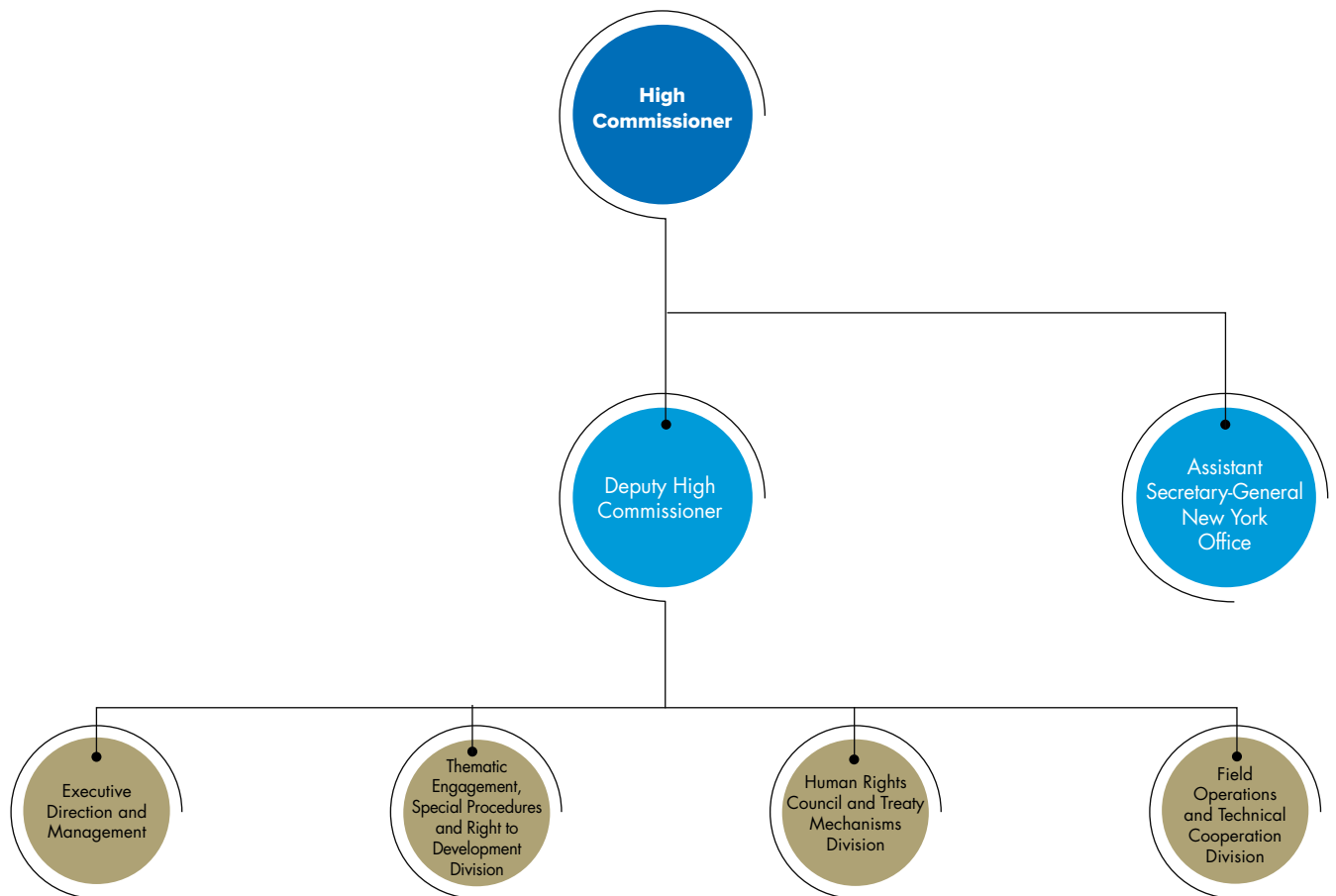


Palais Wilson, OHCHR Geneva headquarters. © OHCHR

Introduction

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) headquarters is located in Geneva and an office is maintained at the United Nations (UN) headquarters, in New York. The Geneva-based headquarters consists of three

substantive divisions and the Executive Direction and Management, which handles management, planning, coordination and outreach functions. This chapter outlines their structure, functions and key achievements in 2020.



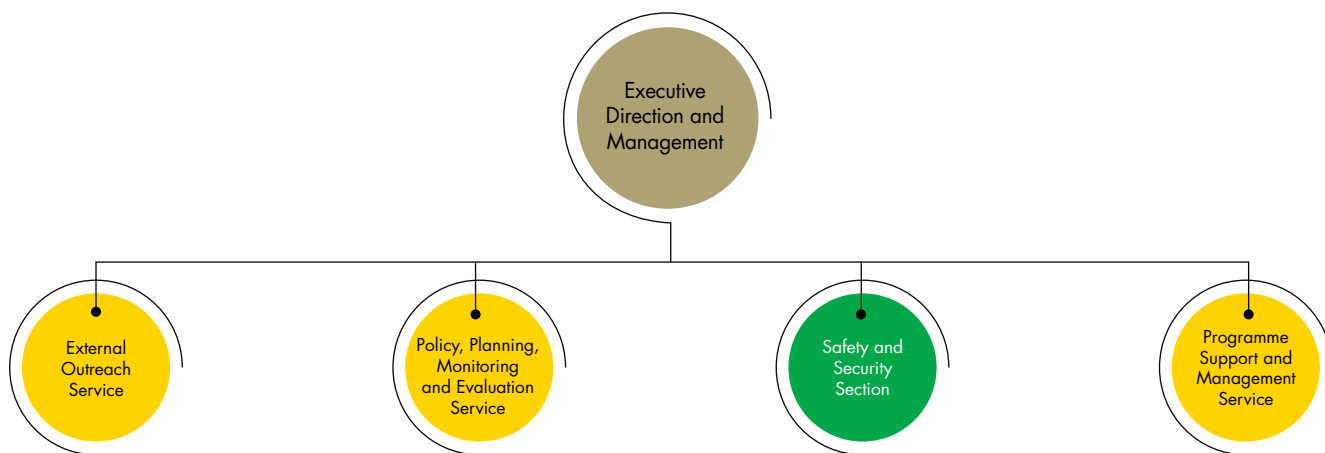
EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT

The Executive Direction and Management (EDM) directly supports the High Commissioner, the Deputy High Commissioner and the Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) for Human Rights in their work and indirectly, the entire Office. It is composed of the Executive Office, the New York Office, the External Outreach Service, the Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service, the Programme Support and Management Services and the Safety and Security Section.

Building a robust response to the human rights challenges created or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic was a key feature of the High Commissioner’s work in 2020. The High Commissioner continued to work towards strengthening the role of Member States as duty-bearers by proposing assistance that would enable States to build effective national human rights protection systems, including legal frameworks, institutions and practices, and promote respect for and enjoyment of human rights for all, without discrimination.

The High Commissioner, the Deputy High Commissioner and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights engaged in dialogue with Members States, the Human Rights Council (HRC) and the General Assembly and with numerous other stakeholders, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. These efforts were guided by the OHCHR Management Plan (OMP), which provides the road map for the work of the organization until 2021 and which will be extended until 2023 to consolidate results and re-calibrate OHCHR’s focus in response to the human rights impacts of COVID-19 and to include other recent developments.

Member States, civil society, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), regional organizations and many other partners benefited from the High Commissioner’s leadership and advocacy role in addressing issues of mutual interest and concern. These same actors contributed to the High Commissioner’s analysis of activities that can bring about positive change.



Executive Office

The Executive Office (EO) supports the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner in their daily work, including by assisting with their strategic leadership and management activities and interactions with partners. It also ensures coordination between divisions of the Office and the integration of the Office's priorities, including a gender perspective, into submitted inputs.

The Executive Office is the principal focal point for overall coordination with the UN system and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG), in close collaboration with the New York Office. It also facilitates the processing of internal and external communications and correspondence.

The EO provides guidance to all parts of OHCHR headquarters and field operations on key legal issues, for the preparation of meetings with partners and in relation to the speeches and reports of the Secretary-General or the High Commissioner to UN intergovernmental bodies.

In 2020, the EO supported the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner in their roles as coordinators of OHCHR's response to COVID-19, helping them to develop, lead and implement an office-wide coherent strategy that responded to the human rights challenges that were created or exacerbated by the pandemic. These additional functions included ensuring OHCHR's participation in frequent senior-level COVID-19 inter-agency meetings in the humanitarian, development and peace and security fields.

Beyond COVID-19-related work, the EO continued to serve as the Office's focal point for the implementation of the UN

Human Rights Screening Policy, leading to a substantial increase in its workload during the reporting period.

The legal policy team in the EO provided advice to the High Commissioner on existing and emerging issues and identified areas where the High Commissioner's legal advocacy could have an impact. In 2020, the submission of formal *amicus curiae* briefs by the High Commissioner, at the national level, to the Supreme Court of India and, at the regional level, to the Inter-American Court on Human Rights, was a key achievement.

Advice was extended to advance the processes to finalize host country agreements with seven States and a cooperation agreement with a regional organization. The COVID-19 pandemic raised numerous novel legal issues requiring the provision of advice to the High Commissioner, the Deputy High Commissioner and the Office as a whole.

Under the leadership of the High Commissioner and the Deputy, the Executive Office also supported efforts to strengthen the Office's response to discrimination issues, both internally and externally.

New York Office

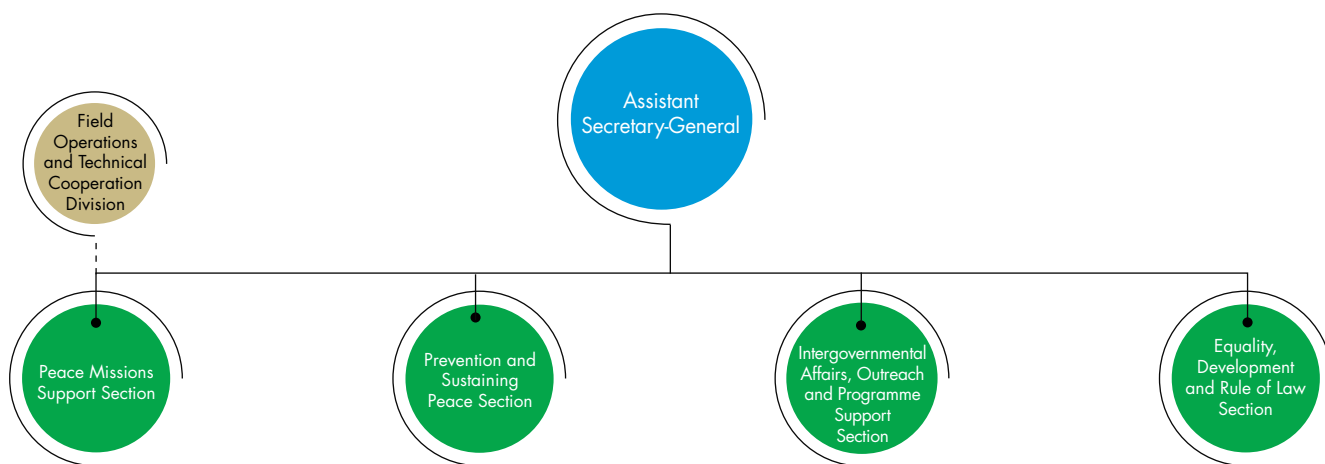
OHCHR’s New York Office (NYO) is headed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights. The principal objective of the NYO is to integrate human rights norms and standards into policies, discussions and decisions made in inter-governmental, interdepartmental and inter-agency bodies at UN Headquarters in New York, including by engaging with Member States, intergovernmental bodies, UN system entities, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the media. Under the leadership of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, the NYO is responsible for the reprisals mandate, which seeks to strengthen the UN’s response to intimidation and reprisals against those cooperating with the UN on human rights matters. The NYO is composed of four substantive sections:

The **Intergovernmental Affairs, Outreach and Programme Support Section** leads engagement with the General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies, media correspondents, civil society organizations and academic institutions in New York.

The **Equality, Development and Rule of Law Section** covers all special groups and issues relating to equality and non-discrimination, the rule of law, counter-terrorism, justice, reprisals and human rights and development issues.

The **Prevention and Sustaining Peace Section** works to mainstream human rights into wider UN efforts to prevent conflict and crisis and promote sustainable peace.

The **Peace Missions Support Section** works to support the integration of human rights into UN peace operations through support for planning and the operations of human rights components of peace missions. It has a dual reporting line to the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division at headquarters.



The Secretary-General's Call to Action: Human rights at the centre of the United Nations

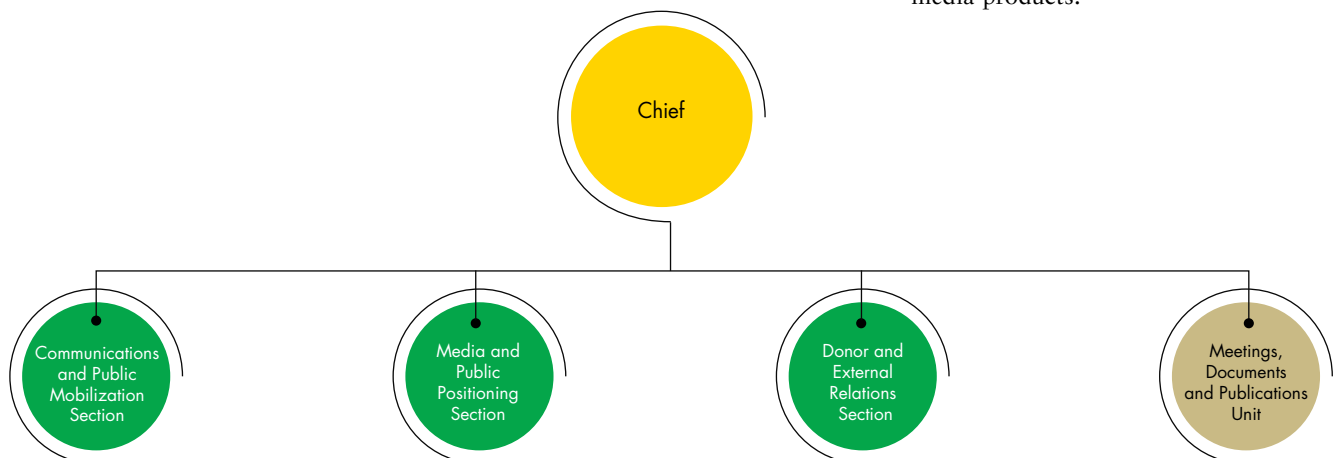
The Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights has been a key priority for the Office, which is co-leading the implementation of the initiative with the EOSG. OHCHR played a central role in launching strategic initiatives across all seven thematic areas, which are backed by an extensive institutional architecture that includes 35 UN entities. The UN's expertise and operational reach will ensure that the Call to Action achieves its transformative potential and facilitates the realization of practical results for people around the world. This necessitates a strengthening of the UN leadership on human rights across the system, particularly at the country level. To this end, ASG Brands Kehris and Volker Türk, the ASG for Strategic Coordination, worked together to spearhead regional dialogues with Resident Coordinators (RCs) in order to further advance the objectives of the Call to Action. Efforts to generate UN system-wide engagement were accompanied by outreach to Member States and civil society to raise awareness about the Call to Action and to ensure that it will be implemented in a collective manner and will bring about actual human rights improvements with real impact for people.

External Outreach Service

The External Outreach Service (EOS) leads OHCHR's external relations efforts. It consists of four sections that work in synergy to maximize its impact:

The **Communications and Public Mobilization Section** develops strategies for public information outreach to a broad constituency about OHCHR, human rights and the work of the UN human rights programme. It mobilizes a variety of audiences through engagement and partnerships. The Section develops communication campaigns and produces branded print, audiovisual and online materials. It engages with the public through social media and with UN partners to mainstream human rights into outreach efforts.

The **Media and Public Positioning Section** engages with the media and promotes the messaging of the High Commissioner and the Office through news releases, press briefings, interviews and other media products and activities as well as speeches and video statements. It provides advice to the special procedures and the human rights treaty bodies and assists with the editing and distribution of their numerous media products.



The **Donor and External Relations Section** is responsible for mobilizing financial resources to enable OHCHR to implement its programme of work, as outlined in the OMP 2018-2021. It does this by building robust relationships with existing donors and exploring funding opportunities with potential donors. The Section mobilizes funds, negotiates and manages a large number of contribution agreements and organizes meetings, briefings and consultations with donors. It serves as an entry point for Member States and others seeking information on OHCHR's work, priorities and funding needs.

The **Meetings, Documents and Publications Unit** coordinates OHCHR's annual programme of approximately 220 meetings. It plans, verifies and submits all OHCHR official documents for processing. The Unit manages the OHCHR publications programme and develops policies for the planning, quality assurance, distribution and impact assessment of publications. It provides policy advice and operational support to the Office's publications oversight body, the Publications Committee. It oversees the production of printed and electronic publications in all official UN languages and disseminates print materials to diverse target audiences worldwide.

Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service

The Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service (PPMES) takes the lead in translating the High Commissioner's strategic vision into concrete priorities and operational programmes that focus on the achievement of results. The Service works to instil a culture of results-based planning, programming and budgeting across OHCHR. It ensures that programme implementation and results are effectively monitored and evaluated, that programme risks are managed and that good practices and lessons learned are incorporated into policy development, programme design and implementation. Through ongoing analysis of OHCHR's organizational environment, PPMES helps to identify substantive or managerial gaps in OHCHR's policies, results-based programming, organizational effectiveness and change management and internal communications. It then proposes actions to address those gaps.

In 2020, PPMES served as the Chair and Secretariat of the OHCHR Crisis Response Team to handle operational matters related to the COVID-19 response. The pandemic required the PPMES to identify its implications for OHCHR's results and programme implementation. Throughout the year, PPMES closely followed the evolving situation and prepared comprehensive and substantive programmatic analyses in the context of the COVID-19 reprogramming.

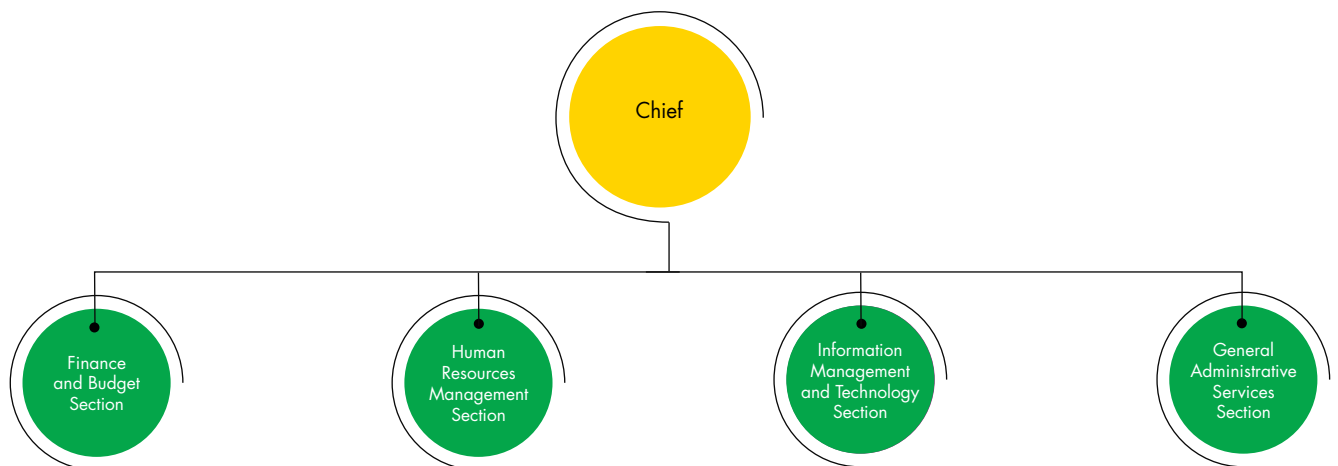
Programme Support and Management Services

Programme Support and Management Services (PSMS) provides administrative support within the Office, including budget and financial management, recruitment and human resources management, procurement, asset management and general logistical support, travel services, information technology and staff development. PSMS consists of the Finance and Budget Section, the General Administrative Services Section, the Human Resources Management Section and the Information Management and Technology Section. COVID-19 did not significantly impact PSMS programmes,

with the exception of travel, which was essentially suspended, with only a few exceptions. During the unprecedented pandemic experience, PSMS streamlined its work and by operating remotely, it was able to provide consistent, “business as usual” support to the Office. More specifically, PSMS ensured that all staff received their salaries and that field presences and headquarters divisions received financial and logistical support on a timely basis to guarantee the continuity of OHCHR operations. Staff worldwide were given access to an online psychologist and could participate in online consultations arranged by human resources.

