



2008 Report

Activities and
Results

Roma



United Nations
Human Rights

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

2008 Report

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Foreword by the High Commissioner



I am pleased to present my first *OHCHR Report on Activities and Results*, which offers a detailed account of the work of my Office, both at headquarters and in the field throughout 2008. When I took office as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in September last year I found an impressive group of knowledgeable, energetic, and inspiring new colleagues. This state of affairs was due in no small part to the contribution and vision of Louise Arbour, my predecessor, who led the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for over four years until mid-2008, steering it amidst a time of transformation with all its opportunities and challenges.

Indeed, 2008 has been a landmark year for the human rights community. We celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with a year-long campaign that involved the whole United Nations system and a myriad of partners from all over the world. This campaign was, in a sense, unfolded against the background of pressing concerns, such as the food, financial and economic crises that, together with natural disasters and other environmental emergencies, severely tested the international community's resilience and solidarity, as well as its appetite for high-minded endeavours. The vigour, imagination, dedication and variety of community-based initiatives, nation-wide commemorations, regional gatherings and international campaigns celebrating the Universal Declaration stand as testimonies that its vision and its relevance to people matter as much today as they did 60 years ago. This vision contemplates a world where civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights are realized without distinction. This is a world in which every man, woman and child lives in dignity, free from hunger, protected from violence and discrimination, and enjoys the benefits of housing, health care, education and opportunity. This vision, in my view, represents the global culture of human rights that we strive for, and it should be a unifying rather than a divisive force, within and among all cultures.

At the same time, we must focus on the challenges that remain in bringing to reality the comprehensive vision of human rights set forth in the Universal Declaration. We have entered a period in which human rights standards have been further refined. The ways and means to monitor their implementation have been enhanced, and their application is pursued more widely. Yet, there is no doubt that we need to work harder and with renewed determination both to avert human rights abuses and to ensure full compliance with human rights law. In sum, I believe that prevention and implementation of human rights norms should be at the forefront of our common activities and objectives both now and in the future.

The Human Rights Council has moved a step further in this direction with the launch of its new Universal Periodic Review, an innovative mechanism through which the human rights record of all UN Member States will be periodically reviewed. In 2008, the first 48 countries came under review. OHCHR has assisted the Council in this endeavour each step of the way and without prejudice for the increasing number of other tasks that the Council requested my Office to support.

After an extended period of expansion, OHCHR concentrated on consolidating its recent growth in the field, where we maintain 20 country, regional and stand-alone offices and are present in more than 30 other UN peace missions and country teams. It is in the field where we can more readily strive for practical cooperation with governments to ensure that they have effective systems in place to promote human rights obligations holistically and to provide protection and recourse for victims when violations take place. We also conducted 16 rapid response missions to help address acute or deteriorating human rights situations, and strengthened our capacity at headquarters to manage increasingly complex requests, tasks, and collaborative initiatives.

We know that the full enjoyment of human rights is bound to happen only if the stakeholders, diverse in their composition, but like-minded in their objectives and actions, join together to affirm their commitment to make human rights a tangible reality for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Pillay', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Navanethem Pillay
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

30 April 2009

Executive Summary

“Eleanor Roosevelt said, “Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? ... In small places, close to home.” Until these rights touch the lives of every man, woman and child everywhere, our work is not done. As UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, I pledge to do everything I can to give full effect to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I hope you will join me in this effort.”

High Commissioner Navanethem Pillay addressing the UN General Assembly on the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 10 December 2008.

Introduction

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) passed several historic milestones in 2008, including a number of significant institutional developments, the adoption of new international legal instruments, a change of High Commissioner and three highly symbolic anniversaries.

Among notable developments was the launch, in April, of the Human Rights Council's new Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism, in which OHCHR plays an important facilitative role. Under the UPR, the human rights record of every country will for the first time be subject to regular peer review. Also significant was the adoption by the General Assembly of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which establishes a procedure by which individuals can seek justice for violations of economic, social and cultural rights, and the entry into force of a new legal instrument to protect the rights of people with disabilities, namely the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities. With the completion of the move from New York to Geneva of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), OHCHR at last assumed full responsibility for servicing all UN treaty bodies.

The year also saw a change in leadership at OHCHR, with former International Criminal Court judge Navanethem Pillay taking over from Louise Arbour as High Commissioner. An internal restructuring led

to adjustments in the Office's senior management structure and the creation of several new senior-level posts. There was an emphasis on consolidating recent growth, particularly in the field where half of all OHCHR staff are now based, and reinforcing the Office's capacity to fulfill its mandated responsibilities, especially in relation to the Human Rights Council, the UPR, treaty bodies and special procedures.

Finally, in a year of anniversaries, 2008 marked 60 years since the adoption by the General Assembly of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The adoption of this Convention signified a first, concerted effort by the world community to consign to history the horrors of the Holocaust, and 15 years since the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, which led to the creation of the post of High Commissioner for Human Rights and subsequently the establishment of the Office in its present form. Finally, on Human Rights Day, 10 December, OHCHR led the world in celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with a variety of events designed to raise awareness about human rights and the responsibility of States and others to uphold them.

These and other developments are described in detail in this review of OHCHR's work in 2008. The report documents the many activities undertaken during the year, presents an assessment of results achieved, and identifies some of the challenges encountered. It is a comprehensive report card on implementation of the Office's programme of work, set out most recently in the High Commissioner's Strategic Management Plan (SMP) for the 2008-2009 biennium. It also contains detailed information on funding sources and expenditure, including financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2008.

OHCHR in the field

The growth in recent years in OHCHR's field operations has been spurred by the conviction that if the work of the Office and of the various UN human rights bodies in Geneva is to make a real difference to people's lives, it must reach rights-holders at the country level. This, in turn, means working intensively on the ground with national



New High Commissioner Navanethem Pillay addressing the ninth session of the Human Rights Council in September 2008.

governments, national human rights commissions, civil society and a wide range of other local stakeholders.

By the end of the year, OHCHR had 20 field offices—comprising eight country offices, two stand-alone presences, nine regional offices/centres and one liaison office. Two new regional offices were established in Bishkek, covering Central Asia, and Dakar, covering West Africa. One country office, in Angola, was closed following failure to reach an agreement with the host Government concerning a continuation of human rights activities in the country.

In addition to maintaining its own offices in the field, OHCHR continued to assist and advise UN partners at the field level. By the end of the year, 15 human rights advisers were deployed in UN country teams, with new advisers sent in 2008 to Guinea, Kenya, Moldova, Niger, Papua New Guinea and the Russian Federation. Their success in integrating a human rights dimension into the work of UN partners was reflected, in part, by the number of UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) and other programming documents that integrated human rights. OHCHR also continued to support the human rights components of 17 UN peace missions, recruiting senior staff, providing substantive expertise and

advice, and contributing some funding for human rights activities.

OHCHR's ability to respond quickly to deteriorating situations at short notice was further improved by the recruitment of three additional staff in its Rapid Response and Peace Mission Support Unit and the procurement of necessary stand-by equipment and materials. OHCHR fielded 16 rapid response missions in 2008, including eight in Africa, three in the South Caucasus, two in Asia, one in the Middle East and one in South America.

In 2008, OHCHR's work in the field contributed to, *inter alia*:

- ▶ The drafting and/or adoption of human rights-related laws or legislative amendments in Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Iraq, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Nepal, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, and Tajikistan.
- ▶ The inclusion of human rights guarantees in the draft constitution of Bolivia and in the new constitution adopted in the Maldives.
- ▶ An increase from 60 to 64 in the number of national human rights institutions assessed as sufficiently independent and effective to receive A-status from the accreditation subcommittee of

the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions. National institutions in Croatia, the Russian Federation, Timor-Leste and the United Kingdom were awarded A-status accreditation for the first time in 2008.

- ▶ Improvements in conditions of detention following OHCHR intervention in prisons in Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti and southern Sudan.
- ▶ A decrease in complaints of police misconduct and/or adoption of new or revised police codes of conduct in Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Liberia, Nepal, the occupied Palestinian territory, Rwanda, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Sierra Leone and Sudan (Darfur).
- ▶ Measures to reduce sexual and gender-based violence in Afghanistan, Burundi, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala, and Sudan (Darfur).
- ▶ Plans to introduce human rights education into schools in Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, the occupied Palestinian territory, and Sierra Leone.
- ▶ Greater awareness of human rights principles among government officials, military and police

officers, judges and civil society activists as a result of human rights training provided in Bolivia, Cambodia, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iraq, Lebanon, Maldives, Nicaragua, the occupied Palestinian territory, Nepal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Togo.

- ▶ The integration of human rights into Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) in Liberia and Sierra Leone and UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) and UNDAF reviews in Botswana, Sri Lanka, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Research and guidance materials

If OHCHR is to succeed in turning the norms and standards established in Geneva into realities on the ground, its own staff as well as colleagues in other parts of the United Nations must have access to the right kind of policy guidance, expertise and

2008: Year in Numbers

100

The number of ratifications of international human rights treaties and instruments by Member States in 2008, up from 63 ratifications in 2007.

16

The number of countries where new human rights-related laws have been enacted or initiated based on advice and technical assistance from OHCHR.

64

The number of national human rights institutions (national commissions, ombudsmen and other human rights watchdogs) deemed sufficiently independent and effective to qualify for A-status accreditation in 2008, compared with 60 in 2007.

48

The number of countries whose human rights records were reviewed in 2008 by the UN Human Rights Council's new Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism. OHCHR supports the UPR, servicing meetings and preparing substantial background documentation, including an analysis of compliance with treaty obligations and inputs from NGOs and other stakeholders.

2,206

The number of individuals claiming human rights violations whose cases were taken up in 2008 in communications sent to Governments by special procedures mandate-holders.

11,000

The approximate number of police and other law enforcement personnel trained in human rights principles and standards by OHCHR in 2008. OHCHR also provided training to the staff of national human rights institutions, judges, parliamentarians, civil servants, civil society activists and others.

2.85 million

The number of visitors to the OHCHR website, a 14 per cent increase from 2007.

990

The number of full-time OHCHR staff as at 31 December 2008 (compared with 942 a year earlier). Of these, almost 500 were based in the field.

24.2 million

The increase in U.S. dollars in the level of voluntary contributions to OHCHR in 2008, compared with 2007. The rise—from \$95.7 million to \$119.9 million—was the largest year-on-year increase in funding for OHCHR.

methodological and information tools. During the last biennium and continuing into 2008, OHCHR invested considerable additional resources in strengthening its in-house expertise in selected fields, including women's rights and gender, the Millennium Development Goals, the right to development and anti-discrimination, and in developing necessary guidelines and methodological tools. Outputs included 11 new human rights publications, 44 translations of human rights reference materials and a series of workshops, panel discussions and other events.

In 2008, OHCHR's thematic and methodological work contributed to, *inter alia*:

- ▶ Improved guidance materials and training on human rights monitoring, fact-finding and investigation, which has reinforced OHCHR's expertise in this area and strengthened the capacity of national human rights institutions.
- ▶ Improved guidance materials on a range of substantive human rights issues, such as transitional justice, witness protection, poverty, the Millennium Development Goals and HIV/AIDS.
- ▶ A more informed debate on the links between articles 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on freedom of expression and advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence. The theme was explored at a widely welcomed and referenced seminar of international experts organized by OHCHR in October 2008.
- ▶ Greater awareness of laws that discriminate against women, including through panel discussions, briefings, analysis and follow-up with Member States.
- ▶ Inclusion of training on women's rights and gender equality as an integral element of all human rights training carried out by OHCHR at the country level.
- ▶ Implementation of the inter-agency Action 2 Global Programme, which has improved the capacity of UN country teams to integrate a human rights perspective into their own work as well as the capacity of national systems to protect human rights.
- ▶ Improved access to human rights information through the development of an electronic resource database accessible to the public and OHCHR staff through the OHCHR website and intranet and the intranets of UN partners.



OHCHR staff in Bara, Nepal.

Support for United Nations human rights mechanisms

Having supported the Human Rights Council through its institution-building phase, OHCHR continued to provide substantive and technical support during 23 weeks of Council meetings in 2008, including regular and special sessions, organizational meetings, and meetings of the Council's subsidiary bodies, among them the new Universal Periodic Review. OHCHR handled a significant increase in workload associated with its support not only for the Council, but also the treaty bodies and an increased number of special procedures mandate-holders. Additional regular budget resources were secured to sustain the Office's support to the Universal Periodic Review mechanism.

In 2008, the Office's support to the Human Rights Council, treaty bodies and the special procedures system contributed to, *inter alia*:

- ▶ A successful launch of the Council's new Universal Periodic Review mechanism, in which OHCHR plays an important substantive role, preparing background documentation and servicing sessions. Through information briefings, seminars and financial assistance, OHCHR also ensured that all States reviewed in the first year were represented in Geneva and could participate in the review.
- ▶ The introduction by the Human Rights Council of new working methods, such as the special events and panel discussions, which have facilitated greater information-sharing and dialogue within the Council.
- ▶ Greater access to the proceedings of the Human Rights Council by interested stakeholders through webcasting of sessions of the Council and the Universal Periodic Review Working Group.
- ▶ Renewal by the Human Rights Council of all thematic special procedures mandates and the creation of two new mandates—on contemporary forms of slavery and on human rights obligations related to accessing safe drinking water and sanitation.
- ▶ Greater visibility and involvement of special procedures in crisis situations. For, example, the non-renewal of the country mandate for the Democratic Republic of the Congo resulted in the Council giving several thematic mandate-holders new reporting functions related to the situation in this country. Other mandate-holders continued and finalized their work on the situation in Sudan in early 2008.
- ▶ The transition of responsibility for supporting CEDAW from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to OHCHR, with the first session of CEDAW under OHCHR management being held in January 2008. OHCHR now supports all UN human rights treaty bodies.
- ▶ Increasing participation by national stakeholders in treaty-body reporting, the special procedures system and the Universal Periodic Review through workshops in Morocco, Indonesia and Panama, and continued dissemination of a training DVD.
- ▶ Increased rates of compliance with treaty-body reporting requirements, reflecting greater use of guidelines regarding the common core reporting document. Compliance with reporting obligations will be simplified further in the future when all treaty bodies adopt treaty-specific document guidelines.
- ▶ Improved compliance with rules and regulations relating to documentation for the Human Rights Council and treaty bodies. Documentation for each session of the Council was accessible via a dedicated part of the OHCHR website, while the

Navanethem Pillay succeeds Louise Arbour as High Commissioner



Staff farewell event for Louise Arbour, Geneva, June 2008.

"Louise Arbour's legacy will be one of a strengthened and more wide-ranging United Nations human rights system, a stronger focus on justice and accountability, reformed protection mechanisms, and a more balanced approach to the full range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights."

**UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon,
7 March 2008**

In July 2008, OHCHR bid farewell to former High Commissioner Louise Arbour, who stepped down after four years in the post. Ms. Arbour presided over a period of unprecedented expansion of the Office, attracting significant additional funding for the activities of the Office, much of which was channeled into the strengthening of OHCHR's field operations.

At a special meeting on 28 July 2008, the United Nations General Assembly confirmed the appointment of Navanethem Pillay of South Africa to succeed Louise Arbour as High Commissioner. As a member of a non-white minority in apartheid South Africa and a front-line, grassroots lawyer who acted as a defence attorney for many anti-apartheid campaigners and trades unionists, High Commissioner Pillay brings to the post direct personal experience of the challenges to the full realization of human rights. She served as a judge on two of the most important international criminal courts in the modern era, spending eight years with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, including four years as its President, and then the past five years on the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Both courts deal with the extreme end of the human rights spectrum—war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide—and are at the cutting edge of the delivery of justice and the fight against impunity at the international level.

introduction of dedicated ‘extranets’ for each treaty body provided easy access to treaty body documentation and reduced the need for paper documents. Advance edited versions of certain documents were made available online before being issued in all languages.

Outreach

As the United Nations’ senior official on human rights, the High Commissioner has a unique leadership role in identifying human rights challenges and articulating and advocating responses, either privately or publicly. In 2008, the High Commissioner and her Deputy undertook official missions to 18 countries and delivered over 70 keynote speeches at a variety of international venues. The High Commissioner also addressed each session of the Human Rights Council, held bilateral meetings with Ambassadors from more than 100 countries and held ministerial-level meetings with representatives of approximately 90 countries.