Safety and Security Section

The Safety and Security Section (SSS) coordinates the security of OHCHR operations worldwide, in accordance with UN security risk management policies and in coordination with host governments and the UN Department of Safety and Security. It supports the international human rights mechanisms, including those mandated by the Human Rights Council. It participates in UN security policymaking forums to ensure that human rights are mainstreamed into staff security policies and the procedures of UN entities. At the operational level, the Section conducts security risk assessments and provides technical supervision and guidance on security management and security clearance. It also provides travel advisories to field presences.



FIELD OPERATIONS AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION DIVISION

The Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division (FOTCD) is composed of the Office of the Director and three geographic branches, which are divided into five sections, namely, Africa I (East and Southern Africa), Africa II (West and Central Africa), Asia-Pacific, the Middle East and North Africa, the Americas and Europe and Central Asia. It also includes three specialized support sections, namely, the National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section, the Emergency Response Section and the Peace Missions Support Section. These

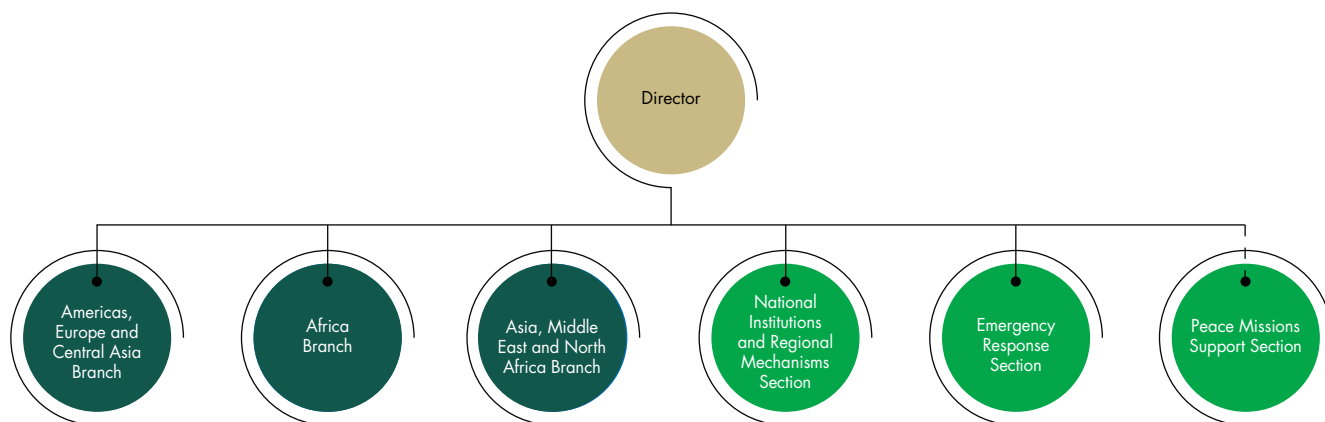
geographic branches and sections are responsible for the day-to-day work of OHCHR in the field, including following human rights developments at the national and regional levels, interacting with governments, NHRIs, civil society actors and the UN system, and engaging with the international human rights mechanisms.

FOTCD is based at OHCHR headquarters in Geneva and the Peace Missions Support Section is located in the New York Office. FOTCD offers substantive, programmatic, budgetary and human resource support and strategic oversight to all OHCHR field presences.

The Division provides direction, management and support to the work and engagement of OHCHR in the field at national, regional and international levels. This is achieved through 92 human rights presences in the field that undertake monitoring, analysis and reporting on human rights developments, early warning and prevention activities, provide advisory services and technical

cooperation, deploy human rights capacity to the Resident Coordinators and the UN Country Teams (UNCTs) under the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) Framework and manage the deployment of monitoring, fact-finding and emergency response missions. In addition, OHCHR contributes to broader UN efforts on human rights, peace and security and development (the three United Nations pillars), including through the integration of human rights across and into all pillars.

FOTCD is responsible for the implementation of the High Commissioner’s mandate and supports the implementation of the specific mandates of the HRC and the General Assembly in relation to public reporting on human rights issues in countries and disputed territories. This includes 10 special procedures country



mandates of the HRC and the establishment of and support to international commissions of inquiry, fact-finding missions and investigations mandated by the Council. In cooperation with other parts of UN Human Rights, FOTCD contributes to strengthening the understanding of national authorities and civil society actors about international human rights standards and their capacities to translate these standards into national-level legislation, regulations and policies. The ultimate objective of this work is to ensure that duty-bearers are better equipped to address chronic and emerging human rights issues and that rights-holders are better protected and empowered. FOTCD fulfils its consultation and cooperation role with national, regional and international partners, including government actors, NHRIs, civil society, regional organizations and the United Nations system.

The Emergency Response Section coordinates OHCHR's engagement in and effective response to ongoing or emerging crises and it ensures, from a prevention perspective, that potential emergency situations are addressed through the deployment of fact-finding, monitoring or emergency response missions, the provision of early warning and information management and the integration of human rights into humanitarian action. This includes the deployment of human rights teams in the context of complex emergencies or natural disasters or for the purpose of preventive advocacy and action. Through its Investigation Support Unit, the Section is also responsible for the operationalization of activities mandated by UN intergovernmental bodies (mainly the HRC), such as the establishment of and support to commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions. Moreover, the Section leads the

provision of early warning information management and analyses to various UN processes, including the UNOCC and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) on Early Warning, Early Action and Readiness.

The Peace Missions Support Section, located in the New York Office, provides strategic and operational support and guidance to the human rights components of UN peacekeeping and special political missions and supports the implementation of Security Council mandates for UN peace operations, in close coordination with the FOTCD geographic branches. The Peace Missions Support Section ensures that the UN peace and security agenda integrates human rights into activities undertaken at the political, strategic and operational levels.

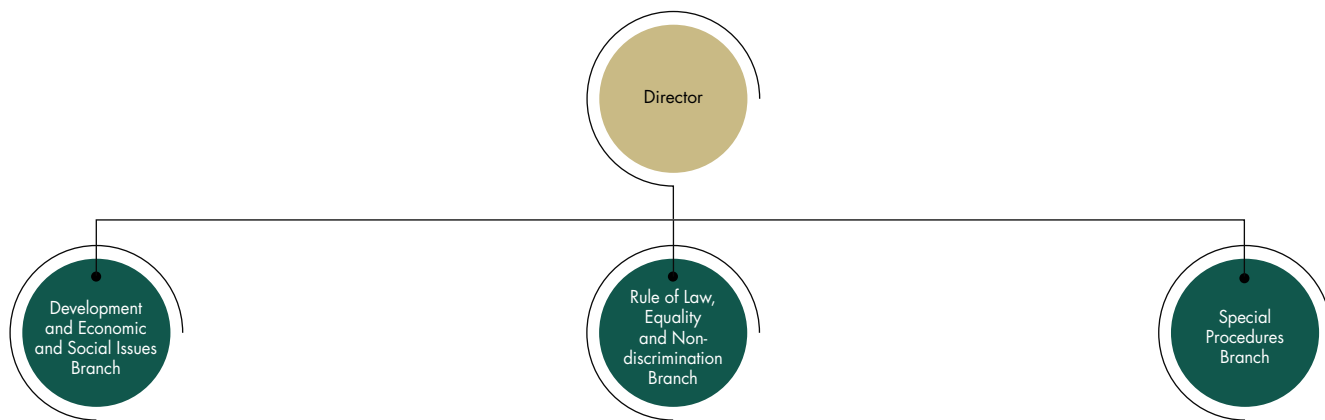
The National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section provides advice and support to the establishment and strengthening of NHRIs, in compliance with the Paris Principles, and serves as the Secretariat for the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). The Section seeks to strengthen cooperation and engagement between regional and international human rights mechanisms.

The Division also administers the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights and acts as the Secretariat of its Board of Trustees.

THEMATIC ENGAGEMENT, SPECIAL PROCEDURES AND RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division (TESPRDD) is composed of the Office of the Director, the Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch, the Rule of Law, Equality and Non-Discrimination Branch and the Special Procedures Branch. The Division’s main functions include:

- Supporting the High Commissioner’s global leadership role in advocacy on thematic human rights issues in terms of research, advice, advocacy and capacity-development;
- Developing methodologies and policies relating to human rights work, namely, translating international human rights law and principles into practical methods, approaches, standards, procedures and tools for the human rights work that is carried out by OHCHR and other UN, international and national actors;
- Promoting the integration of human rights into the policy, management and operational work of the UN to strengthen its normative and operational linkages. This is primarily undertaken through OHCHR’s work with the UNSDG, through participation in inter-agency groups, during meetings and through bilateral cooperation with UN agencies, programmes and the UNCTs. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda provide the framework for this work;
- Contributing to increased knowledge and enhanced understanding of human rights through education and training, the development of materials, policies, methodologies and programmes and the provision of training, advice and coordination under the Plan of Action for the Fourth Phase (2020-2024) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education;
- Supporting the international human rights mechanisms, in particular the special procedures, and providing substantive input and organizational assistance to the HRC; and
- Taking the lead with respect to ensuring that a gender perspective is effectively integrated into all OHCHR policies, programmes and processes and contributing to enhanced staff skills in this regard.



The work of the **Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch** and of the **Rule of Law, Equality and Non-Discrimination Branch** includes: conducting thematic research and contributing to policy development and the mainstreaming of human rights across the work of the UN; producing tools and learning packages and providing expertise on human rights themes to many stakeholders, as mandated by the HRC, the General Assembly, ECOSOC and specified in internationally agreed development goals; and leading efforts to advance the right to development, in accordance with the High Commissioner's mandate to promote and protect the realization of the right to development and to enhance support from relevant bodies of the UN system for this purpose. The two branches also undertake human rights research and advocacy work and contribute to national-level implementation, including through advisory services, legal and policy reviews and capacity-development, which is often undertaken by OHCHR field presences.

The **Special Procedures Branch** supports the special procedures system and its thematic mandates. The special procedures system is comprised of 55 mandates (44 thematic and 11 country mandates) with 79 mandate holders, 24 of whom were newly appointed in 2020. The special procedures contribute to the development of international human rights law; undertake thematic studies; conduct country visits; send communications to States and other actors regarding human rights cases and issues; provide advisory services; and engage in awareness-raising activities. The Branch supports these mandates in the abovementioned functional areas; on policy issues; and by adopting efficiency measures that streamline work processes and strengthen the special procedures system. This is primarily achieved through cooperation between human rights systems at the international, regional and national level and the UN system and other stakeholders. The Special Procedures Branch assists the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures and supports the engagement of special procedures with regional mechanisms, such as the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Special procedures mandate holders (as of 31 December 2020)

MANDATE	ESTABLISHED	MANDATE HOLDER(S)
Country-specific mandates		
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus	2012	Ms. Anaïs Marin (France) since November 2018
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia	1993	Ms. Rhona Smith (United Kingdom) since May 2015
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic	2013	Mr. Yao Agbetse (Togo) since November 2019
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2004	Mr. Tomás Ojea Quintana (Argentina) since August 2016
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea	2012	Mr. Mohamed Abdelsalam Babiker (Sudan) since November 2020
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran	2011	Mr. Javaid Rehman (Pakistan) since August 2018
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali	2013	Mr. Alioune Tine (Senegal) since May 2018
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar	1992	Mr. Thomas H. Andrews (United States of America) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967	1993	Mr. Michael Lynk (Canada) since May 2016
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia	1993	Ms. Isha Dyfan (Sierra Leone) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic	2011	Mr. Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro (Brazil) will start once the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry ends

Thematic mandates		
Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent	2002	Mr. Ahmed Reid (Jamaica) since November 2015 Ms. Dominique Day (United States of America) since November 2018 Mr. Michal Balcerzak (Poland) since December 2014 Mr. Ricardo A. Sunga III (Philippines) since December 2014 Mr. Sabelo Gumedze (South Africa) since August 2014
Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism	2015	Ms. Ikponwosa Ero (Nigeria) since August 2015 Mr. Seong-Phil Hong (Republic of Korea) since August 2014 Ms. Miriam Estrada-Castillo (Ecuador) since November 2020
Working Group on Arbitrary Detention	1991	Mr. Mumba Malila (Zambia) since November 2020 Ms. Leigh Toomey (Australia) since August 2015 Ms. Elina Steinerte (Latvia) since November 2016 Mr. Githu Muigai (Kenya) since August 2018 Mr. Surya Deva (India) since May 2016
Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises	2011	Ms. Elzbieta Karska (Poland) since August 2018 Ms. Anita Ramasastry (United States of America) since August 2016 Mr. Dante Pesce (Chile) since May 2015
Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights	2009	Ms. Karima Bennoun (United States of America) since November 2015
Special Rapporteur on the right to development	2016	Mr. Saad Alfarargi (Egypt) since April 2017
Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities	2014	Mr. Gerard Quinn (Ireland) since November 2020
Special Rapporteur on the right to education	1998	Ms. Koumbou Boly Barry (Burkina Faso) since August 2016 Mr. Luciano Hazan (Argentina) since May 2017 Mr. Bernard Duhaime (Canada) since December 2014
Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances	1980	Mr. Henrikas Mickevicius (Lithuania) since September 2015 Ms. Aua Balde (Guinea-Bissau) since November 2020 Mr. Tae-Ung Baik (Republic of Korea) since August 2015
Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment	2012	Mr. David R. Boyd (Canada) since August 2018
Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	1982	Ms. Agnès Callamard (France) since August 2016

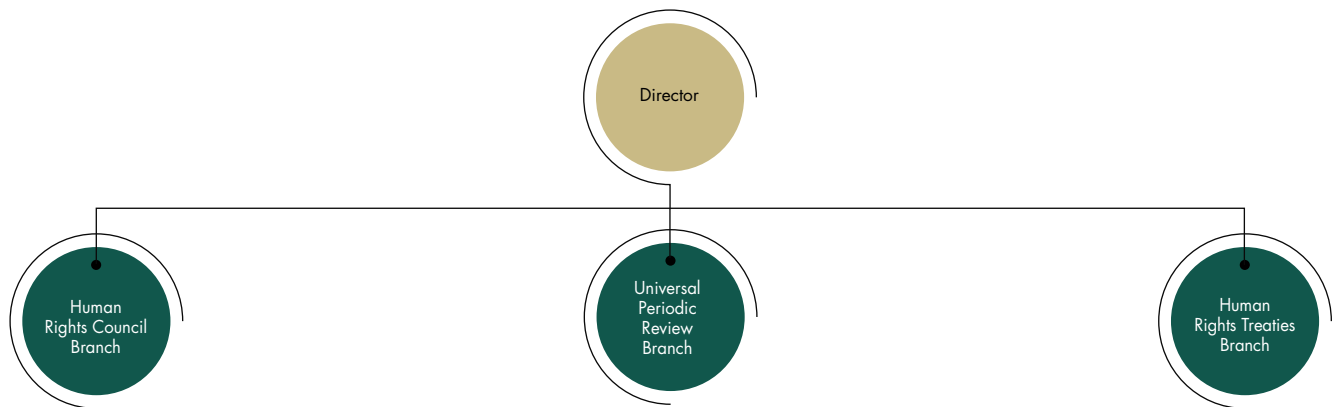
Special Rapporteur on the right to food	2000	Mr. Michael Fakhri (Lebanon) since May 2020
Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights	2000	Ms. Yuefen Li (China) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression	1993	Ms. Irene Khan (Bangladesh) since August 2020
Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association	2010	Mr. Clement Nyaletsossi Voule (Togo) since May 2018
Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes	1995	Mr. Marcos A. Orellana (Chile) since August 2020
Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health	2002	Ms. Tlaleng Mofokeng (South Africa) since August 2020
Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context	2000	Mr. Balakrishnan Rajagopal (United States of America) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders	2000	Ms. Mary Lawlor (Ireland) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers	1994	Mr. Diego García-Sayán (Peru) since December 2016
Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples	2001	Mr. José Francisco Calí Tzay (Guatemala) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons	2004	Ms. Cecilia Jimenez-Damary (Philippines) since November 2016
Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order	2011	Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana (Uganda) since May 2018
Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity	2005	Mr. Obiora C. Okafor (Nigeria) since August 2017
Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members	2017	Ms. Alice Cruz (Portugal) since November 2017
		Ms. Jelena Aparac (Croatia) since May 2018
		Ms. Lilian Bobea (Dominican Republic) since May 2018
		Mr. Chris Kwaja (Nigeria) since May 2018
		Ms. Sorcha Macleod (United Kingdom) since August 2018
		Mr. Ravindran Daniel (India) since November 2020
Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination	2005	Mr. Felipe González Morales (Chile) since August 2017
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants	1999	Mr. Fernand de Varennes (Canada) since August 2017
Special Rapporteur on minority issues	2005	

Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons	2013	Ms. Claudia Mahler (Austria) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights	1998	Mr. Olivier de Schutter (Belgium) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy	2015	Mr. Joseph Cannataci (Malta) since August 2015
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism , racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	1993	Ms. E. Tendayi Achiume (Zambia) since November 2017
Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief	1986	Mr. Ahmed Shaheed (Maldives) since November 2016
Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children , including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material	1990	Ms. Mama Fatima Singhateh (Gambia) since May 2020
Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity	2016	Mr. Victor Madrigal-Borloz (Costa Rica) since January 2018
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery , including its causes and consequences	2007	Mr. Tomoya Obokata (Japan) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism	2005	Ms. Fionnuala Ni Aoláin (Ireland) since August 2017
Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	1985	Mr. Nils Melzer (Switzerland) since November 2016
Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children	2004	Ms. Siobhán Mullally (Ireland) since August 2020
Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth , justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence	2011	Mr. Fabian Salvioli (Argentina) since May 2018
Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights	2014	Ms. Alena Douhan (Belarus) since March 2020
Special Rapporteur on violence against women , its causes and consequences	1994	Ms. Dubravka Šimonovic (Croatia) since August 2015
Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation	2008	Mr. Pedro Arrojo-Agudo (Spain) since November 2020
		Ms. Dorothy Estrada-Tanck (Mexico) since November 2020
		Ms. Elizabeth Broderick (Australia) since November 2017
		Ms. Melissa Upreti (Nepal) since November 2017
		Ms. Meskerem Techane (Ethiopia) since November 2017
		Ms. Ivana Radacic (Croatia) since November 2017
Working Group on discrimination against women and girls	2010	

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AND TREATY MECHANISMS DIVISION

The Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division (CTMD) consists of the Office of the Director, the Human Rights Council Branch, the Human Rights Treaties Branch and the Universal Periodic Review Branch. The Division has a core mandate to support the HRC and its subsidiary mechanisms, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the human rights treaty bodies. It is therefore well placed within OHCHR to ensure that the significant normative value of the international human rights mechanisms is matched by committed follow-up to the implementation of their recommendations.

The Human Rights Council Branch supports the Human Rights Council, an intergovernmental body composed of 47 Member States that are elected by the General Assembly for a three-year period. Established by the General Assembly, the body is responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. In 2020, the HRC was the last UN intergovernmental body to suspend its in-person activities and the first to resume them in the context of COVID-19. By holding three regular sessions with new working modalities that were supported by digital innovations, the Council fully implemented its programme of work. In addition, the Council adopted a President’s statement on the human rights implications of the COVID-19 crisis and held two urgent debates on racially inspired human rights violations, systemic racism, police brutality and violence against peaceful protestors and on the situation of human rights in Belarus.



Highlights of the Human Rights Council in 2020

Despite the many obstacles posed by COVID-19, and against all odds, the Human Rights Council managed to hold its three scheduled regular sessions and two of its Universal Periodic Review Working Group sessions, addressing a long list of topics that required its attention in 2020. Through its work, it brought into focus the multiple human rights dimensions of the pandemic. As noted by the Council President for 2020, Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger (Austria), the HRC “acted like a magnifying glass for pre-existing human rights issues – in particular in the case of vulnerable and marginalized groups of the population.”