Various organizational units support the High Commissioner and senior managers in their outreach efforts, including the High Commissioner’s own Executive Office, the Communications Section, the Civil Society Unit, the Donor and External Relations Section and the New York Office. The investment made in 2006-2007 to strengthen the Communications Section and Civil Society Unit was reflected in a high level of visibility for the Office in 2008, as demonstrated by:

- ▶ 4,407 articles tracked in the international media referencing OHCHR or the High Commissioner, a 16 per cent increase compared to 2007.
- ▶ Publication of opinion articles (‘op-eds’) by the High Commissioner in 52 newspapers in 46 countries.
- ▶ 2.85 million visitors to the OHCHR website, a 14 per cent increase compared to 2007.
- ▶ A sustained and high level of engagement and participation of NGOs in sessions of the Human Rights Council, with between 126 and 180 NGOs taking part in each session, as well as strong interest and participation in the sessions of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group.
- ▶ OHCHR leadership in the world-wide celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which gave many millions of people an opportunity to talk, think and learn about their rights.

Programme planning, management and support

As OHCHR has grown—from an organization of some 500 staff to close to 1,000—and expanded its network of field presences, so it has had to adapt its administrative processes and strengthen core management functions. During the 2006-2007 biennium, considerable additional resources were invested in the areas of planning, monitoring, evaluation, finance and human resource management, and a series of standard operating procedures was developed in an effort to standardize administrative practices across the Office. Effective January 2008, the Office obtained a greater degree of delegation of authority to manage extra-budgetary resources. A new senior management structure, outlined in the Secretary-General’s Strategic Framework, was also introduced in 2008, with four divisions replacing the previous two, each headed by a senior manager.

In January 2008, OHCHR released its second biennial Strategic Management Plan, setting out expected accomplishments and strategies for the period 2008-2009. The SMP included new performance indicators designed to better monitor the extent to which the Office is achieving its expected accomplishments. A review was undertaken in 2008, leading to further adjustments to some of the proposed indicators and a series of additional recommendations aimed at strengthening the Office’s monitoring system. A staggered approach to the introduction of additional indicators was agreed upon under which the Office’s performance monitoring system is expected to be fully operational by the end of 2010.

Growth in the size of OHCHR’s staff slowed slightly in 2008, compared with the previous two years, although it remained high compared with longer-term trends. During the course of the year, the overall number of staff increased by 48, from 942 to 990. Measures established in 2006 to broaden the pool of potential applicants and improve the geographic diversity of OHCHR staff continued to show significant results, with the proportion of staff from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Eastern Europe all increasing, and the proportion from Western Europe and other countries falling.

The Office also achieved improvements in the quality of administration in field presences through greater administrative support from headquarters and

training provided to locally-based administrative staff. Better planning of resource requirements enabled a more efficient allocation of resources during the year, minimizing cash-flow problems and ensuring that funds were available for activities when needed.

Donor support

The year 2008 capped seven years of growth in donor support for OHCHR's work, with a record year-on-year increase in both the level of funding and number of donors. Overall, contributions rose by a quarter from \$85.7 million to \$119.9 million, with, for the first time, more than half of all contributions provided without earmarking. The number of Member States providing funding also increased from 64 to 83, with greater geographic diversity than in past years.

While the 2008 results were encouraging, the outlook for fundraising deteriorated rapidly in the

final quarter of the year. By the beginning of 2009, the global financial crisis had pushed all OHCHR's major donors into or close to recession and was putting growing pressures on government budgets. The current downturn can be expected to have a knock-on effect on the level of overseas aid and voluntary contributions to multilateral agencies in 2009 and beyond. It is increasingly likely that the real level of contributions to OHCHR—measured in donors' own currencies—will stop growing or perhaps even slip in 2009, and possibly again in 2010, before growth resumes.

With the economic downturn and a food and energy crisis endangering the livelihoods and rights of hundreds of millions of the world's poorest and most vulnerable, there could be no worse time for the United Nations to scale back its activities in the field of human rights. Against this backdrop, OHCHR appeals to all Member States and the wider donor community to ensure that sufficient resources are made available to allow the Office to continue its work undiminished.



A woman celebrating the observance of World Mental Health Day.

OHCHR 2008 Report



About OHCHR

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has the lead responsibility within the UN system for implementing the UN human rights programme. Headed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, a position established by the General Assembly in 1993, OHCHR has a mandate to promote and protect all human rights around the world. The Office works to build awareness of and respect for human rights, empowering individuals to claim their rights and assisting States in upholding them. As part of the UN Secretariat, OHCHR is headquartered in Geneva, with a presence in New York and a network of 20 regional and country offices spanning five continents.

Method

OHCHR's current programme of work is based on a six-year Plan of Action, covering the period 2006-2011, which was initiated by the former High Commissioner Louise Arbour and affirmed by the current High Commissioner Navanethem Pillay. Priorities include greater country engagement, which involves working closely with OHCHR partners at the regional, country and local levels in order to ensure that international human rights standards are implemented on the ground; a stronger leadership role for the High Commissioner; and closer partnerships with civil society and UN agencies. In order to provide more detailed operational strategies for implementing the Plan of Action, OHCHR publishes biennial Strategic Management Plans.

During the 2006-2007 biennium, OHCHR took steps to strengthen its own capacity, increasing staffing by 45 per cent, strengthening existing field offices and establishing several new ones, reinforcing in-house expertise in selected thematic areas and improving communications, planning and administrative capabilities. The current Strategic Management Plan, which covers the 2008-2009 biennium, maintains this course, with an emphasis on consolidating recent growth, sharpening operational strategies and improving

Mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is charged by General Assembly resolution 48/141 to be the United Nations official with "principal responsibility" for UN human rights activities, with the mandate:

- To promote and protect all human rights for all.
- To make recommendations to the competent bodies of the UN system for improving promotion and protection of all human rights.
- To promote and protect the right to development.
- To provide technical assistance for human rights activities.
- To coordinate UN human rights education and public information programmes.
- To play an active role in removing obstacles to the realization of human rights.
- To play an active role in preventing the continuation of human rights violations.
- To engage in dialogue with governments with the aim of securing respect for all human rights.
- To enhance international cooperation.
- To coordinate human rights promotion and protection activities throughout the UN system.
- To rationalize, adapt, strengthen and streamline the UN human rights machinery.

the Office's ability to monitor its performance and report on results.

OHCHR's work focuses on three areas: human rights standard-setting, monitoring, and implementation on the ground. OHCHR works to offer the best expertise and substantive and secretariat support to the various UN human rights mechanisms as they execute their standard-setting and monitoring duties. In the first instance, OHCHR serves as the secretariat of the Human Rights Council. The Council, composed of 47 Member States, is the key UN intergovernmental body responsible for human rights. It addresses violations, reviews States' human rights records, works to prevent human rights abuses, responds to emergencies, serves as an international forum for

human rights dialogue, and makes recommendations to the General Assembly for the development of international human rights law. OHCHR also supports the work of the special procedures—independent individuals or expert groups appointed by the Council to study and monitor human rights in different countries or in relation to specific issues. OHCHR assists these independent experts as they conduct visits to the field, receive and consider complaints from victims of human rights violations, conduct thematic studies and make recommendations to Governments to help address human rights concerns.

Another important part of the standard-setting and monitoring dimensions of OHCHR's work is the legal research and secretariat support it provides to the core human rights treaty bodies. These

committees are composed of independent experts who monitor States Parties' compliance with their treaty obligations. They meet regularly to examine reports from States Parties and issue recommendations. Some of these committees, such as the Human Rights Committee, which monitors implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, also consider individual complaints against violations of treaty provisions. These decisions help to build the body of jurisprudence on international human rights law. The "general comments" issued by treaty bodies also contribute to the set of interpretations of international human rights treaties.

The past years have seen a significantly increased presence of OHCHR in the field. By the end of 2008, OHCHR was running or supporting a total of

History of the UN Human Rights Programme

The UN human rights programme has grown considerably since its modest beginnings some 60 years ago. Organizationally, it started with a small division in the UN Secretariat in the 1940s. The division later moved to Geneva and was upgraded to the Centre for Human Rights in the 1980s. At the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993, Member States decided to establish a more robust human rights institution. Later that year, the General Assembly passed a resolution establishing the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, with a wide-ranging mandate, and transforming the former Centre for Human Rights into OHCHR. Twelve years later, at the 2005 UN World Summit, Heads of State from around the world committed themselves to an historic expansion of the UN human rights programme and recognized the importance of ensuring a human rights approach in all aspects of UN system's work.

The growth in UN human rights activities reflects the increasing strength of the international human rights movement since the General Assembly adopted and proclaimed the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948. Drafted as "a common standard of achievement for all peoples and nations", the Declaration sets out basic civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights that all human beings should enjoy. Over time, this unprecedented affirmation of human rights has become widely accepted as the standard to which all governments should adhere. Indeed, 10 December is observed worldwide as International Human Rights Day. The year 2008 marked the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration, and OHCHR supported a highly successful international campaign to celebrate this event. The Declaration, together with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its two Optional Protocols, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, form the "International Bill of Human Rights".

As international human rights law developed, a number of UN human rights bodies were established to respond to changing human rights challenges. These bodies may be composed either of State

representatives with mandates typically established by the UN Charter or of independent experts mandated to monitor States Parties' compliance with their treaty obligations. The United Nations Commission on Human Rights, which was established in 1946 and reported to the Economic and Social Council, was the key UN intergovernmental body responsible for human rights until it was replaced by the Human Rights Council in 2006. In addition to assuming the mandates and responsibilities previously entrusted to the Commission, the Council, which reports directly to the General Assembly, is also charged with making recommendations to the General Assembly to develop international human rights law and undertaking a Universal Periodic Review of each State's adherence to its human rights obligations and commitments. OHCHR provides substantial and secretariat support to the Human Rights Council.

52 field presences, compared with 47 at the end of 2007. OHCHR field offices and presences play an essential role in identifying, highlighting and developing responses to human rights challenges in close collaboration with governments, the UN system and civil society. Such responses include monitoring and public reporting, and implementing projects, such as providing technical training and support in the areas of administration of justice, legislative reform, human rights treaty ratification, and human rights education. These programmes are designed in cooperation with Member States.

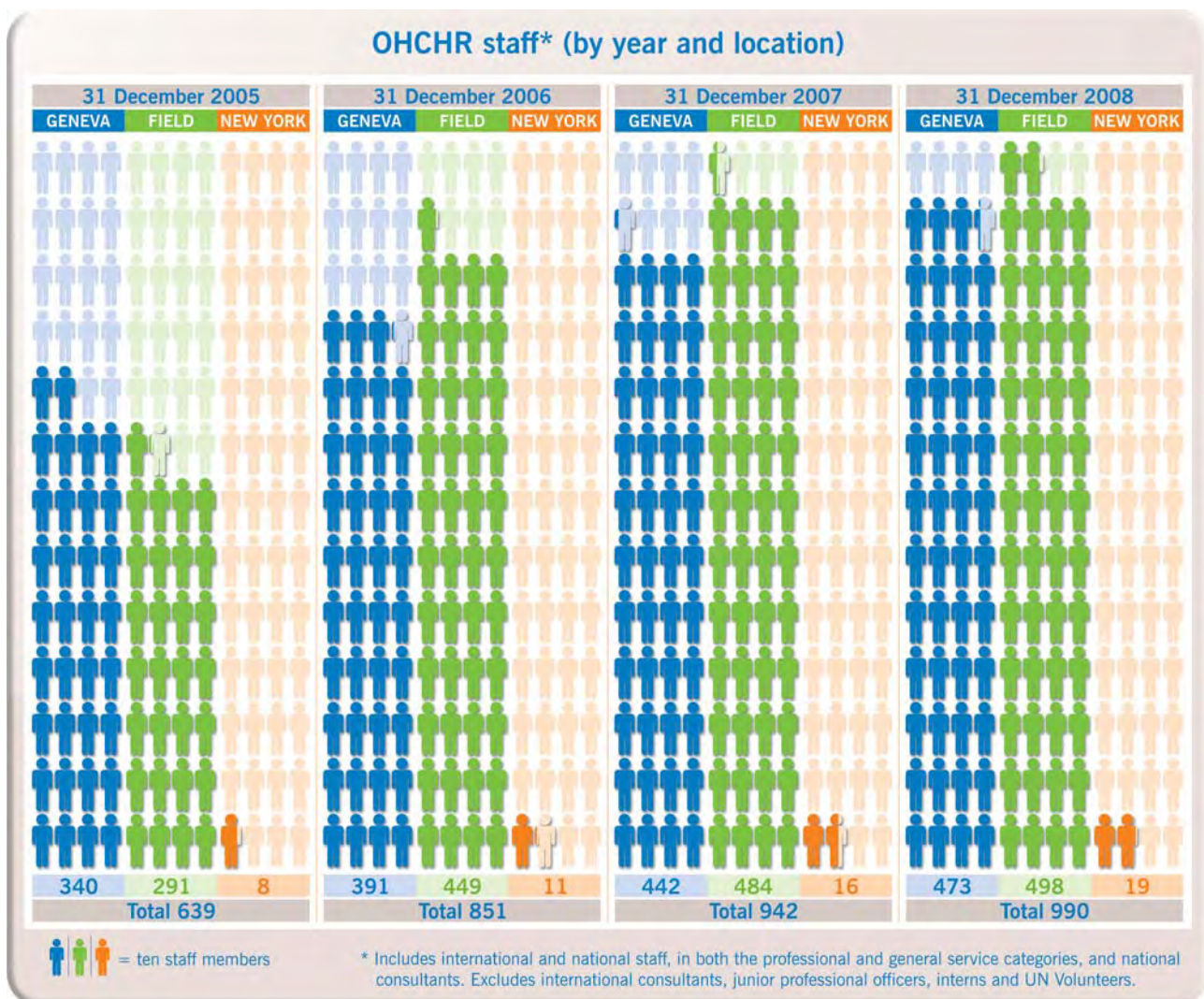
Staff

To implement its comprehensive mandate, as of 31 December 2008 OHCHR employed 990 members of staff, of whom 498 (50 per cent) were

based in the field, 473 (48 per cent) in Geneva, and 19 (two per cent) in New York. It also supported an additional workforce of some 340 international human rights officers serving in 17 UN peace missions, and 15 human rights advisers in UN country teams in the field.

Structure

Headquartered in Geneva, OHCHR has an office at the United Nations in New York and, as of 31 December 2008, 20 field offices, comprising nine regional offices and centres, one regional liaison office, eight country offices, and two stand-alone presences (see map on pages 22-23). Two additional regional offices are planned for 2009 with possibly two more regional offices pending. OHCHR also supports the human rights components of UN peace missions and deploys



human rights advisers to work closely with and advise UN country teams.

At the beginning of 2008, OHCHR underwent an organizational restructuring, upgrading its four main substantive branches to divisions, each headed by a division director. These four divisions are: the Human Rights Council and Treaties Division, which provides substantive secretariat support to the Human Rights Council, the treaty bodies and various working groups; the Special Procedures Division, which supports the work of the Council's independent experts (special procedures mandate-holders) assigned thematic mandates; the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division, responsible for overseeing and implementing OHCHR's work in the field, as well as providing support to country-specific special procedures mandate-holders; and the

Research and Right to Development Division, which carries out thematic research, provides expert advice and develops methodological tools. Core administrative, planning, coordination and outreach functions are handled separately by dedicated sections reporting directly to the Deputy High Commissioner. For a current organization chart, please refer to page 213.

How OHCHR is funded

OHCHR is funded from the UN regular budget, which provides just over a third of the resources required to implement the Office's programme of work, and from voluntary contributions from donors, mainly Member States. Recent years have seen

OHCHR Headquarters, Geneva



strong growth both in the amount OHCHR receives from the regular budget and in the level of voluntary contributions. Regular budget resources have grown by some 70 per cent since the 2004-2005 biennium (net of any additional resources to fund new work associated with the establishment of the Human Rights Council, the Universal Periodic Review and the transfer of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women from the Department for Economic and Social Affairs to OHCHR).