In the lockdown months that followed the suspension of its forty-third regular session on 13 March, the Council found innovative ways to deliver its mandate. In doing so, the 47-member body, supported by a team of dedicated staff at OHCHR, demonstrated great flexibility and resilience that was underscored by a firm belief that remaining silent was not an option.

In May, the Council conducted its first virtual informal conversations on human rights issues stemming from the COVID-19 crisis. The first was with the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the second was with special procedures mandate holders. On 29 May, the Council reached its first decision by silent procedure to address the human rights implications of the pandemic.

As the last organization in Geneva to go into lockdown and the first to take up its work when it resumed its forty-third session in June, the Council employed a series of creative and innovative methods to

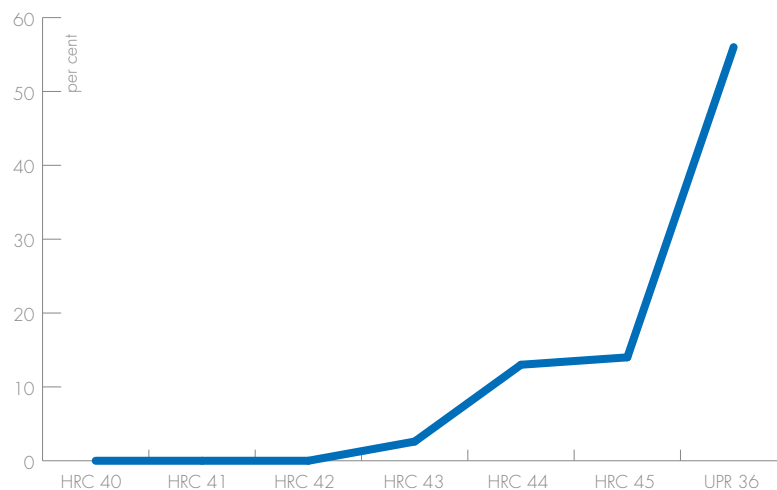
ensure the safe and efficient engagement of participants. In-person and virtual interventions from State representatives and a wide array of civil society actors were managed by Office staff who cultivated new skills to ensure that constructive discussions could take place.

With stricter COVID-19 measures applied as the year progressed, more Council participants were required to deliver their statements virtually. OHCHR staff re-adjusted the Council’s working methods, resulting in 1,386 video messages and live video conference calls managed

over the course of the year. Thanks to the ingenuity and support of dedicated staff members from the Office and UNOG, and with the backing of the Council Bureau, the HRC was able to have a successful year.

Since the HRC meetings began in 2006, video interventions were only permitted as an exception. With COVID-19 restrictions, such interventions became the norm in 2020, although it was made clear that they were permitted exclusively during the pandemic. Eventually, this format overtook the delivery of in-person interventions, as illustrated by this graph.

Percentage of video interventions by HRC/UPR sessions



The **Universal Periodic Review Branch** supports the Human Rights Council's UPR process. The third cycle places a greater focus on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and human rights protection at the country level through the creation of National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRFs) and comprehensive national human rights action plans or implementation plans, as recommended in the Secretary-General's report on strengthening UN action in the field of human rights (A/72/351) and HRC resolution 36/29. Following the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, OHCHR issued a [UPR Practical Guidance](#), in September, to facilitate the engagement of UN Heads at the national level and the integration of accepted recommendations into UNSDCFs.

In 2020, OHCHR provided support to the thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth UPR Working Group sessions and to the UPR segments of the forty-third, forty-fourth and forty-fifth HRC plenary sessions. The Office prepared 112 documents and published 28 national reports and 26 addendum reports. Strong cooperation from stakeholders was evidenced through 692 written contributions and 232 interventions that were delivered during the adoption of the UPR outcomes at the HRC plenary sessions. The thirty-sixth UPR Working Group session, held in November, was the first hybrid in-person and virtual session in the history of the UPR, undertaken in the context of COVID-19 restrictions. Nevertheless, participation was high, with a total of 250 delegates from capitals, including a Vice-President and eight ministers, who interacted with an average of 100 States.

The **Human Rights Treaties Branch** supports the 10 human rights treaty bodies, which are independent committees that were established under the nine international human rights treaties and their optional protocols. The treaty bodies monitor the implementation of the international human rights treaties through the examination of reports that are periodically submitted by States Parties to them or through in situ visits. The treaty bodies collaborate with a wide range of stakeholders, including Member States, CSOs and NHRIs. They also issue recommendations to States Parties, encourage priority follow-up on certain matters and adopt general comments/recommendations on thematic or procedural issues.

In 2020, the Branch facilitated the review of 27 State Party reports and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances conducted one review under its additional review procedure (online). The Committee on the Rights of the Child held an extraordinary session in Samoa, representing the first treaty body session to be held outside Geneva or New York. The treaty bodies received a total of 147 State Party reports, 106 documents from CSOs and six submissions from NHRIs. A total of 172 treaty body experts received support during 21 sessions, over 51 weeks. The treaty bodies adopted 39 concluding observations, prepared 84 lists of issues and 58 lists of issues prior to reporting.

The Branch also supported the adoption of views and decisions on 239 individual communications that were submitted to the treaty bodies in relation to alleged human rights violations. It facilitated the registration of 317 new individual complaints and 192 urgent actions.

Furthermore, in 2020, the Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme, established by General Assembly resolution 68/268 to support States Parties in building their capacity to implement their treaty obligations, organized 125 capacity-building activities, worldwide, for 3,821 participants (1,274 women, 2,547 men). Due to COVID-19 restrictions, 68 of these activities were carried out remotely, either online or in a hybrid format.

The Division administers the following six Trust Funds:

- the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the work of the Human Rights Council;
- the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review;
- the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review;
- the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT);
- the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (UNVTFCFS); and
- the Special Fund of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Detailed information on the Trust Funds is presented in the chapter on Funds Administered by UN Human Rights on pp. 128-147.

Treaty bodies response to COVID-19

Since the early days of the pandemic, the human rights treaty bodies have urged global leaders to ensure that human rights are respected in all government measures that are implemented to tackle the public health threat posed by COVID-19.

In June, the Chairs of the treaty bodies established an intercommittee working group on COVID-19 to support discussions between treaty body experts, clarify aspects of treaty law as they relate to COVID-19 responses and enhance treaty body guidance in the context of the pandemic. This resulted in the publication of two major tools, namely, a compilation with guidance notes, advice, statements and press releases issued by the treaty bodies and a toolkit, which translates treaty law into an operational contribution to facilitate the application of a human rights-based approach to the responses of the UN and States to COVID-19.



TOOLKIT WITH LEGAL ADVICE

A toolkit was created and disseminated on COVID-19-related jurisprudence issued by the treaty bodies, which provides a practical means to strengthen human rights-based responses to COVID-19.



COMPILATION WITH TARGETED GUIDANCE

The treaty bodies issued specific guidance and recommendations to States Parties on human rights-based responses to the pandemic and UN Human Rights created a public compilation of these materials that includes:

3 guidance notes on the human rights of women and girls, migrants and on enforced disappearances

2 advices from the SPT on quarantine and the deprivation of liberty

8 statements on the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities; economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs) and civil and political rights; elimination of racial discrimination; and risks of torture and ill-treatment

5 key press releases on international solidarity, the application of a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to COVID-19 responses, the rights of migrants and women and NPMs

1 web story on the lives of persons with disabilities

The toolkit is a work in progress, as human rights challenges continually change in form and intensity.

As of the end of the year, the treaty body intercommittee working group on COVID-19 had developed a series of eight subregional webinars, which were prepared with support from the regional field presences, to address the human rights challenges that are linked to the right to health and mental health in the context of COVID-19. Special focus will be placed on the mental health of vulnerable groups. The webinars will be delivered in 2021.

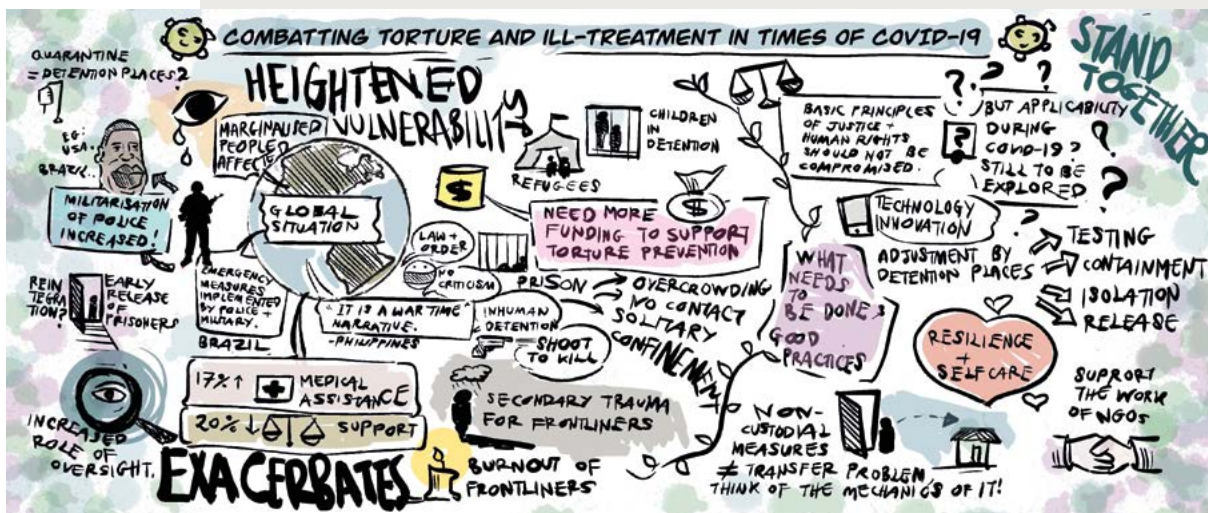
Combating torture and ill-treatment in times of COVID-19

On the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, UN Human Rights and the Association for the Prevention of Torture organized an informative webinar on the impacts of COVID-19 on torture and ill-treatment. The webinar featured the participation of members of the UN's anti-torture mechanisms, namely, CAT, SPT, the UNVFT as well as the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Representatives of CSOs from Brazil, Jordan, the Philippines and South Africa added their country-level perspectives and more than 720 online participants followed the event.

During the discussions, the experts underlined the risks associated with restrictive measures, such as curfews or compulsory quarantine, and noted that the excessive use of force by law enforcement agents might amount to torture or inhuman or degrading treatment.

They also highlighted the vulnerable situation of people in detention or confined in closed spaces and urged that the COVID-19 response must independently document the material and living conditions of persons deprived of their liberty. "Inmates should enjoy the same standards of health care that are available in the community at large, including access to virus testing and medical treatment," said Dr. Jens Modvig, Chair of CAT. Sir Malcolm Evans, Chair of SPT, added that "States should reduce prison populations by resorting to alternatives to pretrial detention and incarceration with [...] non-custodial measures. They should also end the use of immigration detention and closed refugee camps."

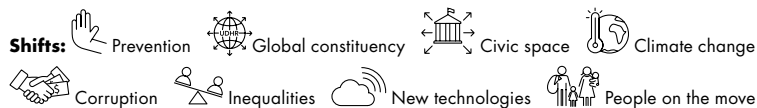
In the lead-up to the event, the High Commissioner tweeted messages calling on States to uphold the human rights of people in detention. UN Human Rights issued a total of 25 posts, which were seen by approximately 1,300,000 persons, generating nearly 30,000 engagements. The webinar video is available on the Office's Facebook page.



Webinar sketch © Shazeera Zawawi for the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) www.apr.ch

Pillar results

Mechanisms (M)



COVID-19 response and recovery

Innovative modalities were devised to enable the international human rights mechanisms to continue working. With the support of UN Human Rights, the **Human Rights Council migrated its work online**, held three regular sessions, adopted a President's statement on the human rights implications of the COVID-19 crisis and convened two urgent debates. In addition, the thirty-sixth Universal Periodic Review Working Group session was held in a hybrid format, in November.

OHCHR helped the **treaty bodies** to migrate much of their work online and all efforts were directed towards ensuring that they could continue discharging their full mandates. The treaty bodies also issued detailed **guidance** to States and National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) to ensure a human rights-based response to COVID-19 (see *Compilation of statements by human rights treaty bodies in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic*). Moreover, the *OHCHR Toolkit on treaty law perspectives and jurisprudence in the context of COVID-19* contributes to strengthening the application of a human rights-based approach to the responses of the UN and States to the pandemic.

The **special procedures** issued 124 **press releases**, sent 206 **communications**, issued 15 **reports** and designed 13 **tools**. They also published videos, guidance notes and trackers in relation to human rights concerns that arose in the context of COVID-19 (see <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/COVID-19-and-Special-Procedures.aspx>).

Significant progress was made in documenting the widespread **impacts of the special procedures at the national level**. A dedicated web page was established on "Making a Difference," which highlights those impacts in various areas, including the revision of laws, policy changes and mainstreaming of human rights. This is an integral part of UN Human Rights' efforts to ensure that human rights are transformative and provide solutions, in line with the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights.

M1 – NATIONAL MECHANISMS for REPORTING and FOLLOW-UP – National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the international human rights mechanisms and implementing their recommendations.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

Technical assistance provided through the Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme contributed to the **establishment or strengthening of NMRFs** in Benin, Botswana, Cambodia, Egypt, Eswatini, Haiti, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Namibia, the Republic of Moldova, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Turkmenistan, Uruguay and Uzbekistan. In particular, as a result of capacity-building support that the Office has provided to Eswatini since 2016, the NMRF was officially established in early 2020. In October, members of the new NMRF received virtual training on reporting to the treaty bodies in order to assist them with the preparation of Eswatini's overdue reports.

In October, OHCHR launched the upgraded **Universal Human Rights Index (UHRI)** as a public portal to the work of the international human rights mechanisms. With a revamped, user-friendly interface that is available in six languages, the database allows users to access the latest **observations and recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies, the UPR and the special procedures**. Furthermore, the thematic indexing of content for the UHRI is now supported by artificial intelligence. Text classification algorithms were trained to automatically recognize groups of persons, human rights themes and SDGs for any given recommendation (see more on p. 35).

M2 – ENGAGEMENT with human rights MECHANISMS – Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions 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.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

With technical support from OHCHR, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to **freedom of peaceful assembly and of association** developed and issued, in April, a set of **indicators** to guide governments when designing and implementing measures to tackle the spread of COVID-19. These online indicators solicited 185 submissions from 79 countries, including from governments, CSOs, women, indigenous communities, youth groups and trade unions. The indicators contribute to analysing challenges in upholding these freedoms in times of crisis, while also highlighting promising practices.

The Special Rapporteur on the rights of **indigenous peoples** organized a webinar, in November, for 400 indigenous human rights defenders (HRDs) from 14 countries in Asia. The webinar informed participants about the **communication procedures** of the international human rights mechanisms.

Additional efforts were undertaken by OHCHR to disseminate information on all aspects of the work of the **Human Rights Council** and its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms and to promote their engagement with CSOs. For instance, **web-based tools** were enhanced to facilitate the submission of **CSO written statements** and video statements for the regular sessions of the Council. In 2020, CSOs delivered 325 video statements, compared to approximately five statements in previous years.

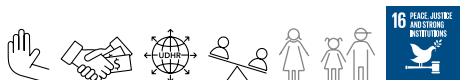
From 2 to 6 March, the **Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)** travelled to Samoa to hold its first session outside of Geneva or New York. The session focused on the situation of **the rights of the child in the Pacific region**. Three meetings were dedicated to a direct exchange with more than 100 children from the region, who helped to shape the session's agenda. Many of the children delivered statements and told the Committee members which human rights issues were important for them. One child thanked the Committee members "for their support and for listening to us children. This is personally the first – and hopefully not the last – time that anyone hears my opinions and thoughts," she said. Another child expressed that it was "very reassuring to see and know that the Committee members and everyone who has attended the session cares and values my rights as a child in the Pacific." During its eighty-sixth and eighty-seventh pre-session working group meetings, the Committee held seven meetings with 37 children from Canada, Iceland, Madagascar, the Philippines, Somalia, Ukraine and Viet Nam to discuss the human rights situations in their respective countries (see more on p. 29).

The **CRC** launched a [web page](#) for children that provides a clear overview of the Committee's mandate and current activities. It also explains how children can share their views with the Committee and contribute to its work. The Committee adopted a **child safeguarding procedure** that ensures a safe environment for the children with whom it interacts and outlines the steps for reporting and responding to a child's safety concerns.

The **Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED)** established a **database** of over 300 CSOs, NHRIs and other stakeholders working on enforced disappearance, to which it submits a periodic **newsletter** regarding its activities. Recipients have noted that the newsletter is a key tool that facilitates their contributions to the work of the Committee. In its two online sessions in 2020, CED included a segment for **victims of enforced disappearances** to enable them to deliver their testimonies and express their expectations.

M3 – USE of MECHANISMS' RECOMMENDATIONS – Policymakers, legislators and courts make increased use of the outcomes of the international and regional human rights mechanisms.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

In February, a Moroccan girl who was born and raised in Melilla, Spain submitted a complaint to **CRC**. Six weeks after the Committee requested that the Government take interim measures, the girl was admitted to the Spanish public school system, following more than two years of struggle to claim her right to education at the national level. The case reflects a general lack of **access to primary education for children who are considered as “irregular residents”** in Melilla, despite the fact that many of them were born and raised in that city.

In December, Argentina passed a law legalizing **abortion** in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy. In the same month, the Republic of Korea decriminalized abortion. The **Working Group on discrimination against women and girls** and the **Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences** advocated for the decriminalization of abortion, including through country visits, recommendations, letters and amicus curiae briefs.

On 16 June, the Supreme Court of Spain handed down a **judgment** on the issue of age determination of **unaccompanied migrant children**. In the ruling, the Court cited CRC's views in Communications No. 16/2017 and 22/2017, which establish that identity documents should be considered valid unless they have been challenged through judicial means. The Supreme Court also followed CRC's reasoning that: a) the person who alleges to be under the age of 18 should be considered as a child until proof to the contrary is obtained; b) an individualized assessment of age needs to be conducted in light of the circumstances of each case; c) when a person holds identity documents, s/he cannot be treated as an undocumented migrant; d) a refusal to undergo medical tests to determine a person's age cannot in itself be considered proof that the person is an adult; and e) the physical appearance of a person cannot prevail over identity documents (unless those documents are proven to be invalid). This sets an important precedent for national authorities to follow in the process of age determination of unaccompanied migrant children.

With technical support from the Office, communications sent to Egypt and Zambia by the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity contributed to the **release of a woman human rights defender (WHRD) and a trans man**, in Egypt, and two persons convicted and sentenced to 15 years in prison for allegedly engaging in consensual same-sex relations, in Zambia.

From 13 to 14 July, UN Human Rights organized a webinar on **“Engaging parliaments on the promotion of human rights**, including on the work of the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review” for Member Countries of the Commonwealth, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Commonwealth Secretariat. Approximately 45 participants, including parliamentarians from Belize, Canada, Cyprus, Grenada, Jamaica, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago and Zambia took part in the event. The webinar aimed to sensitize members of parliamentary human rights committees to the possibilities of becoming fully involved in promoting and protecting human rights, including through the work of the HRC and the UPR. A similar virtual workshop was held on 17 and 18 November for parliamentarians working on human rights in Member Countries of the Commonwealth in the Asia-Pacific region. These activities enabled participants to identify good examples of parliamentary involvement in the work of the international human rights mechanisms.

M4 – DEVELOPMENT of INTERNATIONAL LAW – International human rights mechanisms contribute to the elaboration of international law and jurisprudence, in particular in the context of emerging human rights concerns (“frontier” issues).

Shifts / SDGs



Results

In May, the **Committee on Migrant Workers** (CMW) and the **Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants** published a *Joint Guidance Note on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the human rights of migrants*. They urged States to “include migrants and their families in **economic recovery policies**, taking into account the need for the recovery of remittance flows.” The Guidance Note also states that governments must set up mechanisms to **review the use of immigration detention** with a view to reducing their populations to the lowest possible level and immediately releasing families with children and unaccompanied or separated children from immigration detention facilities to non-custodial and community-based alternatives with full access to rights and services.