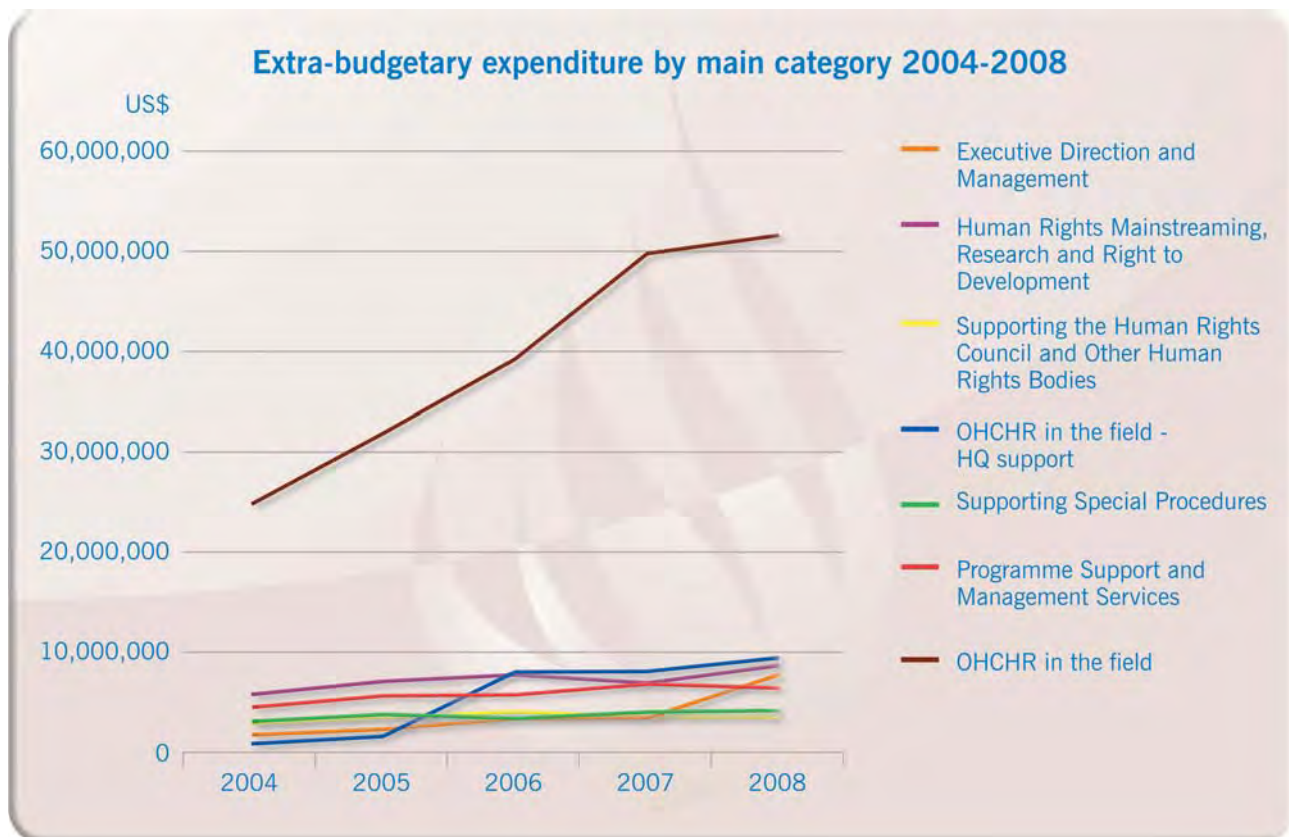
Voluntary contributions have risen by more than 130 per cent in four years, with much of the growth in unearmarked contributions, which grew steadily from 20 per cent of the total in 2004 to 54 per cent in 2008.

Please refer to pages 171-185 for more information on who funds OHCHR, key trends and challenges, and to pages 186-209 for profiles of all institutional donors in 2008.

How OHCHR spends its budget

Total expenditure, including expenditure under the regular budget and extra-budgetary spending, rose again in 2008 to a new high of \$158.3 million (compared to \$134.8m in 2007). The increase followed several years of sustained growth in spending, as OHCHR sought to implement its plans for a more operational human rights programme at the country level.

Excluding expenditure associated with three grant-making humanitarian funds administered by OHCHR, around half (50.4 per cent) of OHCHR's combined regular budget and extra-budgetary expenditure in 2008 was field-related (38 per cent spent in the field, 12.4 per cent on direct headquarters support for fieldwork). Approximately 11.8 per cent was spent on thematic research and human rights



mainstreaming, 9.7 per cent on supporting the human rights treaty bodies and the Human Rights Council and its various subsidiary bodies, 9.4 per cent on executive direction and management, security, fundraising and outreach activities, 7.7 per cent on programme support, and 6.2 per cent on support to the Council's special procedures mandate-holders.

The amount of extra-budgetary funding devoted to human rights work in the field has grown especially strongly (see graph, below). In 2008, some two-thirds of all extra-budgetary expenditure (65.9 per cent) was field-related (55.8 per cent spent in the field and a further 10.1 per cent at headquarters on direct support for fieldwork).

The remainder was split between thematic research and human rights mainstreaming (9.3 per cent), executive direction and management, security, fundraising and outreach activities (8.3 per cent), programme support (6.8 per cent), support for special procedures mandate-holders (4.4 per cent), and support for the treaty bodies and the Human Rights Council (3.7 per cent).

Financial accounts for the year to 31 December 2008, as well as additional information on the breakdown of expenditure and allocation of voluntary contributions, can be found in Section IV, pages 163-169.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon meets OHCHR staff, January 2008.



OHCHR at a glance



- Dakar, Senegal (West Africa)
- Guinea-Bissau
- Guinea
- Sierra Leone
- Liberia
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Togo
- Yaoundé, Cameroon (Central Africa)

- Headquarters (No. of Staff)
- Regional offices/centres (No. of Staff)
- Country/Stand-alone offices (No. of Staff)
- Countries covered from Headquarters
- Human rights components of peace missions
- Human rights advisers in United Nations Country Teams
- * Planned for 2009
- ** Field presence was closed in 2008

Countries covered from Regional Offices:

- Africa**
 - East Africa - from Addis Ababa
 - Southern Africa - from Pretoria
 - Central Africa - from Yaoundé: Sub-regional centre on human rights and democracy
 - West Africa - from Dakar
- Asia-Pacific**
 - Southeast Asia - from Bangkok
 - Pacific - from Suva



Middle-East, North Africa

■ Middle East - from Beirut

Europe, North America, Central Asia

■ Central Asia - from Bishkek

Latin America, Caribbean

■ Latin America - from Panama

Staff numbers are as of 31 December 2008

Map only refers to No. of staff at headquarters, New York office, regional and country offices

Supporting the Human Rights Council and Treaty Bodies

The Human Rights Council and the human rights treaty bodies constitute two core elements of the international human rights system. OHCHR's Human Rights Council and Treaties Division supports the Council's regular and special sessions, commissions of inquiry, and fact-finding missions, as well as the work of the human rights treaty bodies in reviewing periodic reports, issuing recommendations to States Parties, considering individual complaints, conducting inquiries and carrying out visits. The Division collaborates with other parts of the Office to integrate the work of the treaty bodies into OHCHR's monitoring and capacity-building work at the country level. The Division is also responsible for processing all documentation prepared by the Office, and for providing support to the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.

Context

Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council, which replaced the former Commission on Human Rights in 2006, is an intergovernmental body made up of 47 States responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. It holds three regular sessions a year and may hold special sessions as needed to address specific human rights issues or situations of concern. During 2008, the Council held three special sessions: on the situations in the occupied Palestinian territory and in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, and on the right to food. A special commemorative Council session was also held in December to mark the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. During 2008, inaugural meetings were held by the Council's subsidiary bodies and mechanisms, the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee (which replaced the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights), and the Working Group on Situations (part of the Council's Complaint Procedure).

In 2008, the Council also began its periodic reviews of how Member States are fulfilling their human rights obligations through its Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism. The review is conducted

as a dialogue between the Council and the State under review, then the outcome is considered and adopted by the Council in the following plenary session. All 192 UN Member States will be reviewed during the first four-year cycle of the UPR (2008-2011).

Treaty Bodies

Treaty bodies are committees of independent experts, elected by States Parties, that monitor the implementation of human rights treaties and their optional protocols. During 2008, OHCHR supported eight human rights treaty bodies:

- ▶ **The Human Rights Committee**, which monitors compliance with the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights and its substantive optional protocol;
- ▶ **The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**, which monitors compliance with the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- ▶ **The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**, which monitors compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
- ▶ **The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**, which monitors compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;
- ▶ **The Committee against Torture**, which monitors compliance with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
- ▶ **The Subcommittee on Prevention**, which carries out preventive visits to places of detention in States Parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
- ▶ **The Committee on the Rights of the Child**, which monitors compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its substantive optional protocols; and
- ▶ **The Committee on Migrant Workers**, which monitors compliance with the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

OHCHR is responsible for supporting a ninth human rights treaty body that began work in 2009: the **Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, which monitors compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. OHCHR also collaborates with the UN Department of Economic Affairs to support the work of the **Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, which will meet at least annually to address substantive issues concerning the Convention.