On 4 November, the **Human Rights Committee** adopted a **landmark decision**, which found Italy responsible for the death of 200 **migrants** in the Mediterranean Sea in 2013. The events occurred in international waters and involved an Italian naval ship and a nearby sinking boat carrying more than 400 adults and children. The Committee found that Italy failed to **protect the life of the victims**. It also considered that although the victims were not on Italian territory, they had established a special relationship of dependency with Italy when the first distress calls were made by the victims to Italian authorities due to their proximity to the Italian coast and because they were affected by the decisions of the Italian authorities that were reasonably foreseeable in light of Italy’s relevant legal obligations. The Committee called for an independent and timely investigation.

OHCHR contributed to the development of human rights-based approaches in the use and regulation of digital technologies. During the June session of the HRC, an expert seminar was held on the **impacts of the use of artificial intelligence on the enjoyment of the right to privacy** and a panel discussion was convened on new and emerging digital technologies.

The Office also contributed to the development of new general comments/recommendations on various topics, including **preventing and combating racial profiling by law enforcement officials**; the relationship between **science and economic, social and cultural rights**; the right to freedom of **peaceful assembly**; and **trafficking** in women and girls **in the context of global migration**.

M5 – EFFECTIVENESS of human rights MECHANISMS – International human rights mechanisms are increasingly effective in promoting and protecting human rights.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

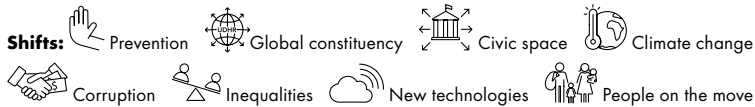
In November, the **UPR Working Group** held its **first hybrid session** in UPR’s history. The use of pre-recorded video statements and online connections with the capitals were introduced during the session. Despite the challenging circumstances and restrictions brought on by the pandemic, coupled with complex technical difficulties, the thirty-sixth session of the UPR Working Group was a success. A total of 250 delegates from capitals participated in the session and interacted with an average of 100 States. A video was produced showcasing this success.

OHCHR provided support to the **2020 review of the treaty body system**, including through the Secretary-General’s report on the status of the treaty body system (A/74/643) and by supporting the work of the review’s co-facilitators (A/75/601). This was also the focus of the regular remote meetings held by the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies throughout the year.

Efforts and advocacy undertaken by the mandates on the sale and sexual exploitation of children and on the right to privacy contributed to the **European Parliament's** adoption of **legislation**, allowing a temporary derogation from certain provisions of the Directive on Privacy and Electronic Communications (Directive 2002/58/EC) with regard to the **use of technologies for the processing of personal and other data**, for the purpose of combating child sexual abuse online.

OHCHR provided support to **65 virtual interactive dialogues that were held in the Third Committee** at the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly. This support facilitated the virtual engagement in interactive dialogues between the Third Committee and the international human rights mechanisms, which are mandated to report to the General Assembly. During the session, the Third Committee adopted more than 37 human rights-related resolutions. Support was also provided to special procedures country mandates through the organization of **virtual meetings with Member States, CSOs, victims and other interlocutors**.

Development (D)



COVID-19 response and recovery

Under the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, UN Human Rights drafted the **Secretary-General's policy brief on COVID-19 and human rights**, drawing upon and leveraging the unique expertise and experience of UN entities. The policy brief has been an essential tool in the advocacy of the Office and the wider UN system regarding the **centrality of human rights for successful COVID-19 response and recovery efforts**.

UN Human Rights strengthened the integration of ESCRs, SDGs and rights-based macroeconomic analysis, including through the development of **guidance**, to **promote human rights-based emergency responses to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic**. This guidance focused on rights-based and Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) analyses, research and advice on how to operationalize the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms and formulate strategies to address the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on marginalized and discriminated communities, including through 27 seeding change projects.

In collaboration with a range of UN entities, OHCHR developed and advanced the **COVID-19 Human Rights Indicators Framework** at the request of the UN Crisis Management Team. OHCHR began supporting global and national efforts to implement this Framework, which is a crucial element of the UN's Socio-Economic Response Framework. Several UNCTs began using the indicators and work is underway to expand their implementation and report on their progress.

The Office issued guidelines on COVID-19 and the **rights of persons with disabilities** (available in 20 languages) and joined a global UN project to assess the **socio-economic impacts** of the pandemic on persons with disabilities and to highlight good practices to recover better from the emergency.

OHCHR and other partners in the Inter-Agency Working Group on Violence against Children developed a **technical note on COVID-19 and children deprived of their liberty** and an Agenda for Action on protecting the rights of children during and after the pandemic.

D1 – BUSINESS and human rights – Judicial and non-judicial mechanisms hold business and other economic actors to account for rights abuses and provide remedies to victims.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

OHCHR produced **guidance on non-State-based grievance mechanisms for victims of business-related human rights abuse**. The guidance was used to influence standard-setting processes and informed the approach of both company-led grievance mechanisms and independent accountability mechanisms of development finance institutions. OHCHR engaged these stakeholders privately and publicly, for instance, through [the GRAM Partnership](#), which is an initiative that provides guidance to companies, organizations and other institutions on how grievance mechanisms can better address harm caused to individuals and communities by development finance projects.

With the technical support of the Office, the **Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children**, held an international webinar, in June, which facilitated a collective reflection on the achievements made since the adoption, in 2000, of the Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. The Special Rapporteur's report to the General Assembly (A/75/169), which sets out a vision for a strengthened **human rights-based approach to trafficking in persons**, was partly informed by this webinar.

D2 – GUIDING PRINCIPLES on Business and Human Rights – Business actors effectively implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

Shifts / SDGs



Results

Engagement with leading tech companies, such as Facebook and Microsoft, through the OHCHR B-Tech Project ([OHCHR/B-Tech Project](#)) yielded a more widespread understanding of how the **UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights** add **practical value to address some of the key human rights challenges related to technology**. Several guidance documents were produced for tech companies, including on how to address human rights risks related to business models, how to conduct human rights due diligence for harm at the end-use of digital technologies and how to establish effective grievance mechanisms. Extensive outreach and direct engagement with companies was undertaken to enhance their effective implementation of the UNGPs.

The UN Human Rights ***Issues paper on legislative proposals for mandatory human rights due diligence by companies***, published in June, was reflected in policy discussions on the scope and content of proposals for mandatory measures on human rights due diligence regulation at the European Union level.

OHCHR collaborated with the World Economic Forum Partnership for Global LGBTI Equality (PGLE), together with the private sector and civil society, to disseminate the **Standards of Conduct for Business on Tackling Discrimination against LGBTI people** and to build tools to advance their implementation. To this end, OHCHR will finalize a guide for LGBTI HRDs on engaging with the private sector in 2021 and is supporting the development of a gap analysis tool to help businesses measure their performance in implementing the Standards of Conduct.

To move towards the development of a **human rights due diligence policy (HRDDP) for the business sector**, OHCHR and CSOs co-organized a forum, in Mexico, that was attended by companies, government authorities and HRDs. In addition, the Office collaborated with ILO and OECD to deliver a series of workshops to almost 100 companies in order to build their capacities on due diligence mechanisms and **impact assessments** on human rights and the environment. As a result, OHCHR and a local human rights institution facilitated negotiations between a Canadian mining company and a rural community affected by the company's activities. The company committed to meeting some of the community's demands.

In Mexico, OHCHR promoted the establishment and functioning of a **Climate Justice Network**, in cooperation with more than 25 CSOs. The Network met regularly to share information and discuss opportunities for collaboration on key issues like air quality, impact studies and the implementation of the Escazú Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean. This work led to the submission of a joint proposal to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, with **specific recommendations** on the rights of indigenous peoples, people of African descent and persons living in rural communities, the right to a healthy environment, due diligence and the integration of human rights and gender approaches into Mexico's **Nationally Determined Contribution**, pursuant to the **Paris Agreement**. OHCHR also worked closely with the Mexican Institute of Water Technology to develop a set of **indicators on the human right to water and sanitation**.

D3 – LAND and HOUSING laws/policies – State authorities adopt and implement laws, policies and strategies on land and housing that increasingly comply with human rights.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

Supported by OHCHR, the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, enhanced his work with UN Habitat, speaking at several events marking World Habitat Day. In addition, he participated in the Tenth World Human Rights Cities Forum in Gwangju, Republic of Korea, and in events organized in collaboration with the United Cities and Local Governments and the Global Parliament of Mayors on the **impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the right to adequate housing**. The Special Rapporteur advocated for a **global moratorium on evictions** and later participated in events related to a Zero Evictions Campaign, which was led by CSOs. At the International Summit on Family/ Domestic Violence During the COVID-19 Crisis, he highlighted the urgency of ensuring access to safe housing.

OHCHR strengthened strategic engagement with cities and local governments that promote and protect human rights at local level. The Tenth **World Human Rights Cities Forum**, co-sponsored by OHCHR and hosted by the city of Gwangju, Republic of Korea, identified the importance of building local government capacity to protect ESCRs at the local level, address inequalities and discrimination and ensure the full and **meaningful participation of the population in decision-making processes**.

In Kenya, the Office assisted the **Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples** in the preparation for his appearance as an expert witness in relation to the **reparation proceedings** in the Ogiek rights to land and housing case that is before the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights. Although the final report was drafted by the Government's Task Force, which is mandated to implement the African Court's judgment, it has not yet been officially released.

D4 – HEALTH POLICIES and human rights – Public health approaches, including sexual and reproductive health policies, comply with international human rights standards and provide non-discriminatory access, especially to children, adolescents, women and migrants.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

UN Human Rights collaborated with the Centre for Reproductive Rights and the Institute of Judicial Administration Lushoto to strengthen the **capacity of the judiciary to protect reproductive rights** in the context of COVID-19 in Africa and Asia. As a result of a webinar, a platform was created to facilitate exchanges about the impacts on women's reproductive rights of State responses to COVID-19 in **Africa and Asia**. The platform gathers information on steps taken by judiciaries to ensure women's access to justice during the pandemic.

OHCHR shifted the focus of its work on the **right to health** to support capacity-building in the field to respond to the pandemic and its secondary impacts through targeted guidance aimed at protecting marginalized groups' access to essential health services and strengthening universal health coverage in recovery efforts. In collaboration with a research team at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Humanitarian Law, the Office is developing a **study of COVID-19 legal and policy frameworks** in 14 countries and in the Indian State of Kerala to identify key trends and challenges from a **human rights perspective**.

The Office **expanded the global constituency for sexual and reproductive health and rights** by raising awareness about the international standards related to these rights through various means. For instance, OHCHR partnered with WHO and Oxford University to launch the Right to A Better World series ([OHCHR | Right to a Better World](#)) on 18 November. The series consists of four episodes, namely, comprehensive sexuality education, contraception, maternal mortality and morbidity and violence against women. In each episode, experts and advocates from around the world share stories of their professional struggles and successes to achieve rights and well-being for their communities. Each episode is approximately 20 minutes long and the target audience is practitioners as well as students who are studying to become professionals in the world of development and human rights. OHCHR also updated its information [series on sexual and reproductive health and rights](#) to reflect the latest standards.

D5 – ENVIRONMENT and CLIMATE policies – Environmental and climate policies and plans increasingly respect, protect and fulfil human rights, guaranteeing those affected access to information, decision-making, public participation and remedies.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

In line with the **Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights**, OHCHR contributed to strengthening support from the UN system to advance the **human right to a healthy environment**. The Office worked closely with UNEMG to establish a new Issue Management Group on human rights and the environment and co-led an ad hoc inter-agency working group to support the implementation of the Call to Action with respect to the rights of future generations and climate justice. The Office and UNEP established a joint community of practice and created a new quarterly Environmental Rights Bulletin.

OHCHR expanded its influence on the global discourse with respect to **human rights and the environment** through the development of new **information and training materials** (<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/HRAndClimateChange/Pages/Information-Materials.aspx>) on human rights, the environment and climate change. These materials were broadly disseminated to stakeholders.

With technical support from OHCHR, the **Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment** issued 40 communications concerning environmental protection and human rights as well as 25 press releases. His report to the General Assembly focused on the need for **urgent action to conserve, protect and restore the biosphere** on which all species depend. It further illustrated the devastating effects of COVID-19 and the crucial role of human rights in catalysing action to safeguard nature.

D6 – HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT assessment – Human rights assessments and impact analyses mitigate, prevent or redress the negative effects of economic, trade and development policies and projects.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

OHCHR worked in partnership with the **multilateral development banks** (MDBs) and their Independent Accountability Mechanisms (IAMs) to strengthen banks' operational strategies and **policies, reprisals and accountability procedures**. OHCHR's submissions to the World Bank Group's Strategy for Fragility, Conflict and Violence 2020-2021 led to the recognition that human rights abuses and violations are among the causes of conflict and opened entry points for operational engagement. OHCHR's advocacy contributed to positive outcomes in operational and reprisals policies and procedures for the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), IDB Invest, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the European Investment Bank. The new IDB and IDB Invest safeguards explicitly require **human rights due diligence** and the IDB safeguards include a self-standing **gender equality safeguard**, the first of its kind for any MDB.

In **Guatemala**, the plan for the implementation of a **judicial decision**, which was handed down in the **Sepur Zarco case**, was reviewed and updated. With technical assistance from OHCHR, indicators were incorporated into the plan to help measure the progress achieved. Participants in the process included the ministries and secretaries of the central Government, the local authorities of the Panzós and El Estor municipalities that are responsible for compliance with the measures and the NGO that supports victims and victims' associations.

In the **Republic of Moldova**, OHCHR developed **guidance on applying a human rights-based approach to Socio-Economic Impact Assessments (SEIAs)**, including nine localized human rights indicators. The guidance and indicators were integrated into the UN Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan (SERP), guided UNDP's work on drafting an SEIA and provided the basis for a human rights impact assessment of COVID-19 that was conducted by OHCHR.

D7 – HUMAN RIGHTS INTEGRATION in implementing the SDGs – 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 purposes and integrates human rights into its own development work.



Results

The High Commissioner sent letters to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the 51 countries that underwent a **Voluntary National Review (VNR)** in 2020 and to the 44 countries that will undertake a VNR in 2021. The letters encourage countries to **integrate human rights considerations** into their VNR reports and are accompanied by a country-specific document that provides relevant guidance and hyperlinks to useful tools, such as the UHRI and the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD). Furthermore, the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs made reference to these tools in its annual *Knowledge Exchange Booklet on Approaches and Tools for the 2021 VNRs*. OHCHR also developed 91 country-specific documents aiming to assist Member States in integrating human rights data, analyses and approaches into their VNRs that were submitted in 2020 (47 countries) or will be submitted in 2021 (44 countries).

UN Human Rights provided technical assistance to the **Democratic Republic of the Congo's VNR** process, which was organized by the Ministry of Planning. The Office participated in five thematic working groups on the SDGs to promote the mainstreaming of human rights concerns. On 13 July, the country presented its VNR report to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

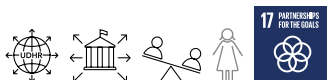
With a view to enhancing the mutual reinforcement of the SDGs and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), OHCHR concluded a four-year project to develop an **SDG-CRPD resource package**, to ensure that all actions undertaken to implement the SDGs are **inclusive of persons with disabilities** and guided by the Convention. The package, which was jointly developed with organizations of persons with disabilities and with funding from the European Union, is primarily targeted at States that have obligations to implement both the SDGs and the Convention, yet it can also serve as an indispensable guide for all stakeholders. The package resources include policy guidelines, human rights indicators related to the Convention, data sources guidance, training materials and videos.

In response to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, the **Surge Initiative** contributed **guidance on integrating ESCRs, SDGs and human rights-based macroeconomic analyses in 59 countries**, including through 27 seed funded projects and analytical contents to 30 UNCT socio-economic assessments and response plans to COVID-19. OHCHR's Surge Initiative focused on operationalizing the Secretary-General's Call for a 'New Social Contract,' building an understanding of opportunities and entry points related to the 2030 Agenda and the reform of the UN Development System, including through rights-based and LNOB analyses, research and advice on how to operationalize recommendations from the international mechanisms. Through the Surge Initiative, OHCHR formulated strategies to address the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic on marginalized and discriminated communities, documented impactful country experiences and provided advice on how these efforts can be scaled up or replicated through various cross-fertilization initiatives, including through OHCHR's online shared platform entitled the "2030 Agenda Community of Practice." In **Cambodia**, the Surge Initiative contributed to OHCHR's prevention efforts through the creation of a **UNCT early warning dashboard**, featuring an indicators framework that encompasses all rights, SDG indicators and risk factors. In **Kenya**, the Surge Initiative provided support to the Human Rights Adviser (HRA) and a network of 24 Social Justice Centres to undertake a **human rights assessment of inequality** in access to water in 24 informal settlements and communities in Nairobi, Kisumu and the coastal regions. The main findings of the assessment provided evidence-based data to support the advocacy efforts of CSOs and informed the Government's responses regarding the suspension of utility bills and the enforcement of a moratorium on evictions.

UN Human Rights launched the **Hernán Santa Cruz dialogue series** to promote forward-looking discussions **on economic, social and cultural rights, the SDGs and the right to development**. In Sudan, the Office and the University of Khartoum co-organized an inaugural event on strengthening social protection as the country focuses on development and recovery after the signing of the peace agreement. The Hernán Santa Cruz dialogues resulted in new opportunities for collaboration with the Government and other partners.

D8 – DISAGGREGATED human rights DATA – National institutions, assisted by communities, systematically collect, disaggregate and use data that are relevant for advancing human rights when they monitor and implement the SDGs.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

Data collected through the four **SDG indicators**, under OHCHR's custodianship, were used by various stakeholders, including UN entities, the special procedures, the statistical community and civil society in **advocacy efforts and reports**. Examples include a report from UN Women entitled *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2020*, the Secretary-General's 2020 report on women, peace and security and the report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) entitled *How COVID-19 is changing the world: A statistical perspective, Volumes I and II*.

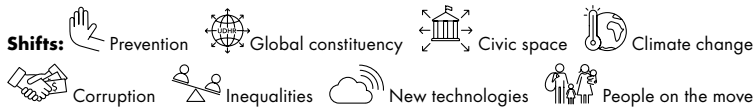
OHCHR facilitated technical assistance to strengthen **collaboration between NHRIs and the National Statistical Offices** to operationalize the **human rights-based approach to data** as an instrument for increasing trust in data, improving visibility around groups left behind and reinforcing **equality and non-discrimination**. In 2020, OHCHR supported similar efforts in Cabo Verde, El Salvador, Peru, the Philippines, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and new collaborative platforms were established in Albania, Kosovo, Liberia and the Republic of Moldova.

To ensure State accountability, the Office collaborated with the Danish Institute for Human Rights to support the development of a methodology to monitor and collect **data on the national implementation of human rights education** in the context of SDG Target 4.7 and the World Programme for Human Rights Education. This included the provision of advice on human rights education and human rights indicators, research and regular consultations.

To support the **compilation of data for SDG Indicator 10.3.1/16.b.1 on discrimination**, UN Human Rights collaborated with approximately 200 national statistics offices and developed a pioneering compendium of survey questions to support disaggregation by multiple characteristics (such as sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender identity, socio-economic status, disabilities) in international and national censuses and surveys. This set of sample questions and technical guidance are being implemented in partnership with UNDP and UNODC under the SDG 16 Household Survey Initiative. For the first time, UN Human Rights reported data on **SDG Indicator 16.1.2 on civilian deaths in armed conflict**, which were disaggregated by sex, age and cause of death.

UN Human Rights collaborated with UN Women, UNICEF and national institutions to undertake a **COVID-19 rapid gender assessment in West Africa**, ensuring the integration of an HRBA and LNOB analysis. The issued reports provide evidence regarding the impacts of the pandemic on women and men across the region and aim to inform decision-making and processes. The evidence will also promote a better understanding of the socio-economic effects of the crisis on societies, at the individual level (violence, discrimination, loss of income, psychological health, time spent on household chores) and at the household level (coping strategies, expenses for children). This work is a good example of inter-agency collaboration and provided UN Human Rights with the opportunity to generate the raw data that are needed to undertake quantitative and qualitative human rights assessments. The reports and the related database are now available for [Côte d'Ivoire](#), [Mali](#) and [Senegal](#).

Peace and Security (PS)



COVID-19 response and recovery

UN Human Rights gave **visibility** to structural issues that preceded the outbreak of the pandemic, notably **inequalities and discrimination**, and **exacerbated their negative impacts on human rights**. In **Ukraine**, for example, the Office issued a briefing note on the impacts of COVID-19 and related prevention measures on homeless people. It also issued a comprehensive report on the human rights impacts of COVID-19 in Ukraine, which highlights concerns about the human rights situation of women, older persons, persons with disabilities and others. In **West Africa**, OHCHR gathered and analysed information on potential human rights violations related to the pandemic and created an [interactive dashboard](#) to maintain an almost real-time overview of COVID-19-related developments in the region.

PS1 – PROTECTION of CIVILIANS, CONFLICT and PEACE – Parties to conflict and actors involved in peace operations increasingly comply with international human rights law and international humanitarian law and provide greater protection to civilians.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

The Office made significant progress towards generating a quality and timely **evidence base for credible human rights analysis and reporting of conflicts**, including on civilian casualties and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). OHCHR now has access to useful tools for **open source human rights monitoring** and investigations and has trained approximately 500 staff members from 28 field presences on their use and other specificities of remote monitoring. In addition, a new **human rights case database** module for casualty recording was rolled out, which facilitates the collection, disaggregation and analysis of information on casualties and fulfils the reporting requirements for SDG Indicator 16.1.2 on conflict-related deaths.

Through **methodological guidance**, advice, training and support to existing commissions of inquiry, fact-finding missions and other mandated **investigative bodies**, OHCHR contributed to the enhanced cross-fertilization of investigative methods and peer learning in areas such as remote interviews, protection protocols, the use of forensic expertise and referrals. In 2020, the Office facilitated start-up workshops for the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the UN Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts on Yemen. It also delivered briefings on methodology and UN practices for staff and experts of the Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya.

In March, the High Commissioner addressed two letters to Libya's Government of National Accord and to the Libyan National Arab Army requesting the **urgent reduction of the number of detained persons in detention facilities in Libya**, with particular attention to **vulnerable groups**. The letters contributed to the response of the Libyan authorities, which reportedly released more than 2,000 prisoners and detainees between March and May.

Through its field presences, OHCHR **monitored and reported on violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law**, including civilian casualties, raising the awareness of and advocating for the protection of civilians with all parties to conflict, including in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Guinea, Iraq, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.

In **Darfur, women protection networks** were created with the support of OHCHR and UNAMID. These networks performed important awareness-raising and advocacy roles in camps of internally displaced persons (IDPs), where sexual violence remains a serious concern. A similar network for **survivors of sexual violence** was established to provide a platform through which survivors can engage with **response and remedial mechanisms** at the state level and with civil society and humanitarian organizations.

OHCHR advocated for **enhanced compliance with human rights and international humanitarian law in the Sahel**. In the context of new security initiatives that were established in the region, notably the International Coalition for the Sahel, the deployment of European special forces in Mali and the announcement by the African Union that it will deploy a large military force in support of the counter-terrorist efforts of the G5 Sahel Joint Force, OHCHR stepped up its engagement with these partners to ensure that they comply with international human rights, humanitarian and protection of civilian standards, in accordance with the G5 Sahel Joint Force Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Compliance Framework.

PS2 – Counter-TERRORISM and preventing VIOLENT EXTREMISM – Efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism comply with international law.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

In September, the Office submitted its report on terrorism and human rights (A/HRC/45/27) to the HRC. Through the report, OHCHR provided detailed **guidance to Member States on the international human rights parameters governing criminal accountability processes** for terrorism-related offences. This guidance is particularly crucial for States dealing with a high number of terrorism-related investigations and prosecutions. It also highlights that criminal accountability processes should be **victim-centred** and comply with due process and fair trial guarantees as prerequisites in order to close the impunity gap and respect the rights of victims to remedy and reparation.

OHCHR provided advice, as requested, on national policies and legislation on the prevention of violent extremism and counter-terrorism and mainstreaming human rights and counter-terrorism perspectives into thematic and country specific reports, including in: the [UNAMA-OHCHR joint report](#) on *Preventing torture and upholding the rights of detainees in Afghanistan: A factor for peace* (February 2021); the Secretary-General's annual report on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (forthcoming); and the High Commissioner's [report](#) on the human rights situation in the Philippines (2020). The Office also began engaging with Member States and CSOs in connection with the ongoing revision of the **UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy** to inform the review process and coordinate human rights messaging.

In its capacity as Protection Cluster Lead in the **State of Palestine**, UN Human Rights advised the Humanitarian Coordinator on key issues of concern in Palestine, ensuring that **protection** remains **at the centre of the UN response**. The Office highlighted a number of areas that had been previously overlooked in the context of UN advocacy, primarily related to gender-based violence and conditions in Israeli prisons. Furthermore, OHCHR's technical support and guidance led to the **mainstreaming of protection indicators** into all projects approved and funded by the oPt Humanitarian Fund and to the **prioritization of vulnerable groups**, such as women with cancer, women with disabilities and children impacted by dropping out of school and child labour.

PS3 – HUMAN RIGHTS protection in PREVENTION/RESPONSE – Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

In July, the **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)** adopted an **emblematic decision on a case against Bosnia and Herzegovina for conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV)**. The victim was raped by a military officer, in 1995, during the Bosnian war, in a village that was under the control of the Bosnian Serb forces. In addition to experiencing the stigma attached to this violation and enduring long-term physical and psychological harm, she unsuccessfully sought justice at the national level for over 25 years. This case is of great importance not only because it is the first decision adopted by CEDAW that addresses the issue of sexual violence during conflict, but also because it requires that the State **recognize the plaintiff as a civilian victim of armed conflict** and provide her with adequate social support and benefits. The case contributes to restoring the dignity of survivors of sexual violence in conflict and formulates concrete recommendations to the Government to support the transitional justice process.

In January, the new **United Nations Policy for Field Missions on Preventing and Responding to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence** entered into force. The Policy is accompanied by a handbook, which was launched virtually, in June. OHCHR's sustained and active engagement in the process was instrumental to ensuring the integration of human rights-based and victim-centred approaches and a gender perspective into both documents.

OHCHR engaged with the **Security Council** on the renewal of the mandates of 12 **peace operations** and, in particular, supported the inclusion of a strong human rights mandate for the new **United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan**. The Office also supported the preparations for the historic Security Council **Open Debate on "Peace Operations and Human Rights."** During the debate, the High Commissioner delivered a statement stressing that peace operations are a powerful tool to promote and protect human rights and calling on States to provide substantial political and financial support to these operations.

In response to the **escalation of hostilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone**, the High Commissioner issued three public statements and the Office facilitated the engagement of the **international human rights mechanisms**, contributed to various internal UN early warning and coordination platforms and provided human rights inputs to the terms of reference for an **inter-agency mission** to the conflict area.

OHCHR participated in meetings of the **UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Ethiopia** and deployed a **surge capacity team**, in December, to respond to the conflict in the Tigray region, which began on 4 November.

UN Human Rights supported the integration of human rights-based and victim-centred approaches into the **UN Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)**. In addition, the Office supported the Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate (OVRA) in the mapping of services available to victims of SEA by UN entities and external parties in 13 countries. The public reports that were subsequently issued paved the way for new initiatives. In June, the Office, OVRA and UNICEF jointly conducted a technical consultation to identify ways to improve legal assistance for victims of SEA, leading to the development of a road map to enhance progress in this area. UN Human Rights also contributed to the finalization of the **IASC Learning Package on Protection from Sexual Misconduct for UN partner organizations** and the development of guidance on PSEA for Resident Coordinators. Throughout the year, the Office investigated and publicly reported on allegations of SEA made against non-UN international forces operating under a UN Security Council mandate and followed up with Member States and the regional forces concerned.

PS4 – TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE and ACCOUNTABILITY – Justice mechanisms, including for transitional justice, provide increased accountability for conflict-related violations.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

OHCHR provided support to **transitional justice** processes and mechanisms across the globe, including in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, the Gambia, Guatemala, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Mali, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and the Western Balkans. OHCHR organized an online event to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the **Basic principles and guidelines on the right to a remedy and reparation** and launched a year-long series of events to emphasize the catalytic power of reparations. The High Commissioner provided a briefing at the first Security Council Open Debate and identified transitional justice as an essential component of building and sustaining peace. Efforts continued to implement the EOSG-led project on “renewing the UN approach to transitional justice,” to collectively rethink the UN’s approach to transitional justice. These activities will inform a revised guidance note from the Secretary-General.

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

Shifts / SDGs



Results

During the year, OHCHR developed the **COVID-19 Tracker**, a tool that enabled the Office to capture, in a structured way, COVID-19-related issues of concern, mitigating measures adopted by States and other stakeholders and actions undertaken by the Office in response to the pandemic. In using this technology, OHCHR transformed itself into an organization that employs technology to effectively work with data and develop analytics. This resulted in enhanced collaboration across the Office and informed its strategic decision-making (see more on p. 23).

As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on movement and travel, the possibilities for **emergency deployments** were limited. Nevertheless, the Office supported eight emergency deployments to Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guyana, Kyrgyzstan, Niger, Uganda and Yemen.

In relation to **SDG Indicator 16.1.2**, UN Human Rights consolidated, for the first time, **data on conflict-related deaths**, disaggregated by sex, age and cause of death, during 12 of the deadliest armed conflicts. The data were included in the Statistical Annex of the Secretary-General’s 2020 SDG Progress Report, the SDG Report 2020 and the database of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on the SDGs. A secure data-sharing platform and a metadata and data collection template were developed to improve and harmonize field support. To expand its data sources, the Office strengthened its partnerships with UNMAS, UNICEF and the Casualty Recorders Network. OHCHR implemented new approaches to expand its data coverage. In South Sudan and Syria, recommendations were made on the estimation techniques for undocumented direct deaths. The Office concluded a template data-sharing agreement between data sources and the UN (represented by OHCHR) to ensure data privacy and security.

The Office continued to upgrade the Petitions internal database. In 2020, 192 new **urgent action requests under CED** were registered. Specific recommendations were sent to the States Parties concerned on the actions to be taken to search for and locate the disappeared persons and investigate their alleged enforced disappearance. In approximately half of these cases, CED requested that the States Parties take interim measures to protect the life and integrity of family members or representatives of victims involved in search activities or to preserve evidence related to the location of the remains of disappeared persons. In 2020, 102 follow-up notes were sent regarding registered urgent actions requests. The notes assessed the information provided by States Parties and outlined recommendations on search and investigation processes and compliance with previous recommendations. At its nineteenth session, CED adopted 969 decisions regarding urgent action requests. As of 31 December, 1,001 urgent action requests had been registered and 90 disappeared persons had been located (see p. 34).

OHCHR also registered 317 new **individual communications**. The human rights treaty bodies adopted 239 decisions on individual communications, 229 of which are online. This remarkable result in light of the challenges caused by COVID-19 enabled the treaty bodies to prevent a protection gap during the pandemic.

UN Human Rights supported the **humanitarian response system in Mozambique** to ensure the integration of human rights into the analyses of UN partners and their response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the growing conflict in northern Mozambique and the context of violence in central Mozambique. The Office strengthened engagement between national stakeholders and the humanitarian system, including by promoting a more diverse national civil society, such as groups protecting the rights of older persons and local legal aid clinics that collaborate with humanitarian entities. Similarly, OHCHR facilitated greater engagement and dialogue between the international humanitarian system and protection entities, including the National Human Rights Commission and the 1st Committee of Parliament.

UN Human Rights' work on humanitarian action emphasized the **centrality of protection in humanitarian emergencies**, including the COVID-19 pandemic. OHCHR and WHO guidance on COVID-19 and persons deprived of their liberty supported advocacy with State authorities to address **risks related to detention centres**, for example, by improving conditions and adopting decongestion measures and releases in accordance with international human rights law. That guidance and the High Commissioner's public calls on the issue were instrumental to enhancing the monitoring and advocacy activities of OHCHR field presences. As a result, several States adopted **decongestion measures**. Countries such as Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, the Gambia, Ghana, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Malawi, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia and Yemen implemented recommendations on early release, release on furlough and the release of pretrial detainees on bail. In addition, the UN Human Rights Country Office in Yemen and an international CSO worked together on protecting vulnerable categories within prisons. In Somalia, the Office co-established the UN Task Force on COVID-19 and detention to support Somali authorities in mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 in prisons. CSOs used this tool in their advocacy and legal actions to assist detainees.

OHCHR contributed to the **review of criteria for grants** by the **Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)**, which now recognizes a wider range of human rights activities as 'life saving,' which are therefore eligible for CERF funds. At the field level, these criteria provided the foundation for the Office's advocacy to enhance protection during the responses to Hurricanes Eta and Iota in Honduras. Moreover, UN Human Rights participated in the needs assessment, the flash appeal and overall response and supported national capacities, monitoring and advocacy for the inclusion of populations left behind in the response, with a specific focus on women, children, persons with disabilities and LGBTI persons.

PS6 – HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE POLICY – The support of the United Nations to national and regional security forces, law enforcement agencies and non-State actors integrates human rights and complies with the HRDDP.

Shifts / SDGs

**Results**

OHCHR continued to raise awareness about and strengthen the implementation of the **HRDDP** in countries and regions where UN support to non-UN security forces significantly contributes to advancing the peace and security agenda. OHCHR provided enhanced support to implement the HRDDP in **UN peace operations**, including the instrumentalization of the HRDDP as a tool to contribute to the overall strategic objectives of UN peace operations and to strengthen its contribution to the ongoing peace processes. OHCHR provided technical advice on the implementation of the HRDDP to BINUH, MINUSCA, MINUSMA, MONUSCO, UNAMA, UNIOGBIS, UNMIK, UNMISS, UNSMIL and UNSOM. OHCHR established an online community of practice among HRDDP practitioners in UN peace operations to promote and share lessons learned and good practices. It also held six virtual meetings to discuss various themes under the HRDDP, such as implementation during the pandemic, working with the UNCTs in UN peace operations and HRDDP mitigating measures.

The Office continued to provide support and guidance for the **implementation of the HRDDP to the UNCTs**, notably in relation to the development of standard operating procedures (SOPs), risk assessments and mitigation measures. The UNCTs in Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Lesotho and the Philippines requested briefings and advice from OHCHR. The briefings and support led to an enhanced application of the Policy and significant interest was shown in its application in non-mission settings during the reporting period.









PS7 – NEW TECHNOLOGIES, WEAPONS, TACTICS and PRIVATE SECURITY – The use of private military and security companies and the development and deployment of new technologies, weapons and tactics are increasingly consistent with and respect international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

Shifts / SDGs

**Results**

OHCHR **developed an office-wide strategy to address the diversion of weapons, ammunition and their parts and components.** In response to requests from the field and following the review of reports and statements, the Office provided legal and policy advice on the use of force, weapons and the impact on international human rights law of the development, transfer and use of weapons.

Non-discrimination (ND)

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

Spotlights:  Disabilities  Women  Youth

COVID-19 response and recovery

UN Human Rights led inter-agency efforts to draft the **Secretary-General's policy brief on the impacts of COVID-19 on older persons**, which was issued in May. A total of 146 Member States endorsed a joint statement of support. The policy brief also inspired broader civil society actions at global and local levels, including a joint letter to the Secretary-General that was signed by 122 CSOs and networks from around the world.

OHCHR issued a series of targeted **guidance notes**, including one on the interlinkages between **COVID-19 and racial discrimination**, which focuses on areas of concerns such as health, education, housing, employment, adequate standards of living and law enforcement and the administration of justice. In addition, it issued a Guidance Note on the **impacts of COVID-19 on minorities and indigenous peoples**, which highlights trends and promising practices. To develop these materials, the Office gathered data on COVID-19 testing, infections and deaths, which were disaggregated by sex, age, racial or ethnic origin and other status, and on promising policies informed by the data that aim to support the most vulnerable.

OHCHR reactivated the **UN Network on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities**, which issued a range of guidance for the UNCTs on combating racial discrimination and protecting minorities, including through COVID-19 response and recovery plans. In November, the Network convened its first senior-level meeting, involving Assistant Secretaries-General (ASGs) from 10 UN entities, resulting in the adoption of the Network's first workplan.

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

Shifts / SDGs        

Results

OHCHR provided guidance to States and other stakeholders on preventing and addressing **racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia** and related intolerance. Advisory services were provided on **anti-discrimination laws** in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Tajikistan. The anti-discrimination database, which is publicly available on OHCHR's website, was enhanced. It currently contains more than 1,500 documents that include examples of anti-discrimination laws, policies, national action plans as well as good practices resulting from their implementation.

In December, under the auspices of the Vice-President of Costa Rica, OHCHR and UNFPA organized a dialogue among Afrodescendant leaders, experts and governments on the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on **people of African descent**. More than 100 individuals from the Latin American and Caribbean region participated in the online event. With support from the Surge Initiative, the Office initiated the implementation of a project that aims at establishing an early warning and prevention monitoring platform within the UNCT, with a focus on the enjoyment of ESCRs of indigenous peoples and the rights to land and food. This monitoring mechanism will be instrumental in mapping persistent and emergent factors that generate inequalities, which disproportionately affect indigenous peoples, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following the killing of George Floyd, in June, the Human Rights Council met and adopted resolution 43/1, which requests the High Commissioner to prepare a comprehensive report on systemic racism, human rights violations by law enforcement agencies against Africans and people of African descent and government responses to peaceful anti-racism protests. In line with this mandate, OHCHR began drafting a report on **racial justice**, which will be submitted to the Council, in June 2021, and will include the voices of victims who are people of African descent, their families and communities.

The Office provided support for legislative and policy changes in relation to access to justice, culturally appropriate education, land rights and the free, prior and informed consent of **indigenous peoples**, including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda. OHCHR consistently stressed the importance of ensuring the meaningful and informed participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making.

OHCHR supported the reform of laws and policies to guarantee the protection of the human rights of LGBTI persons through technical assistance, research and policy guidance. Similarly, the Office assisted relevant stakeholders in their efforts to combat violence and discrimination against **LGBTI persons**. For instance, OHCHR worked closely with field presences to monitor and document rights violations and issued [guidance on addressing the impacts of COVID-19 on LGBTI persons](#) and including them in efforts to build back better.

OHCHR, UNESCO and the World Jewish Congress jointly raised awareness about **antisemitism** by supporting the celebration of the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust, including through an exhibition and a round-table on education and antisemitism.

With support from OHCHR, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences collected 270 submissions on the increase in **violence against women in the context of COVID-19**. The submissions revealed many shortcomings that prevented women in all regions of the world from accessing essential services, thereby putting them at even greater risk. On this basis, the Special Rapporteur raised the awareness of relevant stakeholders and encouraged the General Assembly to adopt and maintain protective measures and ensure the availability of essential services during the pandemic. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women issued a similar call in its **Guidance Note on CEDAW and COVID-19**, adopted in April. It also adopted 12 lists of issues in relation to reports received from States Parties and six lists of issues prior to reporting under the simplified reporting procedure. These documents contained a new standard paragraph asking States Parties about the impacts of COVID-19 on women's rights and gender equality and women's equal participation and leadership in COVID-19 responses and recovery efforts.

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

Shifts / SDGs



Results

With OHCHR's support, CEDAW adopted **General Recommendation No. 38 (2020) on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration**. Inputs from 120 contributions received by the Committee were incorporated into the text, with substantive contributions stemming from regional consultations and three expert group meetings that were organized by the Office. This guidance will enhance the capacity of justice systems to monitor and investigate human rights violations and provide redress to victims of trafficking.

ND3 – WOMEN PARTICIPATION and PROTECTION – Legal and social frameworks increasingly promote the autonomy and choices of women and girls and protect them from violence, including in the digital space.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

With support from OHCHR, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences initiated and led the Platform of Independent Expert Mechanisms on Discrimination and Violence against Women (EDVAW Platform). Composed of representatives from UN and regional expert mechanisms, the Platform focuses on **ending discrimination and violence against women**. In February, the Special Rapporteur participated in the third regional meeting of the Platform, which she organized in collaboration with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Secretariat of the Gender Is My Agenda campaign. This resulted in a joint statement that was issued by the expert mechanisms entitled "Elimination of discrimination and violence against women and girls, including its root causes, must be integrated in all efforts to silence the guns before, during and after conflict."