A new legal tool to protect persons with disabilities

Victor Pineda, an economist and human rights expert who suffers from muscular dystrophy, participated as a delegate to a UN Committee established to consider proposals and suggestions for an international treaty to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities. The Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities entered into force on 3 May thanks to the efforts of Victor and thousands like him. The more than 600 million people with disabilities, almost 10 per cent of the world's population, have started to be viewed as holders of rights.

On 10 December 2008, the General Assembly adopted the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which provides the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights with additional tools to monitor implementation of the Covenant. OHCHR will provide substantive and technical support to the Committee in relation to these new competencies once the Optional Protocol enters into force.

Treaty bodies meet regularly throughout the year to review the periodic reports of States Parties and issue recommendations to them. Five treaty bodies—the Human Rights Committee, the Committee against Torture, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities—also consider complaints received from individuals. The Committee on Migrant Workers and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights will have this competence when the requisite number of States Parties accepts this optional procedure. The Committee against Torture, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities can conduct inquiries in cases where



High Commissioner Navanethem Pillay and the President of the Human Rights Council, Ambassador Martin Ihoeghian Uhomoibhi.



Secretary-General inaugurates Room XX of the Palais des Nations, Geneva, “Room for Human Rights and the Alliance of Civilizations”. The room was renovated with the support of the Spanish Government.

they receive reliable information indicating grave or systematic violations of the conventions by a State Party. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights will also have this competence after the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Activities

Human Rights Council

- ▶ Provided substantive and technical support during 23 weeks of Council meetings, including regular and special sessions, organizational meetings, and meetings of the Council’s subsidiary bodies, including the UPR.
- ▶ Contributed to the successful high-level segment of the Council, held at its seventh regular session in March 2008, in which more than 70 dignitaries participated.
- ▶ Supported three special sessions: human rights violations emanating from Israeli military incursions in the occupied Palestinian territory; the situation of human rights in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo; and the first ever thematic special session on the right to food.
- ▶ Organized a commemorative session of the Council on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of human rights, including a high-level segment attended by 15 dignitaries.
- ▶ Provided support and advice to the President of the Council and the Bureau, both in session and between sessions, for more than 20 Bureau meetings.



Scenes of the new Room XX.

- ▶ Facilitated eight special events, discussions and high-level panels during Council sessions on issues such as: integrating a gender perspective into the work of the Council; missing persons; an intercultural dialogue on human rights; the human rights of women, including violence against women and maternal mortality; the entry into force of the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities; and the draft UN guidelines for the appropriate use and conditions of alternative care for children.
- ▶ Supported the first session of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee as it began its work in 2008.
- ▶ Supported the Council's Complaint Procedure, including its Working Groups on Communications and on Situations, which held two sessions each. Some 3,270 new communications were registered under the complaint mechanism in 2008. The Working Group on Communications examined 13,404 communications under the complaint procedure.
- ▶ Supported three sessions of the UPR working group, which met for 30 working days in 2008 and reviewed 48 countries. OHCHR's contribution included preparing two ten-page reports for each review: one on findings and recommendations of treaty bodies and special procedures, and information from other UN sources; another summarizing information received from stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations. The Office provided a report of proceedings within 48 hours of each review, and subsequently prepared reports on the consideration of the review outcome in the plenary of the Council.
- ▶ Hosted, co-organized and/or provided financial support and expertise for seminars to inform States and other stakeholders about the UPR and facilitate the preparation of national reports. Using funds from the newly-established Voluntary Fund for Participation in the UPR Mechanism, OHCHR provided financial support to the delegations of six developing countries to facilitate their participation in the UPR.

Universal Periodic Review

"This mechanism has great potential to promote and protect human rights in the darkest corners of the world. (The Council) will be able to examine the record and performance of all countries, on all human rights, at regular intervals."

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the Universal Periodic Review.

The creation of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) was approved by the UN General Assembly on 15 March 2006 by resolution 60/251; its functions were further elaborated in resolution 5/1 of the Human Rights Council. It is a cooperative process that, by 2011, will have reviewed the human rights records of every country of the world. The UPR is one of the key elements of the new Council, reminding States of their responsibility to fully respect and implement all human rights and fundamental freedoms. The ultimate aim of this new mechanism is to improve the human rights situation in all countries and address human rights violations wherever they occur. No other universal mechanism of this kind exists.

The reviews are based on three documents. The first contains information provided by the State under review, which can take the form of a "national report". The second contains information from the Special Procedures, the human rights treaty bodies, and other UN entities. The third report contains information from other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions. The actual review is conducted by the Human Rights Council through a discussion among the State under review and other Member States. During this discussion any Member State can pose questions, make comments or give recommendations to the State under review. The outcome of the review is considered and adopted by the Council in the following plenary session.



Treaty Bodies

- ▶ Supported 19 sessions of the treaty bodies in Geneva and New York (each session lasting between one and three weeks) during which 111 reports were reviewed. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women met once in two chambers to eliminate the backlog of reports awaiting review. Approximately 150 States Parties' reports submitted in 2008 were processed.
- ▶ Examined some 9,000 pieces of correspondence and registered a total of 156 new cases relating to treaty bodies. The treaty bodies examined and adopted final decisions on 113 communications.
- ▶ Undertook work leading to the adoption of new General Comments by the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- ▶ Facilitated country visits by the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture to Benin, Mexico and Sweden.
- ▶ Facilitated the first visit by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to follow up its concluding observations to Luxembourg.
- ▶ Conducted training workshops on treaty body reporting and follow-up in Indonesia, Panama and Morocco; organized a judicial colloquium on the use of human rights treaties and treaty body output in decision making for judges from six countries in the Latin American region and provided staff members as resource persons and facilitators in eight training activities organized by external partners, including the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.
- ▶ Promoted harmonization and standardization of the work of the treaty bodies, including organizing the seventh and eighth Inter-Committee meeting of the human rights treaty bodies and the 20th meeting of the Chairpersons of treaty bodies.
- ▶ Supported the treaty bodies in their implementation of follow-up procedures to concluding observations and views on petitions.
- ▶ Conducted training on the use of guidelines for the common core document, provided technical assistance on treaty reporting to several governments, and supported the development and adoption of treaty-specific reporting guidelines complementing the common core document guidelines by the Committees on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Elimination of Discrimination against Women and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

- ▶ Developed and updated the web-based Universal Human Rights Index (www.universalhumanrightsindex.org), a search engine providing easy access to recommendations and observations of the UN human rights system; distributed more than 500 CD-ROMs containing the Index and more than 4,000 promotional booklets on the Index.

The UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children

- ▶ Participated in the work of relevant UN agencies, NGOs and other partners as part of the follow-up to the UN Study on Violence against Children released in 2008.
- ▶ Helped to formulate several tools and publications, including the Council of Europe of Guidelines for Integrated Strategies on Violence against Children.
- ▶ Co-organized, with the Government of Mexico, an international seminar on the protection of children's rights in the context of migration; participated in the preparation of World Congress III on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children; and participated in the EU Forum of Child Rights and regional workshop on the role of parliamentarians to respond to sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States.
- ▶ Engaged with human rights treaty bodies and special procedures to encourage them to routinely address violence against children in their work.

Results

- ▶ As a result of OHCHR's encouragement and support, the Council introduced new working methods, such as the special events and panel discussions, which have facilitated a more dynamic sharing of information and dialogue within the Council.
- ▶ OHCHR's commitment to the use of webcasting for sessions of the Council and UPR working group has resulted in greater access to these proceedings by interested stakeholders. The webcasts have also been used as a training tool by some NGOs as an example of how to participate in the work of the Council.
- ▶ Dedicated organizational and substantive input ensured that the Council's new UPR mechanism began its work successfully. Through information briefings, seminars and financial assistance, OHCHR also ensured that all States reviewed in the first year were represented in Geneva and could participate in the review.