ND4 – ERADICATING HARMFUL NORMS – Judicial institutions, media and other sectors increasingly recognize and challenge harmful gender stereotypes and gender norms with a view to their eradication.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

OHCHR strengthened the capacity of the judiciary to address and dismantle harmful stereotypes and protect **women's human rights**, which is critical to ensuring that decisions are made on the basis of facts and not deeply entrenched beliefs and stereotypes about the characteristics and roles of women and men. For example, in Uruguay, OHCHR has been working with judges, prosecutors and defence lawyers since 2018 to eradicate **judicial gender stereotyping**. This work resulted in the launch of a guide for the judiciary and a guide for the Office of the Prosecutor on gender stereotypes and international standards for women's access to justice. In June, a virtual course was delivered to more than 80 judges and prosecutors to build their capacity in using the guides. An internal resolution of the Supreme Court requests that judges use the guide when ruling on cases related to gender-based violence (GBV).

On the occasion of **International Women's Day**, OHCHR partnered with Wikimedia to address stereotypes about WHRDs and to create content on less well-known defenders who have made important contributions to their societies. A total of 72 competitors submitted edits in 36 languages and 3,224 articles were created or improved.

Through the **UN Free & Equal campaign**, awareness-raising and advocacy were pursued to advance the human rights of **LGBTI persons** in the context of national activities in 13 countries. On the occasion of the International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (17 May), two thematic campaigns were launched at the global level in all UN languages and in Portuguese on **LGBTIQ+ youth homelessness** and on breaking the silence around discrimination and violence against LGBTI persons (jointly organized by UN Human Rights, True Colors United and Cyndi Lauper). OHCHR also developed social media toolkits on the inclusion of LGBTI persons in COVID-19 prevention and recovery efforts. Moreover, two high-level UN events were organized with the United Nations LGBTI Core Group, in New York, with a focus on LGBTI persons facing intersecting forms of discrimination and the impacts of COVID-19 on LGBTI persons.

With support from OHCHR, the **Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery**, including its causes and consequences presented to the HRC, in September, the report on the 2019 visit to Togo, with a focus on the exploitation of children, child labour, harmful gender stereotypes and harmful cultural practices. Since the country visit, the Government of Togo has taken steps to address the concerns raised by the Special Rapporteur, such as strengthening its child protection framework at the domestic level.

OHCHR strengthened the capacity of journalists to apply a **human rights-based approach and gender lens** in their **media coverage** by organizing an online training on the “Role of media in promoting and protecting human rights in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic” for 15 journalists from Jordan, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, the State of Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen. The training, which was held from 24 to 26 November, enhanced the knowledge of journalists about women’s rights and the particular impacts of COVID-19 on women.

In June, CEDAW published its **inquiry report on female genital mutilation** in Mali, concluding that the State Party had failed to comply with its due diligence obligations to adopt and enforce a law prohibiting female genital mutilation. It also noted that the efforts made by Mali had been neither sufficient, effective nor timely to eliminate deeply entrenched discriminatory gender stereotypes that underlie this harmful practice.

ND5 – DIGITAL SPACE – Principles and practices effectively counter discrimination and hate speech in the digital space.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

OHCHR organized two virtual regional forums on the topic of “**hate speech, social media and minorities.**” The first was organized in relation to Europe, in September, and the second was organized in relation to Asia-Pacific, in October, and included representatives of States, international and regional organizations, NHRIs, civil society, academia and ICT and social media companies. The resulting recommendations informed the thirteenth session of the annual **Forum on Minority Issues**, which took place virtually on 19 and 20 November. The Forum attracted more than 400 participants, with an average of 150 participants who were online during each session.

The Global Compact Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights, the Rule of Law and Fundamental Freedoms and Supporting the Victims of Terrorism, chaired by UN Human Rights, initiated a research project relating to new technologies entitled “**The use of artificial intelligence in counter-terrorism, notably its impact on freedom of expression.**” The research is expected to be completed in 2021. To increase awareness and advocate for the use of the human rights framework in this area, OHCHR made presentations at a number of events, including the webinar on counter-terrorism and surveillance technologies organized by the Global Center on Cooperative Security, on 20 May, and the Third INTERPOL-UNICRI Global Meeting on Artificial Intelligence for Law Enforcement, on 27 November.

ND6 – MIGRATION – The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

Through the **UN Network on Migration**, at national, regional and global levels, OHCHR supported Member States in the implementation, review of and follow-up to the Global Compact for Migration. The Office conducted research, policy analysis and capacity-building activities on key issues, including the **return of migrants in the context of COVID-19** and monitoring human rights at international borders.

OHCHR launched **a campaign and a toolbox to reshape narratives on migration** (#StandUp4Migrants), with a view to shifting fear- and hate-based narratives to hope- and values-based narratives, showcasing communities coming together to welcome migrants and the connections we all share, no matter where we come from or what we look like (see more on p. 53).

The Office continued to visit key locations to raise awareness about human rights protection gaps faced by migrants and to assist States and others in implementing human rights-based responses. In 2020, a monitoring **mission** was dispatched to Malta to **remotely monitor the situation of migrants in Libya**.

ND7 – PUBLIC MOBILIZATION for INCLUSION – Public support increases for equal, inclusive and diverse societies, without discrimination.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

OHCHR launched a series of online **webinars**, in English and Spanish, **for Roma human rights defenders** and leaders in the Americas to enhance their knowledge and capacity in relation to **minority rights protection**. Approximately 30 Roma grassroots leaders, academics and intellectuals from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Mexico and the United States of America participated in the events.

With support from OHCHR, the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with **albinism** built a campaign around International Albinism Awareness Day, on 13 June, culminating in an online concert. In addition, a social media campaign was launched on the theme #MadetoShine. OHCHR issued approximately 25 social media posts in English, French and Spanish and designed an Instagram story that reached 30,000 people.

OHCHR increased its advocacy for the protection of **religious minorities**. For instance, in India, OHCHR filed an amicus curiae brief of the High Commissioner with the Supreme Court, in March, which highlights her position on the Citizenship Amendment Act, with a focus on provisions that discriminate against India's Muslim population.

ND8 – UN response to INEQUALITY and DISCRIMINATION – The UN system implements a coherent and human rights-based response to inequality and discrimination, including intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

OHCHR advocated for the implementation of the UN System-wide Action Plan on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which proposes actions across six areas, including in relation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Within the context of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, the Office contributed to the development of a **policy statement on indigenous peoples**, which was **endorsed by the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB)**.

The Office mainstreamed human rights into UN policy, including the new **guidance on Common Country Analysis/the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (CCA/UNSDCF)**, which includes a section on "economic transformation." Moreover, OHCHR had an active role in promoting a human rights-based approach to macroeconomic policymaking and shaping the UN's newly assertive economic role. The Office worked at the UN inter-agency level to **mainstream human rights** into the new **UN guidance on transformative economies**, which resulted in recommendations that the UN pay particular attention to the political economy and identify potential winners and losers in economic restructuring, with explicit references to the full respect for human rights, including ESCRs, and the duty to avoid retrogression in times of crisis.

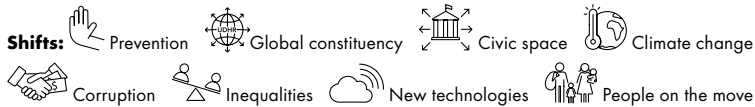
In 2020, OHCHR issued a **Checklist for a Human Rights-Based Approach to Socio-Economic Country Responses to COVID-19**. The Checklist, which was developed by OHCHR, UNDP and DCO, is a non-exhaustive list of potential actions, tools and resources, many of which are featured on OHCHR's website, to assist the UN in examining whether socio-economic impact assessments, responses and recovery plans are applying a human rights-based approach.

Through the **Surge Initiative**, OHCHR provided advice and substantive inputs regarding addressing inequalities and discrimination through key UN development processes, including CCAs and UNSDCFs in 65 countries and SEIAs and COVID-19 SERPs in 39 countries. Emphasis was placed on providing in-depth and holistic human rights analyses with regard to ESCRs, civil and political rights, VNR commitments, SDGs, inequalities, the LNOB principle, economic policies and transformative economies, with inputs submitted across all areas of UN analyses and interventions. In Cambodia, for instance, the Office contributed to the 2020 CCA update and the overall UNCT strategy in response to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. OHCHR produced a human rights-based analysis of national and subnational economic situations and included analyses of fiscal policies and fiscal space.

Within the context of the **UNSDG Task Team on Leaving No One Behind, Human Rights and the Normative Agenda**, OHCHR led a review of 109 UNCT COVID-19 SERPs and produced an assessment of the extent to which they integrated human rights. The review was a collegial, inter-agency effort and a good example of a concrete action to bring about positive change, in accordance with the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights. Through this exercise, good practices were identified, including in terms of macroeconomic responses, identification of at-risk groups and drivers of exclusion, inequalities and discrimination and the use of human rights indicators. Some of these good practices occurred in countries that benefited from the engagement of OHCHR's surge team, such as Argentina, Belize, Kenya, Madagascar and the Republic of Moldova.

OHCHR collaborated with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide to co-organize a virtual consultation on the "Global Pledge for Action by Religious Actors and Faith-Based Organizations to Address the COVID-19 Pandemic in Collaboration with the UN." The consultation was opened by the High Commissioner, the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and the High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. The High Commissioner urged **religious leaders** to speak out firmly against **hate speech**, which was directed towards minority communities across the world that were stigmatized as supposed carriers of the virus and subject to discrimination and physical and verbal attacks. A series of webinars on six targeted topics were consecutively organized by the three partners.

Accountability (A)



COVID-19 response and recovery

UN Human Rights engaged in private and public advocacy with national authorities to urge them to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in places of detention and reduce overcrowding in prisons and migrant centres. This led to tangible results, including the **release of thousands of persons in pretrial detention or convicted of non-violent offences** in several countries through humanitarian pardons, special amnesties or through the use of provisional release, house arrests, bail and parole. OHCHR's advocacy also resulted in legislative measures and recommendations to reduce overcrowding and adopt protocols for detention facilities. For instance, the Attorneys General of Chile and Peru urged prosecutors to consider alternatives to pretrial detention. In the Central African Republic, the Office's advocacy led authorities to take preventive measures.

OHCHR supported the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children in producing a **position paper** with recommendations on protecting the human rights of trafficked persons and potential **victims of trafficking in the context of COVID-19**. The paper demonstrates how emergency measures, such as restrictive migration policies and border closures, affect and exacerbate the vulnerabilities of actual and potential victims. It also identifies the long-term consequences for workers when global supply chains are disrupted and underlines the immediate impact that emergency measures have on assistance programmes for trafficked persons.

A1 – ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE and LAW ENFORCEMENT – Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

OHCHR continued to advocate in relation to the **responsibility of States for actions of third parties**, such as non-State armed groups that are supported by or linked to a State. For instance, a thematic report by the High Commissioner on the integrity of the justice system examines modes of attribution and the responsibilities of a State for the extraterritorial detention of individuals by State and non-State third parties.

In implementing General Assembly resolution 73/304, OHCHR convened a one-day expert consultation, in April, on possible common international standards on **torture-free trade**. The Office also sought the views of Member States on the feasibility, scope and parameters for possible common international standards for the import, export and transfer of goods used for capital punishment, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

OHCHR continued to advocate with States for the establishment or maintenance of **moratoriums on the use of the death penalty**, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/175, and for the protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty in retentionist countries. The Secretary-General's report to the Human Rights Council on the question of the death penalty was submitted to the HRC, in September, and the Secretary-General's report on the moratorium of the death penalty was submitted to the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly. The Office also supported CSOs working on topics related to the imposition of the death penalty in the United States of America, in particular regarding the referral of cases to the special procedures, with a focus on the use of drugs. Concerns relating to the resumption of federal executions were transmitted to State authorities by the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions through several communications and press releases. A positive development was the signature of a bill, on 23 March, that abolished the death penalty in Colorado.

The Office provided support for engagement with **national law enforcement agencies** in Angola, Burkina Faso, Fiji, the Gambia, Lesotho, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mexico, Niger, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Moldova, Uganda, Venezuela and Zambia. OHCHR increased its partnership with the **UN Police Division's Standing Police Capacity** to more effectively integrate human rights standards into the policy, training and accountability frameworks of law enforcement institutions.

OHCHR contributed to the development of an **e-learning tool for airlines and civil aviation authorities** as well as **guidelines for reporting trafficking** cases. In addition, the Office began to support data collection on the identification of victims by cabin crew in order to assess compliance with the guidelines.

A2 – ACCESS TO JUSTICE and REMEDIES – Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

OHCHR engaged with Member States, UN partners and CSOs to promote accountability for human rights violations. For instance, the Office collaborated with UNSMIL to deliver several briefings and consultations on Libya for HRC Member States, with support from the Permanent Mission of Libya, on the need to ensure accountability for violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including war crimes. This contributed to the establishment, in June, of a **Fact-Finding Mission on Libya**.

The Office advocated for **accountability in Yemen** through the High Commissioner's bilateral meetings with Member States and press releases. OHCHR supported the UN Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts on Yemen, including the organization of their mission to Geneva, in January, to advocate for accountability in Yemen with Member States, the President of the HRC and CSOs. The Office also delivered capacity-building activities to the Yemeni National Commission of Inquiry (NCoI).

In February, OHCHR conducted a mission to **Nepal** to follow up on the **transitional justice** process. The Office met with key stakeholders, including conflict victims' groups, civil society leaders, UN partners, donor countries, government officials and the Chair of the National Human Rights Commission, to discuss the fallout of the public consultations, which were boycotted by most of the victims' and civil society groups. OHCHR supported the special procedures in verifying information related to the public consultations and the appointment of new commissioners to the transitional justice bodies. The Office monitored developments regarding the amendment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act, as authorities reportedly delayed a new draft due to the pandemic. OHCHR advocated for a more participatory process. Following a judgment that was handed down by the Supreme Court on transitional justice, in April, OHCHR held a press briefing and urged the Government to revitalize the transitional justice process in line with international norms and its international commitments.

In commemoration of the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, OHCHR supported the organization by the UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of its fifth annual expert panel on “Contemporary slavery and racial discrimination: Civil society support to survivors during the global pandemic.” The High Commissioner opened the panel and statements were delivered by representatives of four CSOs from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil and Lebanon as well as UN experts and staff. Discussions focused on the **interrelationship between racial discrimination and contemporary slavery** and how COVID-19 has exacerbated social inequalities linked to structural racism. Over 270 participants attended the event, including representatives of 39 Member States and 22 CSOs that are supported by the Trust Fund.

A3 – Investigation of GENDER-related CRIMES – Justice systems investigate and prosecute gender-related crimes more effectively.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

As a **co-lead entity of the United Nations Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict (TOE)**, UN Human Rights supported national authorities in the investigation and prosecution of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict settings. In the Central African Republic, the TOE collaborated with MINUSCA and UNDP. As a result, the Joint Rapid Response Unit to Prevent Sexual Violence against Women and Children finalized the judicial investigation into the crimes that occurred in Kaga Bandoro, in August 2019, including CRSV, which involved 264 victims. In January 2021, the judicial file was sent for review to the Office of the Prosecutor of the Kaga Bandoro High Court. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the TOE collaborated with the Joint Human Rights Office of MONUSCO, the UNCT and CSOs and worked with Congolese counterparts to implement a case prioritization strategy for serious international crimes, including sexual violence. The TOE also provided technical assistance in relation to the investigation, prosecution and trial of Ntabo Ntaberi Sheka and his co-conspirators for crimes committed between 2010 and 2017, including the mass rape of 387 civilians. These efforts contributed to the groundbreaking decision of the Cour Militaire Opérationnelle of North Kivu, on 23 November, to sentence Ntabo Ntaberi Sheka to life imprisonment after he was convicted of rape, sexual slavery and the recruitment of children. In Guinea, UN Human Rights and the TOE collaborated to support awareness-raising efforts regarding the importance of accountability for the events of 28 September 2009, during which at least 109 women and girls were victims of sexual violence. This resulted in a renewed commitment by senior officials to ensure accountability and to elaborate draft guidelines to convene trials for these events.

The TOE and the Journal of International Criminal Justice published a special issue on **Justice and accountability for sexual violence in conflict: Progress and challenges in national efforts to address impunity**. This was followed by the release of a “Digital dialogue series” that addressed topics covered in the special issue with leading practitioners in the field, including on the prosecution and investigation of serious crimes in Latin America, with a focus on Colombia and Guatemala; the impact of sexual violence committed in the context of terrorism; and national accountability efforts connected to CRSV in the Central African Republic.

Gender-related crimes and human rights violations suffered by women and girls were increasingly **monitored and reported on**. This was achieved through the strengthened capacities of OHCHR field presences, including human rights components of peace missions and staff and experts conducting human rights investigations. **Awareness was enhanced among the judiciary** about various topics, including the role of gender stereotypes in preventing access to justice for women and victims of gender-related crimes and access to justice and the protection of reproductive rights in the context of COVID-19. In addition, the capacity of the criminal justice system to investigate femicide in some countries in Latin America was strengthened to ensure unbiased, effective investigations and greater accountability. The regional protocol on femicide continued to be jointly promoted with UN Women, including through webinars with prosecutors that reached over 1,000 participants in the region. An independent evaluation that was concluded in December highlighted the important achievements by the Office in the area of documenting gender-based violence and support for access to justice for victims.

A4 – ACCESS to INFORMATION – States take measures to ensure that their decision-making, policies and actions are more transparent and that the public has access to information for accountability purposes.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

In the Middle East and North Africa region, OHCHR advocated with States about the importance of **transparency and access to information**, including **in the context of COVID-19**. For instance, in its press briefing on Yemen, in June, the Office called on the parties to the armed conflict to ensure Yemenis have access to information in order to help them protect themselves, gain access to medical treatment and prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other outbreaks in the country.

A5 – UN ACTION on the RULE of LAW – UN efforts for the rule of law, justice, counter-terrorism and accountability put human rights at the core.

Shifts / SDGs



Results









OHCHR developed and adapted the **digital image verification tool**, which was initiated in 2019, and deployed it as an internal service within the organization. This enabled staff and accountability mechanisms to test confidential digital artefacts for evidence of tampering, enabling a higher degree of confidence in the digital evidence used to support casework, human rights analysis and reporting.

Through its participation in the meetings of the Human Rights, Rule of Law and Victims of Terrorism Working Group and the Global Compact Human Rights Working Group, UN Human Rights highlighted the importance of integrating human rights into **counter-terrorism responses and responses to terrorist incidents and crisis situations**. The Office provided comments related to the national counter-terrorism strategies of Iraq and Tajikistan, the Watchlisting Guidance Manual Initiative and the human rights aspects of the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems. The Global Compact Human Rights Working Group finalized the **Basic Human Rights Reference Guide** (BHRRG): Proscription of Organizations in the Context of Countering Terrorism. The BHRRG provides guidance to States on the parameters and human rights implications of identifying organizations as terrorist organizations. In cooperation with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, UN Human Rights delivered training of trainers sessions to law enforcement officers on counter-terrorism and human rights in Cameroon, Iraq, Mali and Nigeria.

UN Human Rights provided technical advice to ensure that human rights are mainstreamed into the **Global Framework for United Nations Support on Syria, Iraq and Third Country National Returnees** (Global Framework). This resulted in the integration of human rights into Global Framework processes (i.e., joint scoping exercises, risk management, technical guidance and advice on programme design and implementation, monitoring and fund allocations from the Global Framework pooled funds). Further, support from UN Human Rights included the provision of human rights and gender expertise to facilitate the implementation of the Global Framework.

The Office also advocated for the application of international human rights standards by the UN system when addressing issues related to accountability, the rule of law and drugs. On 25 February, OHCHR collaborated with Mexico, Switzerland, the European Union, UN partners, the International Drug Policy Consortium and the University of Essex to organize a side event entitled “The **International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy**” during the HRC’s forty-third session. Finally, the Office worked closely with UNDP and other partners to organize two regional dialogues on the implementation of the guidelines in the Americas and Asia.

Participation (P)

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

Spotlights:  Disabilities  Women  Youth

COVID-19 response and recovery

UN Human Rights advocated with UN partners for effective and inclusive participation in the context of COVID-19, ensuring a **free flow of information** and supporting experts, medical professionals, journalists and HRDs to speak without fear or censorship. In a landmark development that was spearheaded by OHCHR, in collaboration with the EOSG and other UN partners, the UN adopted a **system-wide Guidance Note on civic space**. The Guidance Note recognizes civic space as a threshold issue for the successful implementation of all three pillars of the United Nations and commits the UN to taking steps to promote and protect civic space. The preparatory process involved broad consultations within the UN and beyond. For instance, from 13 to 24 January, UN Human Rights conducted “global online consultations with civil society,” which attracted 274 active civil society participants and more than 5,000 visitors from 84 countries. The launch of the final Guidance Note, in December, was attended by over 800 people from civil society around the world.

The Office raised awareness about **state of emergency measures** and offered **legal advice** to ensure that restrictions to freedoms of expression and assembly were necessary and proportionate, with a focus on safeguarding public health, and applied fairly and humanely. It issued policy guidance on civic space and COVID-19 and on emergency measures and COVID-19 and promoted the right to participate in COVID-19 responses through its [Guidelines on Participation](#).

P1 – ENABLING NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK for civil society – 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.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

The Office served as a **bridge between civil society and social media platforms**. In February, OHCHR helped bring together journalists, HRDs and social media platforms with a view to identifying key obstacles to **online civic space** and identifying new avenues through which they can be addressed. These efforts led to more regular engagement between tech companies and human rights organizations. It also established channels of communication with social media platforms, enabling OHCHR field presences to communicate concerns regarding incitement cases and to engage in advocacy regarding content moderation.

OHCHR engaged with a broad range of stakeholders to advocate for a **safe online environment for human rights activists**. The Office collaborated with the Qatari National Human Rights Committee, GANHRI, the European Parliament and the International Federation of Journalists to organize an international conference, from 16 to 17 February, in Doha, on “Social media: Challenges and ways to promote freedoms and protect activists.” The conference brought together more than 250 representatives of governments, CSOs, NHRIs, HRDs, media workers, the tech community and international human rights mechanisms. At the end of the conference, OHCHR presented 27 targeted recommendations.

OHCHR participated in **advocacy** efforts around issues related to **disinformation and hate speech**. For instance, the Office provided advice in relation to the planned EU Digital Services Act, which aims at regulating social media platforms. On 8 September, the High Commissioner sent a letter to the European Union recalling the necessity of respecting transparency, legality, participation and accountability. On 12 November, the Office and the Europe Office of the Centre for Democracy and Technology co-organized a high-level panel to discuss “Democracy in the digital age,” with the participation of the Deputy President of the European Commission.

Moreover, OHCHR supported monitoring by other actors (CSOs, NHRIs) of the **human rights situation during electoral processes** in Belarus, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Guyana, Niger, the Republic of Moldova, the Seychelles, Tanzania, Uganda, the United States of America and Venezuela. The Office provided guidance and supported the development and implementation of electoral engagement strategies and deployed **surge capacity** teams to Côte d’Ivoire, Niger and Uganda in the context of political and electoral violence. In **Côte d’Ivoire**, OHCHR supported the Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO) to strengthen its human rights analytical capacities in the context of the presidential election on 31 October. In **Niger**, the Office provided technical assistance to the Government, trained national partners on the protection of human rights during elections, including defence and security forces, the National Human Rights Commission, CSOs, women’s groups and the media, and monitored the human rights situation to prevent violations and violence during the elections. In **Uganda**, the surge capacity team engaged with the security forces in the context of policing elections. At the beginning of 2021, the Office monitored the human rights situation in the electoral context in cooperation with the Uganda Human Rights Commission.

OHCHR strengthened the capacities of State representatives and civil society on issues related to **participation in protests**. For instance, the Office analysed responses to protests in the Gambia and Morocco, which led to new UN guidance on protests. OHCHR also monitored the post-November 2019 protests in Iran and analysed the laws and policies that contributed to a shrinking civic space, including through the arrest, detention and prosecution of anyone expressing dissenting views against government policies, such as in the context of COVID-19, and the crackdown on CSOs and shutdowns of the Internet/communications. The Office engaged in private and public advocacy and contributed to positive outcomes for two prominent WHRDs.

The Office provided legal advice in constitutional processes in the Gambia, Guinea and Samoa and contributed to the drafting of the **updated Guidance Note on constitution making**, which was released in September.

P2 – PROTECTION of CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS – The UN system and international, regional and national mechanisms provide increased, timely and effective protection to civil society organizations and individuals, including from reprisals.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

OHCHR finalized a **guidance document for the UN system on preventing and addressing reprisals**. In June, the Office organized a consultation with UN partners and distributed the guidance for further refinement and use by UN actors in various contexts, such as peace operations, work on counter-terrorism, development or international finance and work with indigenous peoples. In November, OHCHR developed **supplementary guidance on preventing reprisals in the digital sphere**, contributing to an enhanced understanding, knowledge and preparedness of UN staff to undertake preventive measures to address reprisals. This work extended into a Security Council-focused project on reprisals, which entailed a mapping of Member States and civil society engagement with the Council and its subsidiary bodies in 2020, with guidance on enhancing the protection measures of Member States.

OHCHR organized a high-level side event on “Participation, human rights and the governance challenge ahead” at the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly, with the participation of the Secretary-General, youth representatives and civil society actors from around the world. This contributed to the placement of the issue of **participation – both as a human right and as a critical element in combating the COVID-19 pandemic – on the top of the UN’s agenda** at its high-level segment.

With support from OHCHR, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association raised awareness about 164 situations, including 24 cases related to **laws that could have a negative impact on the right to association and on trade unions**, such as legislation in Bulgaria (BGR 3/2020), Guatemala (GTM 2/2020), Honduras (HND 4/2020), Ireland (IRL2/2020), Kyrgyzstan (1/2020), Tanzania (TZA 2/2020) and Ukraine (UKR 2/2020). The Irish Government acknowledged the legitimate concerns in relation to the 1997 Electoral Act and committed to establishing, by the end of 2021, an independent Electoral Commission which will review the Act in its totality, including Section 22. In Tanzania, Mr. Tito Magoti, a human rights lawyer, was released on 5 January 2021. On 31 January 2021, a number of special procedures sent a joint communication to the Government regarding his case and the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention issued a decision on his case.

P3 – PUBLIC SUPPORT for CIVIC SPACE – Business, policymakers and the public at large increasingly value and support civic space.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

OHCHR contributed to a multitude of interventions of the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General, the High Commissioner, the Deputy High Commissioner, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and other senior officials on issues relating to civic space in different forums, including in sessions and side events of the General Assembly and the HRC and with State representatives during bilateral meetings. In 2020, the crucial role of civil society in the **COVID-19** context was amplified through OHCHR **messaging** that **access to reliable information and the free flow of information** and space for the expression of critical views are key to an effective response and at the core of building back better. The High Commissioner, the Deputy High Commissioner, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and Heads of field presences regularly spoke at civil society events and engaged with civil society representatives.

OHCHR supported **innovative** thinking on **channels to ensure the safe and effective online participation of civil society at the international level**, for instance by facilitating discussions among CSOs that engaged with Geneva-based international human rights mechanisms. Through this advocacy, UN Human Rights drew the attention of UN and Member State partners to the importance of improving accessibility and digital security to ensure the effective engagement of civil society.

In May, UN Human Rights developed a **Guidance Note on civic space and COVID-19**, which was translated into four languages and widely disseminated (it was downloaded approximately 5,000 times by visitors from over 80 countries).

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

Shifts / SDGs



Results

With support from OHCHR, the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers maintained and enhanced its partnership with professional organizations and associations of judges, prosecutors and lawyers. The Special Rapporteur participated in several expert meetings, **seminars and workshops** that were organized by **professional associations of judges, prosecutors and lawyers** and by CSOs working in the field of administration of justice.

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

Shifts / SDGs



Results

OHCHR began developing a **tool to monitor civic space online**, in particular **online threats to HRDs and journalists** with a view to better documenting and reporting on such attacks. The tool covers targeted surveillance, where an attacker attempts to steal usernames and passwords or install malware on specific computers, and targeted attacks, such as influence operations that use social media platforms and their supporting algorithms to amplify their content. The Office also promoted active reflection on the most frequent forms of online attacks affecting HRDs and organized a round-table with first responders to online attacks to ensure greater consistency in detection, documentation and reporting on online hostilities against HRDs and journalists.

The Office provided support to CSOs and HRDs in **Hungary**, including by conducting human rights **analysis of new legislation** and its human rights implications in the context of COVID-19 (Act LVIII of 2020 on the Transitional Rules and Epidemiological Preparedness related to the Cessation of the State of Danger in response to the COVID-19 situation) and by carrying out public advocacy to increase awareness about **threats to civil society** posed by this legislation, including to **freedom of expression**.

Through **remote monitoring of open source information** and corroboration with trusted sources, OHCHR documented a significant number of cases of human rights violations in the Human Rights Case Database. This database includes chronological and legal analyses, actions taken, developments and sources. It also enables users to follow individual cases remotely and identify patterns.

P6 – PEOPLE HAVE a VOICE – The voices of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, are more clearly heard.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

UN Human Rights expanded its partnerships with international and regional initiatives/organizations dealing with **human rights education and training for youth**. For instance, OHCHR partnered with Columbia University and commissioned a [study on the impact of human rights education and training programmes for children and youth in non-formal education](#). The study was undertaken by a group of graduate students under the guidance of expert faculty advisors from the School of International and Public Affairs and its final report was launched in June. OHCHR also collaborated with the Council of Europe in developing and delivering a pilot global joint training of trainers course on human rights education for young people. The Office supported the participation of young human rights educators from countries such as Cambodia, Fiji, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan and Tunisia. The course aimed at building their competences to develop quality human rights education activities with young people at local/national levels and to advocate for the further mainstreaming of human rights education into youth policy and youth work in their own countries.

In the context of COVID-19, OHCHR redesigned its **Indigenous and Minorities Fellowship Programmes** by selecting 34 of the most successful former fellows to serve as senior fellows. Twenty of the participants were indigenous peoples and 14 represented minorities from 27 countries. The Fellows were posted in 29 locations worldwide, including with field presences, UNCTs and peacekeeping operations.

The Office developed an internal guidance on supporting WHRDs, which was disseminated through a virtual dialogue series and translated into Spanish. In addition, OHCHR developed and widely disseminated a **Brief for the UN system on supporting women human rights defenders** to complement the [Guidance Note on promoting and protecting civic space](#).

OHCHR increased the **capacity** of UN staff, Member States, civil society and others to **deliver impactful human rights education and training** by providing expert advice. The Office advised CSOs and NHRIs on related strategies, methodologies and activities.

P7 – Human rights RESPONSE to VIOLENCE – Public recognition increases that human rights and accountability make important contributions to effective responses to violence, including terrorism and violent extremism.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

The Office increased its engagement with the UN Working Group on partnership with the World Bank in crisis-affected States. This was accomplished by leveraging the preventive utility of human rights, promoting policy coherence to sustain peace and sharing examples of the **collaboration between OHCHR and the World Bank** in the field as well as engagement on fragility, conflict and violence, including on issues related to participation and democratic space.

Organizational effectiveness results

In the following pages, we provide examples of achievements in the implementation of the UN Human Rights 10 Organizational Effectiveness Action Plans (OEAPs) in 2020 (see pp. 86-101 of the report for summary information on progress made towards the achievement of results under the 10 OEAPs).



STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP AND DIRECTION

UN Human Rights leadership bodies are making timely, evidence-based strategic decisions in line with results-based management (RBM) principles.

- As soon as the pandemic hit Geneva, the Deputy High Commissioner established an OHCHR COVID-19 Crisis Response Team (CRT) to handle operational matters. This Team developed the Office's Business Continuity Plan and issued approximately 30 all staff messages, including guidance on telecommuting, returning to the Office, meetings and travel. It replied to individual staff inquiries and concerns within a 24-hour timeframe through the COVID-19 staff email system and facilitated cooperation between different entities to quickly respond and address COVID-19 operational concerns as they emerged. An Intranet site on the COVID-19 response was set up and regularly updated with relevant information for staff.
- Support was provided to managers through the **community of practice LeadingNet** with four sessions on topics such as preventing conflict in the workplace and managing performance, the post-pandemic return to the Office. Sessions were also held with a psychologist to cope with uncertainties.
- A total of 1,450 staff members from 54 headquarters entities and 49 field presences across the Office completed the **Leadership Dialogue on dignity and civility**. This represents 93 per cent of all staff.
- Information about all aspects of the Office's work was shared regularly and in various formats. The **Weekly Update** was enhanced with more user-friendly content and layout, including the systematic sharing of PAG, SMT, PBRB decisions and minutes, information about senior leadership, ongoing office-wide initiatives, external outreach, operational matters and information related to the international human rights mechanisms, thematic issues and field work. A **Weekly News Podcast** was created, providing weekly office-wide updates in audio format, with close to 300 listeners each week. A dedicated podcast app was set up for internal purposes. The News Podcast was complemented by other internal podcast "channels," offering resources such as interviews and recordings of webinars and events.
- Following the implementation of actions from previous surveys, the **2020 OHCHR All Staff Survey** was launched. For the first time, a professional survey company was employed to ensure the safe handling of data and to meet industry standards. The analytical reports will enable action planning on key areas.
- The pandemic offered us unexpected opportunities to be more innovative and inclusive in our internal working modalities. In the generalized teleworking context, OHCHR's **governance bodies meetings** were shifted to an entirely virtual format, leading to a boost in participation. More broadly, the Office underwent an analytical process to assess its use of technology. This resulted in a decision to make major changes to our IT environment in 2021 in order to facilitate internal operations.
- OHCHR engaged with the new **United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework** by joining internal capacity-building efforts and outlining the links between OHCHR's (country) programmes and the CCAs and UNSDCFs. As a result, over 65 Common Country Analysis and Cooperation Framework processes were supported to integrate human rights analysis and recommendations.
- Following an office-wide consultation process, the **UN Human Rights Risk Management Plan, including a Risk Register**, which identifies the most critical risks for the Office and mitigation measures, was finalized. Sixteen risks

were identified during the risk assessment process - four very high risks, four high risks and eight medium risks. The Office also provided inputs to the UN Secretariat Risk Register on the Secretary-General's Strategic Focus Areas and Critical Risks regarding the risk analysis related to priority 3 (the continued protection of human rights), which is one of the Secretary-General's six priorities.

- UN Human Rights prepared an **Organizational Governance Improvement Framework** to review potential decisions and actions in relation to the roles of senior leadership, accountability, direction, resources and performance, ethical governance culture and stakeholder engagement, risks and internal control, counter-fraud and corruption, independent audits and inspections.
- Four independent **evaluations** were finalized and the implementation of the recommendations derived from the evaluation of RBM in OHCHR began with the preparation of the Office's Programming Manual and the revision of the RBM training package.

DYNAMIC KNOWLEDGE

UN Human Rights' knowledge base is used strategically to actively shape programming, capacity, culture and structure.

- UN Human Rights developed **tools and methods** to support the **shift to remote events, consultations and collaboration** and to **document good practices** in terms of human rights-based responses to the pandemic, with a focus on ESCRs. The Office used a form of collective intelligence called 'crowdsourcing' to collect promising practices and share key messages with partners to support human rights-based responses to COVID-19 at the national level. The COVID-19 Tracker (see p. 23) was designed as a system to store data in a structured way and make it accessible across the organization. The Office embarked on its own Build Back Better Tech exercise to analyse its tech needs and the lessons learned from remote work and to identify solutions for work digitalization.
- OHCHR accelerated the move to online training by piloting its **first fully remote human rights monitoring course**. Leveraging the good practices developed in the first part of the year, the Office delivered the six-week course to 24 colleagues in 16 field presences and headquarters, who practiced key tasks like conducting remote interviews and using open source methods of verification.
- OHCHR partnered with the University of Geneva to conduct an office-wide study about staff learning practices and preferences, which led to the development and adoption of an **OHCHR e-learning strategy**.

- Building on its knowledge management work and the new working modalities that were adopted in the context of COVID-19, the Office organized a **series of global webinars on COVID-19 human rights-based responses**. It created new online thematic discussion spaces and facilitated regular outreach activities and debates at the global, regional and country levels. It engaged partners to connect policy development and practices in order to address human rights concerns in response to the pandemic.
- The Office continued to develop a new innovative **onboarding process** called "Welcome Mat," to help welcome new staff to the organization. The process will be rolled out at the beginning of 2021.
- In 2020, OHCHR was an active member of the **UN inter-agency Knowledge Management Network** and contributed to the Africa UN Knowledge Hub for COVID-19. In addition, the Office supported the creation of a UN inter-agency group with DCO, DPPA/DPO, IOM, UNICEF, UN Women and the World Bank that submitted a knowledge management proposal to the UN Build Back Better Challenge. The project will be implemented in 2021, with a focus on developing an inter-agency toolkit to assess the impact of the use of knowledge.

- UN Human Rights staff created **Yammer groups** to share information and experiences. For instance, staff working within the framework of the **G5 Sahel Joint Force Compliance Framework Project** used a Yammer group to facilitate knowledge management and access to information across the three continents where the project operates. At headquarters, the Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme created a Yammer group called “**Engaging with human rights mechanisms**” to share information on the work of the human rights treaty bodies, the HRC, the UPR and the special procedures and on the implementation of their respective outcomes. The group enabled its members to share good practices and lessons learned, new ideas, developments, events and activities of the international human rights mechanisms; fostered exchanges between the field and headquarters and the dissemination of tools on engaging with the mechanisms and implementing their outcomes; and enhanced support between colleagues.

INNOVATION

Across UN Human Rights, innovation is encouraged, supported and its results are implemented accordingly.

- Two of the four winning proposals from the 2019 **Innovation Challenge** were implemented in 2020, namely, “Ditch UNfair Internships” and “Technology as a source for good: Automatizing the UHRI.” “**Ditch UNFair Internships**” aimed to provide an opportunity for qualified students from the Global South to intern at OHCHR in Geneva as a concrete contribution to ensuring greater diversity, equality and Dignity@Work in the Office. Seed funds from the challenge helped to create, for the first time, university UNV positions at OHCHR in Geneva to provide financial support to university students working in the Office. The pilot will be scaled up to a full programme in 2021 in order to bring at least five university UNVs per year to OHCHR in Geneva. This will be the first programme of its type to be implemented at the UN in Geneva. Other parts of the UN Secretariat are now looking to replicate the initiative. “**Technology as a source for good: Automatizing the UHRI**” aimed to automate the process of updating the Universal Human Rights Index, thereby eliminating the need for staff to manually fill in Excel spreadsheets. The UHRI team collaborated with Geneva-based HURIDOCS, a CSO that supports human rights organizations to manage information, and developed three AI-based text classification models to identify: 1) human rights themes; 2) concerned groups; and 3) linkages with the SDGs. The models are up and running and their suggestions have sped up the indexing process.
- In November, the 2020 OHCHR **Innovation Challenge** was launched with the theme of “**Building Back Better.**” Seed funding will be provided to the winners to support the implementation of their initiatives.
- In May, the **Innovation Engine** core group reconvened and communicated with staff through the Weekly Update and on Yammer to re-invigorate interest in innovation. The Innovation Engine also partnered with the University of Geneva to deliver several projects related to e-learning, gaming for rights, data visualization for human rights and the onboarding of new colleagues. Other projects were developed in partnership with the University of Geneva for implementation in 2021, including tracking astroturfing campaigns, web scraping for indicator production, visioning sustainable environmental management and human rights and digitizing the gender accreditation programme.
- UN Human Rights developed and initiated the implementation of a technology education strategy for 2020-2021 to enable colleagues across the organization to increasingly apply **technology in human rights training work** and to support impactful learning. In 2020, the Office established a unified OHCHR learning management system (using Moodle), developed an online resource for staff on incorporating technology into human rights training and delivered blended human rights training courses for the first time.

- OHCHR developed a web-based module to support coordinators in **drafting and clustering UPR recommendations**, which are formulated during sessions of the Working Group, and producing the Working Group's reports. This will enable staff to use IT solutions to reduce the time and effort needed to produce such documents. As a first step, a tool was produced to automatically tag and cluster recommendations to help the States under review more easily take a position on the recommendations.



SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

UN Human Rights is set on a path to global leadership in sustainable environmental management (SEM), catalysing efforts to build back better and strengthening partnerships and global standard-setting, especially with regard to the right to a healthy environment and climate change.