- ▶ Successfully managed the transition of responsibility for supporting the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to OHCHR, with the Committee's first session under OHCHR management held in January 2008. OHCHR now supports all international human rights treaties.
- ▶ Raised the profile of and national participation in treaty-body reporting, the special procedures and the Human Rights Council's UPR mechanism through workshops on treaty-body reporting in Morocco, Indonesia and Panama, and with continued dissemination of a training DVD on treaty bodies.
- ▶ The reporting burden on States Parties was rationalized and compliance with reporting requirements increased through greater use of the guidelines for the common core document. Increasingly, States are taking advantage of these guidelines as they prepare their reports. Compliance with their reporting obligations will be simplified further in the future when all treaty bodies adopt treaty-specific document guidelines.
- ▶ OHCHR continued to achieve a high rate of compliance with rules and regulations relating to documentation of the Council and treaty bodies. Documentation for each session of the Council was accessible via a dedicated part of the OHCHR website, while the introduction of dedicated 'extranets' for each treaty body provided easy access to treaty-body documentation and reduced the need for paper documents. Advance edited versions of certain documents were made available online before being issued in all languages.
- ▶ OHCHR's follow-up work on the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children has resulted in a greater number of human rights mechanisms that addressed violence against children during 2008.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ In order to respond to the numerous requests by States for assistance in preparing their UPR national reports, OHCHR organized regional and/or sub-regional briefing/training sessions during the year, as the Office does not have the capacity to respond to States individually. This resulted in wider participation and the sharing of experiences and best practices among participants.
- ▶ To assist the UPR process, the Council asked OHCHR to prepare two background reports on each State under review: a compilation of findings and recommendations of treaty bodies, special procedures and from UN sources; and a summary of submissions of relevant stakeholders. To prepare these documents, the Office established an inter-Divisional structure where colleagues working on the UPR are placed in the various Branches and Divisions. This structure has posed a number of organizational challenges but has allowed for greater cooperation and a global sense of ownership of the UPR process throughout the Office.
- ▶ Increased awareness of the treaty bodies has led to an increased number of individuals accessing their complaints processes. However, handling a growing number of complaints with limited human resources proved challenging. The Petitions Unit added one professional post to cope with the large backlog in russophone complaints and identified measures to upgrade a number of functions of the petitions database, with the aim of enabling petitions staff to process communications more efficiently. However, these measures were insufficient to eliminate the backlog.
- ▶ The Panama colloquium on the domestic application of international human rights norms and jurisprudence of human rights bodies highlighted the need for treaty-body decisions on individual complaints to be better and more cogently argued if they are to be taken into account as possible precedents for judges at the national level. The Petitions unit continued to convey this concern to the members of the relevant treaty bodies, and the reasoning of treaty-body decisions is beginning to show improvements.
- ▶ Delays in the appointment of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children led to a loss of momentum in the promotion of the follow-up to the Study and brought the Inter-Agency Group to a standstill.

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL: OUTCOME OF SESSIONS HELD IN 2008

SESSIONS	OUTCOMES
7 th session (3-28 March and 1 April)	<p>The Council adopted resolutions and decisions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Economic, social and cultural rights, including on the right to food and access to safe drinking water and sanitation; ● The consideration and extension of several thematic and country-specific special procedures mandates; ● Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights; ● Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; ● A number of thematic human rights challenges, including extreme poverty, arbitrary deprivation of nationality, rights of persons with disabilities, climate change, combating defamation of religions, prevention of genocide, the elimination of violence against women, missing persons and the rights of the child; ● The role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights; ● The human rights situation in Sudan, Palestine and other occupied Arab territories; ● The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; ● Follow-up to the special session on Myanmar; ● Action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; ● Technical cooperation and advisory services in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and ● The composition of the staff of OHCHR.
8 th session (2-18 June)	<p>The Council adopted resolutions and decisions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Economic, social and cultural rights, including the adoption of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; ● The consideration and extension of several thematic and country special procedures mandates; ● Human rights issues in a number of thematic areas, including promotion of a democratic and equitable international order; torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment; promotion of the right of peoples to peace; extreme poverty; and elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members; ● Follow-up to the special session on Myanmar; ● Outcomes of the UPR of Bahrain, Ecuador, Tunisia, Morocco, Finland, Indonesia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, India, Brazil, Philippines, Algeria, Poland, Netherlands, South Africa, Czech Republic, Argentina, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Peru, Benin, Switzerland, Republic of Korea, Pakistan, Zambia, Japan, Ukraine, Sri Lanka, France, Tonga, Romania and Mali; and ● Conference facilities and financial support for the Human Rights Council. <p>The Council also agreed on President's statements on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Modalities; ● Practices for the UPR process; and ● Terms of office of special procedures mandate-holders.
9 th session (8-24 September)	<p>The Council adopted resolutions and decisions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The consideration and extension of several thematic and country special procedures mandates; ● Human rights issues in a number of thematic areas including international solidarity; the right to development; unilateral coercive measures; migrants; indigenous peoples; protection of civilians in armed conflict; transitional justice; the right to the truth; missing persons; and human rights voluntary goals; ● Effective implementation of international human rights instruments; ● Draft UN guidelines for the appropriate use and conditions of alternative care for children; ● The human rights situation in Sudan; ● Follow-up to the special session on the right to food; ● Commemorative session on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and ● Strengthening of the Human Rights Council. <p>The Council also agreed on President's statements on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The human rights situation in Haiti; and ● Follow-up to UPR modalities and practices.



SESSIONS	OUTCOMES
6 th special session (23-24 January)	The Council adopted a resolution on human rights violations emanating from Israeli military attacks and incursions in the occupied Palestinian territory.
7 th special session (22 May)	The Council adopted a resolution by consensus on the negative impact of the worsening world food crisis on the realization of the right to food for all.
8 th special session (28 November and 1 December)	The Council adopted a resolution by consensus on the human rights situation in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Supporting Special Procedures

What are Special Procedures?

The UN Human Rights Council's special procedures consist of independent human rights experts who investigate and report on alleged human rights violations from a thematic or country-specific perspective. They cover all sets of rights, including civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights, and are core to the UN human rights machinery. As independent and objective experts who are able to monitor and rapidly respond to allegations of violations occurring anywhere in the world, they play a critical role in promoting and protecting human rights.

The mandate-holders—known as Special Rapporteurs, Representatives of the Secretary-General, Independent Experts, or members of Working Groups—serve in their personal capacities. With their mandates established by the Human Rights Council, they are not UN staff members and do not receive salaries or any other financial remuneration for their work. They uphold their mandates through independence, probity, impartiality, equity, honesty and good faith.

Mandate-holders respond to individual complaints, conduct studies and visit countries, provide advice, engage in advocacy, raise public awareness and work in partnership with NGOs. They regularly prepare written submissions, or “communications,” addressed to specific governments, drawing attention to individual cases or situations where human rights have allegedly been violated or make urgent appeals on behalf of alleged victims of violations. They interact regularly with actual and potential victims of human rights violations and constitute a unique link between governments, national institutions and civil society.

In 2008, OHCHR supported between 38 and 40 special procedures mandates (30 thematic and eight to ten country-specific), as well as a committee designed to promote greater coordination among the various mandates. OHCHR's Special Procedures Division provides direct support for the majority of thematic mandates and works closely with other parts of OHCHR that service the country mandates and other thematic special procedures. The Division

provides thematic, fact-finding, policy and legal expertise, conducts research and analysis, and provides assistance with logistical and administrative matters.

Special Procedures in 2008: Facts and Figures

In 2008, with OHCHR's support, special procedures mandate-holders:

- Conducted 53 fact-finding missions to 48 countries.
- Adopted a revised manual of operations and an internal advisory procedure on practices and working methods at their 15th Annual Meeting.
- Submitted 135 reports to the Human Rights Council (120 by thematic mandate-holders), including 79 annual reports and 56 country visits reports, and 19 reports to the General Assembly (by thematic mandate-holders).
- Issued 177 press statements, 25 of them issued jointly by two or more mandate-holders.
- Sent 911 communications to 118 countries. Communications sent dealt with the cases of 2,206 individuals, 20 per cent of whom were women. Governments replied to 34 per cent of communications, and 15 per cent of all communications were followed up by mandate-holders.

Context

The Human Rights Council, created in 2006, assumed the functions of the former Commission on Human Rights, including those relating to the special procedures. The General Assembly resolution establishing the Council gave it the responsibility of reviewing, improving and rationalizing the system of special procedures, a process undertaken in 2007 and 2008. The result was an extension of all thematic mandates and the creation of two new mandates: contemporary forms of slavery, and access to water and sanitation. All country mandates were extended, with the exception of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Liberia.

The review process legitimized and strengthened existing mandates. A new selection procedure was established to ensure the highest standard of



UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, James Anaya, meets with indigenous communities in Nepal, November 2008.

independence and expertise of mandate-holders. In 2008, 27 new thematic and country mandate-holders were appointed by the Council under this new procedure. The Council also created new activities for some mandate-holders, such as an annual regional consultation for the Working Group on Mercenaries and an annual Forum on Minorities guided by the Independent Expert on minority issues.