- In 2020, UN Human Rights created a **Working Group on Sustainable Environmental Management**, with four sub-groups aimed at: 1) institutionalizing and improving environmental sustainability across the Office by **drafting a new OEAP** on sustainable environmental management and identifying solutions for integrating environmental sustainability into existing OEAPs; 2) compiling **good practices** on SEM in the field and at headquarters and facilitating their replication across the Office; 3) identifying a **vision** and benchmarks to set OHCHR on a path to global leadership in SEM; and 4) informing and engaging all staff members through effective **internal communications**.
- The **new OEAP on SEM** was adopted at the end of 2020. First steps were taken to create awareness about the need for SEM change within the Office and whole-of-office consultations were initiated to ensure buy-in and accountability by all, create an internal network of SEM focal points and identify good practices. A decision was adopted to reduce staff travel by 50 per cent in 2021 (with reference to 2019). At the end of 2020, the Working Group on SEM had approximately 50 members.

- UN Human Rights joined a climate action initiative called **2050Today**. This initiative, led by the Mission of Switzerland, aims to make Geneva a world leader in reducing and ending carbon emissions. The Office is also a member of the UN-wide Issue Management Group for Sustainable Management and the Greening the Blue community, both of which engage and support the UN system in the transition towards greater environmental sustainability in the management of its facilities and operations.


**EXTERNAL
COMMUNICATIONS**

The human rights impact and messages of UN Human Rights are effectively communicated, helping to position it as a partner of choice for its key stakeholders.

- The **visual identity** exercise that UN Human Rights began in 2018 finally concluded with the launch of a new brand manual. The new manual is more modern and will enhance the storytelling of the Office.
- The **growth** of all **social media channels** throughout the year, including at headquarters and in the field, is illustrated by a combined number of 9.7m followers. A total of 7.05m are followers of the headquarters channels. The numbers for central OHCHR accounts are: Twitter: 3.1m followers (in English only); Facebook: 2.55m followers (2.45m English, 90k Arabic, 4.6k Spanish, 2.1k French); Instagram: 1.27m followers (1.2m English, 72k Spanish); and LinkedIn: 94k followers. A new Twitter account was set up for the human rights treaty bodies, following the creation of an account for the special procedures in 2018.
- The **Web Transformation Project**, which began in 2019, continued, with a focus on content revision, governance, procurement and taxonomy. Work on visual design, technical development and migration commenced in the second half of the year. The main objective of the project is to launch a new user-friendly OHCHR website in 2021 that leverages current technology and is effectively governed.
- The communication efforts around COVID-19 included an **international solidarity campaign** that showcased how people were standing up for each other during the crisis by putting human rights at the heart of the response. In parallel, “Voices from the field” showcased staff work in the context of the pandemic. On International Migrants Day, the Office launched a toolbox and a global campaign, **#Standup4Migrants**, on how to change the narrative on migration, which will be rolled out throughout 2021. A series of targeted campaigns were organized in the field, including a campaign on people on the move (returned migrants) in Honduras (255,000 Facebook users reached), a campaign on the Guiding Principles for the Search for Disappeared Persons in Mexico (700,000 Facebook users reached) and a campaign on the right to water and the right to health in Kenya.
- OHCHR also enhanced its **audiovisual storytelling** to support its media outreach activities. The Office produced 548 video stories, which included campaigns, human interest and feature stories, human rights defender profiles, a record number of video messages from the High Commissioner (138) as well as news stories and briefings. Of these, UNIFEED distributed 74 stories that were used by 205 television stations, more than 1,000 times.
- Throughout the year, the Office developed **innovative partnerships to reach new audiences**. This included: a photo challenge with photographer Justin Wu (“World is in our hands”); the production of GIFs with GIPHY (the world’s largest GIF platform); a partnership with Kahoot (an education platform), which promoted OHCHR educational quizzes about COVID-19 and human rights in English, French and Spanish; the creation of articles about **#RecoverBetter** on various human rights themes with the Wikimedia Foundation; the celebration of artists who promote social justice through their music with the High Note Global Initiative; an international photo contest with Photography 4 Humanity (calling on photographers around the world to bring to life the power of human rights); the creation of an orchestral work on the basis of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with Max Richter, a highly accomplished classical composer (“Voices”); and a partnership with Salesforce, a tech company, to make human rights knowledge more accessible to all.
- The **high number of media articles** generated by the Office reflects strong storytelling and clear and effective messaging geared to the needs and requirements of the news media. A total of 38,922 articles were generated in 2020, the third highest number on record, after a record high of 61,015 in 2019 and 41,629 in 2018. This marks a 62 per cent increase over the 2017 annual total. From March until June, OHCHR produced numerous COVID-19-related materials, several of which received substantial pick-up by the media, in particular those related to detention facilities and the impacts of the pandemic on racial and ethnic minorities.

- OHCHR continued to develop the **Human Rights Council** dedicated website, first launched in 2018, and introduced features that gave the HRC and its mechanisms a distinguishable identity, as they are sometimes confused with UN Human Rights. With support from the UPR Trust Funds, the Office prepared **infographics** on trends between the second and third UPR cycles. In addition, the OHCHR library catalogued 32.5 hours of digitized audio statements that were delivered during the **World Conference on Human Rights** (Vienna, 1993) and launched a research guide on the World Conference.
- The Office developed outreach strategies to increase support for its work in targeted areas. For instance, 24 new information materials were designed on the **environment and climate change** and a quarterly Environmental Rights Bulletin was created with UNEP. The **#Faith4Rights toolkit** was launched on the OHCHR website, with case studies, resources and artistic expressions that provide ideas for peer discussions on the relationship between religions, beliefs and human rights. The launch of the toolkit reached 240,000 Instagram users within 24 hours and received more than 20,000 likes.

PARTNERSHIPS

UN Human Rights has broadened and diversified its institutional partners and maximized the mutually reinforcing human rights benefits of the exchange of expertise, reach and resources.

- UN Human Rights partnered with UNESCO on a joint programme aimed at stepping up efforts to foster **independent and free media** and public recognition of the value of access to information. It is also focused on the prevention of, protection from and accountability for violations against journalists, with a special focus on women journalists.
- In 2020, the Office partnered with the IPU and the **Organisation internationale de la Francophonie** (OIF) to enhance the **participation of parliamentarians in the UPR** process, including through the organization with the IPU of two significant virtual events with parliamentarians in Member Countries of the Commonwealth. Participants included the Secretary General of the IPU, the President of the HRC, the High Commissioner and the Commonwealth Secretariat. In cooperation with the IPU and the OIF for the **French version**, the Office produced a publication entitled *UPR Tips for Members of Parliament*. OHCHR also finalized its *UPR Practical Guidance*, which was developed with the EOSG, UNDP, DPPA/DPO, OCHA and other UN entities and provides advice on UN engagement at the country level to support the implementation of accepted UPR recommendations by Member States.

- UN Human Rights launched the **B-Tech Project** to advance the embedding of respect for human rights in business practices in the area of digital technology. The participation of tech companies in the project enabled the Office to engage a new constituency with cutting-edge expertise on **business and human rights in the digital space**. It also led to the adoption of a series of short authoritative “foundational papers” that outline the relevance and practical implications of key UNGPs for accelerating the uptake of human rights in tech company business models.
- The High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary-General of the OIF renewed the cooperation agreement between their organizations for another two years in order to promote multilingualism in the human rights system, with a focus on diversity and the fight against all forms of discrimination. UN Human Rights participated in virtual workshops organized by the OIF, in particular for Least Developed Countries/ Small Island Developing States. During HRC sessions, the HRC Help Desk for Small States provided information and expert advice on the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms in French.

- The Office enhanced its partnership with UNEP to intensify its work on the right to a healthy environment. Both organizations established a joint community of practice and created a new quarterly Environmental Rights Bulletin. In Somalia, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between UNEP and OHCHR to undertake an impact assessment of environmental degradation on the human rights of vulnerable Somali communities. In Southeast Asia, both organizations strengthened their work on climate action, the sustainable management of natural resources and the protection of environmental HRDs. In addition, the Regional Office partnered with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute on capacity-building activities for NHRIs and the judiciary on the promotion of the right to a healthy environment.



DIVERSITY AND GENDER

Respect for diversity, gender equality and inclusion is at the centre of UN Human Rights' organizational culture and is fully supported by appropriate organizational arrangements.

- In 2020, UN Human Rights rolled out its **Gender Accreditation Programme** in the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) and in its Country Office in Colombia. The impact of the implementation of the Programme is visible in the OHCHR offices in Cambodia and the State of Palestine, the two pilot offices that are now accredited. More specifically, there is an improvement of the staff's capacities to integrate gender and diversity into their work, an increase of activities and funds that are allocated to women's rights and gender issues and a deepened gender analysis in reports, planning and communication products. The awards ceremony of the pilot offices took place on 30 January, in the presence of the High Commissioner. The Gender Accreditation Programme was showcased in the annual report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security as a good practice to strengthen accountability.
- Through a **new fellowship for LGBTI HRDs**, the first fellow, a trans HRD, joined the Office in 2020 and contributed to OHCHR's work by conducting research and monitoring the situation of LGBTI persons, providing support to field presences and substantive inputs into OHCHR publications and undertaking advocacy on the rights of LGBTI persons. The second round of the LGBTI fellowship programme will be launched in 2021.

- In May, OHCHR launched an **introductory electronic course on the human rights of LGBTI persons** to equip staff and others with information on key terms and concepts related to LGBTI persons, harmful myths and stereotypes, human rights violations faced by LGBTI persons, the role of the UN and steps that UN officials and others can take to tackle violence and discrimination against LGBTI persons. More than 300 learners registered for the course and the Office worked on an in-person training package on the rights of LGBTI persons.
- Following the launch of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS), in June 2019, with a view to enhancing the work of the UN system to better include persons with disabilities in programmatic and operational work, **UN Human Rights** reported for the first time, in 2020, on 13 relevant indicators that were grouped into four core areas. Building on the 2019 report, UN Human Rights took remedial action and adopted its first **Disability Rights Strategy**, which includes a 10-year policy, a five-year strategic document and a one-year action plan. This will enable the Office to have a consistent pattern of growth, leading to transformational change. As a consequence, OHCHR advanced its performance on four indicators: #1 Leadership from missing to exceeds requirements; #3 Disability-specific policy/strategy from approaches to exceeds requirements; #10 Evaluation from approaches to meets requirements; and #13 Employment from missing to approaches requirements. In the field, OHCHR took steps to implement the UNDIS. For instance, in **Barbados, Bangladesh, Guyana, Madagascar, Malawi, the Republic of North Macedonia, Papua New Guinea**

and the Republic of Moldova, the HRAs were appointed as the disability inclusion focal points for the UN and led the pilot roll-out of the UNDIS scorecard. In addition, the Disability Rights Community of Practice was created in early 2021 to increase support to field presences and improve knowledge management.

- UN Human Rights is approaching **gender parity** for regular staff appointments at the professional and higher categories, i.e., within the 47 to 53 per cent margin prescribed by the UN system-wide strategy on gender parity. In fact, women now account for over 56 per cent of staff. While their representation improved across all levels at headquarters (aided by temporary special measures applied to selections and appointments), senior level appointments at the P-5 level (39 per cent) and D-1 level (31 per cent) require additional investment. An improvement in the representation of women across all levels in field presences is needed.
- With regard to selections, the Office made significant progress on the **disaggregation of diversity and gender data**. Information on geographical diversity and gender parity was recorded for regular and non-regular appointments for all staff categories at all levels. Utilizing up-to-date data that were extracted from Umoja, managers were afforded greater visibility at the divisional and service level. The development of a Power Business Intelligence tool provided further transparency through the provision of information on gender parity, equitable geographical representation, regional group representation and Member State desirable ranges. Quarterly reports on staff movements (regular recruitments, lateral transfers, promotions and separations/resignations) were issued to all staff and include information on the overall

geographical distribution and gender representation in OHCHR.

- The 2019 **Diversity Dialogue** was concluded in 2020. An analysis of the staff consultation exercise provided an insight into how OHCHR staff viewed diversity in the Office. More than 60 individual dialogues were registered, with the participation of 760 staff from all divisions and services in the field and at headquarters. Issues raised included a greater definition of diversity, the impact diversity can have on human rights work and tensions between diversity and merit.
- The Office created a new set of institutional arrangements to build an inclusive culture and respectful workplace. A dedicated **Working Group on Inclusion**, composed of over 40 staff members, was established. The Working Group is utilizing the results of the Diversity Dialogue to inform the development of the new OEAP on Inclusion, which is essential to diversifying the demographic profile of the Office. Emphasis will be placed on addressing racial discrimination and promoting the inclusion of intersectional approaches to advance gender equality and respect for diversity. In addition, the Office will hire a **Senior Diversity and Inclusion Adviser** to support a more diverse workforce through a systematic integration of gender, geography, race and other factors into the human resources cycle.
- The Office promoted ethical and professional standards, integrity and respect towards all participants in **HRC sessions** and disseminated the **Secretary-General's Code of Conduct on Harassment, including Sexual Harassment**, among delegations. Efforts were initiated to make gender equality more explicit in the work of the two **UPR Trust Funds**.



MANAGING OUR TALENT

UN Human Rights is actively unleashing the full potential of its staff, with focused talent and career management accessible to all.

- In 2020, OHCHR continued to invest in and realize the full potential of its staff alongside the challenges of alternate working arrangements and imposed restrictions on selections and appointments for regular budget posts due to the pandemic. The **regularization of national staff** in field offices was concluded as part of an overall effort to improve the conditions of service of field-based staff. The second phase of the **General Service staff review** at headquarters finalized a comparative review of roles and responsibilities across the Office. A third and final phase will undertake a reclassification and realignment exercise of posts.
- Positive efforts continued in 2020 to create a working environment where all staff feel equally valued and respected. Progress was achieved in the implementation of the internal framework, known as the **UN Human Rights Dignity@Work Policy and Action Plan**, improving standards of conduct and value-based behaviour in the workplace. Regional **expansion of the Dignity Contacts Network** provided staff with nearly 30 active Dignity Contacts whom they can approach if they have a concern about their treatment in the workplace.

- In support of the United Nations System Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy, OHCHR introduced a **Mental Health and Well-Being Action Plan** that sets out measures to improve access to psychosocial resources, promote health services, provide preparedness and critical incident training and ensure the wider integration of well-being into management frameworks. The introduction of dedicated psychological support strengthened the mental health of staff working remotely under alternate working arrangements.
- With enforced remote working, the Office promoted **workplace flexibility measures** and included the implementation of all available flexible working arrangements to assist staff in balancing their professional and personal obligations. Telecommuting from outside of the official duty station was supported and extensively used during the reporting period.
- Despite the challenging situation in 2020, OHCHR staff members continued to deliver exceptional performance throughout the year. Particular focus was placed on supporting staff members through **online e-performance management briefings in English, French and Spanish**. The possibility of attending performance management training sessions, in Spanish, for the first time this year, was greatly appreciated, especially by 47 staff members based in the Americas region. Furthermore, individual coaching sessions were offered to 95 field- and 171 headquarters-based staff to help support managers and staff members throughout the performance cycle.



RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Investment in and support for UN Human Rights has expanded and donors are expressing confidence in the value delivered by these investments.

- **Total voluntary contributions** amounted to **US\$224.3 million**, representing an increase of 25.3 per cent compared to 2019. In 2020, 78 donors contributed, including 61 Member States. In addition, a deepening of partnerships with the UN Multi-Partner Trust Funds, including the Human Rights Mainstreaming and Peacebuilding Funds, led to a significant increase of contributions received, from US\$10.2 million in 2019 to US\$16.1 million in 2020. Donors, however, continued moving towards further earmarking their contributions. In 2020, the percentage of received unearmarked contributions dropped to its lowest level since 2006 (28 per cent unearmarked contributions versus 72 per cent earmarked contributions). Notwithstanding the difficulties created by COVID-19, the Office managed to maintain a strong relationship with its donors. It provided regular updates on OHCHR's work through nine consultations and 13 briefings. A total of 90 funding agreements were also signed in 2020. Efforts to reach out to non-traditional donors bore some fruit and materialized with the signing of four new funding opportunities with grant-making foundations.

- UN Human Rights applied a **results-based management approach** to its **fundraising** proposals. This proved to be critical in building the trust of donors and increasing accountability. The Office submitted to donors 119 funding proposals, including nine for the COVID-19 compendium, which raised US\$5.8 million. OHCHR also drafted 167 results-based reports and 17 results frameworks. The Office enhanced the development of funding proposals that target specific **spotlight populations**: 1) **Youth** (an MoU was signed with two Qatari organizations – Education Above All and Silatech – to promote and protect the rights of young people, achieve progress on youth components of the 2030 Agenda and implement the United Nations Youth Strategy); 2) **Persons with disabilities** (a joint submission was made to the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Multi-Partner Trust Fund with ILO, UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO, UN Women, UNFPA and UNDESA to support the design and implementation of disability-inclusive COVID-19 responses at the country level); and 3) **Women** (gender-sensitive results frameworks developed in 2020 led to increased financial support from the Government of Canada).
- Storytelling continued to be a priority for OHCHR to help humanize its work and increase support from external audiences and donors. During the year, **human interest stories** were collected from across the Office to showcase the positive impact of its work on people's lives. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, the five prioritized stories had to be prepared remotely. They presented the results of the work of UN Human Rights on COVID-19, its impacts on human rights and on COVID-19 and

ESCRs and the results of the work of the Office in Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon and Sudan.

- The OHCHR *Case for Support brochure* was printed and made available on OHCHR's website. Both digital and printed versions were distributed through outreach efforts with stakeholders from the private sector. Avenues of collaboration were explored with several **private sector stakeholders** and due diligence was conducted on 10 leads. One partnership was concretized with Vodafone in support of the B-Tech Project. The Office also materialized four new funding opportunities with foundations for a total of US\$730,000. Individuals also donated on OHCHR's website, with a steady increase in monthly donations throughout 2020.
- The **first phase** of the development of the **customer relationship management platform, Salesforce**, was fully implemented. The platform is used by UN Human Rights to record and follow-up on contributions received in 2020 and to input interactions with donors. Its implementation enables the Office to have timely and accurate information on contributions and related financial aspects, gather donor intelligence and support decision-making and resource mobilization efforts. It is expected that the system will be rolled out to OHCHR managers, selected headquarters entities and field presences in 2021.



OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

UN Human Rights managers are enabling the most efficient and responsible use of all available resources, supported by the effective deployment of relevant technologies.

- UN Human Rights revised and finalized the **Field Administrative Manual**, which will be launched in 2021. The updated Manual will serve as a useful tool for staff in the field, as it sets out all the information that is relevant to carrying out administrative functions in OHCHR field presences, ensuring the easy availability of guidance for staff and enhanced accountability for managers. The update of the Manual responds to recommendations from internal and external auditors for improved guidance for staff and managers in OHCHR presences around the world.
- The **OHCHR Intranet** was updated to improve access for all OHCHR staff globally and to enhance the user-friendliness and accessibility of internal information.
- During 2020, the **AdminNet community of practice** continued to support the administrative staff of OHCHR around the world. It was particularly useful during the pandemic, as many staff were working remotely. Thanks to this online community, colleagues were able to meet regularly and use the online platform to facilitate their work with limited disruption. A total of 10 online meetings took place throughout the year, during which issues related to finance, human resources, field staff reviews, cost plans and performance management were covered. Special problem-solving sessions were also organized to enhance the work with counterparts in UNDP.

- The **correspondence management system (eMemo)** was developed and piloted to manage correspondence sent from within the Office to the administration. The system, which provides standard templates to facilitate the preparation of requests and their processing, will be launched in 2021. Experience during the pandemic clearly demonstrated the value and need for the electronic processing of requests and demands.
- Due to the pandemic, all official air travel was essentially suspended from mid-March until the end of the year. The HRC's March session was suspended and those who had travelled to Geneva with support from OHCHR had to travel back early. In mid-May, the **Office signed up to the COVID-19 Aviation Service**. Its travel unit effectively became an internal UN travel agent and ensured that seats could be booked on World Food Programme/United Nations Humanitarian Air Service flights for urgent official travel when no commercial alternatives were available.
- An extensive **study** was completed on **UN procurement practices** and ways to ensure their compliance with international human rights standards. Funds were allocated to begin this process.

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