Highlights in 2008 included a special session of the Human Rights Council to address the world food crisis. The session, held in May, was called at the initiative of the new Special Rapporteur on the right to food. The Council requested that thematic mandates closely scrutinize several critical situations, including in relation to the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Special procedures were involved in preparations for the 2009 Durban Review Conference, intended to review implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference against Racism in 2001.

The Coordination Committee of Special Procedures worked with the Human Rights Council on reviewing mandates and harmonizing special procedures working methods. At its 15th annual meeting, the Committee adopted its revised manual of operations for special procedures and an internal advisory procedure on practices and working methods, both of which took into account provisions of the Code of Conduct for special procedures mandate-holders.

Another notable development in 2008 was the emergence of new synergies between the special procedures and the new Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Many States under review have now invited special procedures mandate-holders to visit their countries. Four States under review issued standing invitations, bringing to 63 the total number of standing invitations. Increasingly, States under review are addressing issues of concern to special procedures in the dialogue that forms part of the review process. These issues also typically feature in the recommendations of the UPR Working Group.

The work of special procedures is also strongly linked with that of other human rights mechanisms and OHCHR's work at the country level. OHCHR's field presences, such as country and regional offices and human rights advisers to UN country teams, are actively involved in supporting country visits, following up with governments on implementation of recommendations, and establishing and maintaining contacts with civil society and potential or actual victims of human rights violations. Information stemming from the work of special procedures is critical in identifying, assessing, and addressing gaps in the implementation of human rights at the country level, and informs the work of the Office in ensuring greater compliance with human rights standards. In addition, many mandate-holders and the Special Procedures Division work closely with treaty bodies to ensure that references to recommendations made by mandate-holders are included in treaty bodies' concluding observations wherever appropriate.

Activities

- ▶ Provided substantive and administrative support to special procedures mandate-holders for fact-finding missions and for the subsequent drafting and submission of reports to the Human Rights Council and General Assembly.
- ▶ Assisted mandate-holders in preparing more than 900 communications, including allegation letters and urgent appeals. Also assisted in disseminating information related to the work of the mandate-holders by preparing press releases and arranging press conferences and interviews.
- ▶ Arranged information sessions, briefing kits and guidance for the 27 new mandate-holders appointed during 2008.
- ▶ Supported increased coordination between mandate-holders, including joint missions, reports, communications, and press releases, and supported the Coordination Committee in its efforts to harmonize methodology and advocate on behalf of mandate-holders.
- ▶ Ensured regular contact between mandate-holders and key stakeholders such as governments, OHCHR field presences, UN agencies, civil society, including academic institutions, and the private sector in the context of country visits, regional consultations and Human Rights Council sessions. Also ensured that the views of these stakeholders would be considered in the analysis of emerging human rights issues and in the implementation of special procedures recommendations.
- ▶ Provided substantive input to and guidance on Council processes, including the review, rationalization and improvement of special procedures, the establishment of the new selection procedure, the UPR process and the Durban Review process.
- ▶ Organized several consultations and seminars for thematic special procedures, for example a regional meeting on mercenaries in Moscow for countries from Eastern Europe and Central Asia with participation of a wide range of stakeholders, including a private military and security company in the region.
- ▶ Collaborated with other parts of OHCHR on substantive issues and activities, including: the newly created Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to enhance cooperation and avoid duplication of work; the 2008 Social Forum on issues concerning the eradication of poverty in the context of human rights and the social dimension of the globalization process; the Forum on Minority Issues, under the guidance of the independent expert on minority issues; and the OHCHR Migration Task Force, in relation to the human rights of migrants, trafficking, arbitrary detention, terrorism and racism.
- ▶ Expanded public and internal information tools, including enhancements to the special procedures website, to increase public awareness about specific human rights issues addressed by special procedures.

Results

- ▶ Renewal of all thematic mandates by the Human Rights Council and the creation of two new mandates—on contemporary forms of slavery and on human rights obligations related to accessing safe drinking water and sanitation.
- ▶ Greater visibility and involvement of special procedures in crisis situations. For example, the non-renewal of the country mandate for the Democratic Republic of the Congo led to the Council giving new reporting functions, related to the situation in the country, to several thematic mandate-holders. Other mandate-holders continued and finalized their work on the situation in Sudan in early 2008.
- ▶ Critical human rights issues were raised in the Human Rights Council, with the support of special procedures mandate-holders and other UN partners. For example, in May 2008, a special session of the Council was convened at the initiative of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food. The Special Rapporteur's work was also extensively used by OHCHR and other parts of

the UN system, and widely disseminated by the media.

- ▶ Four additional countries (Australia, the Republic of Korea, Monaco and Zambia) extended a standing invitation to thematic special procedures, bringing the total number to 63.
- ▶ Improved coordination among mandate-holders through the Coordination Committee led to the adoption of the revised manual of operations of special procedures and an internal advisory procedure at the 15th annual meeting of mandate-holders.
- ▶ A smooth transition was achieved between outgoing and new mandate-holders.
- ▶ There were more regular exchanges of information with other UN agencies on thematic issues relevant to mandate-holders, such as those in the context of the Forum on Minority Issues and with the UN Development Programme, to strengthen their engagement with minorities in development processes.
- ▶ Strengthened cooperation with regional organizations, including: cooperation among several mandate-holders with the Council of Europe and European bodies; cooperation between the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons and the African Union to develop a legally binding instrument on the protection of internally displaced persons; and collaboration of the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders with African, European and Latin American counterparts to ensure effective implementation of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.
- ▶ Closer engagement with civil society through regular consultations and briefings at the national and regional levels by current and newly appointed mandate-holders.
- ▶ Improved public access to information on special procedures through the creation, upgrading and translation of web pages for most mandates and the Coordination Committee.
- ▶ The Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons in cooperation with the Brookings-Bern project on displacement, developed and published a manual for law and policy makers on protecting internally displaced persons, which operationalizes the guiding principles on internal displacement.



UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Yakin Ertürk, addresses a press conference during her visit to Tajikistan, May 2008.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The demands on the Office in relation to servicing the special procedures system continue to increase, as do the demands on individual mandate-holders. It appears highly likely that the Human Rights Council will continue to establish new thematic mandates, particularly in the field of economic, social and cultural rights. In addition, special sessions of the Human Rights Council have given rise to additional requests to mandate-holders to undertake urgent activities that have not been foreseen in their regular programme of work. These demand additional human and financial resources.
- ▶ The UPR has given new visibility to the special procedures and created new opportunities for mandate-holders to contribute to discussions of human rights issues at the country level. There is a need to ensure coordinated follow-up to recommendations emanating from both the UPR and special procedures mechanisms as well as other human rights mechanisms.

Special Procedures in Practice

China

On 26 August 2008, the Chinese authorities released a long-term political prisoner whose detention had been determined as arbitrary by the Working Group on arbitrary detention in November 2005.

Ecuador

The Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples visited Ecuador in May 2008 with the aim of contributing to the ongoing debates in the country regarding the process of constitutional review. The meeting had been organized at the initiative of various indigenous organizations and the President of the Constitutional Assembly of Ecuador, in collaboration with the UN Development Programme. After meeting with a wide range of national stakeholders, the Special Rapporteur made a series of observations to the Government. These observations were considered by the Constitutional Assembly and are informing the national debate on Constitutional inclusion of the “plurinational” character of the country, collective rights, rights over lands and territories, and the principle of free, prior and informed consent.

Lebanon

On 25 August 2008, two men were released after three years of detention without any charges having been brought against them. The Working Group on arbitrary detention had previously declared their detention, as well as the detention of six other persons, as arbitrary.

Togo

In December 2008, the Special Rapporteur on torture welcomed the

decision by the Government of the Republic of Togo to abolish the death penalty - a step that he had recommended following his visit to the country in 2007 (see A/HRC/7/3/Add.5, para. 113).

Turkey

On 8 October 2008, the German, Austrian and Swiss Governments announced that they would withdraw from a project to build the Ilisu Dam and Hydro-Electric Power Plant Project on the River Tigris if the Turkish authorities failed to solve the associated social and environmental problems within 60 days. All governments concerned had received a communication from the Special Rapporteur on the right to food in October 2006, which warned that the building of the Ilisu Dam in Turkey would displace and impoverish more than 50,000 Kurdish people and flood the 10,000-year-old town of Hasankeyf.

United Kingdom

In the report on her country visit to the United Kingdom (A/HRC/7/10/Add.3), the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief expressed concerns at the continued existence of the common law offence of blasphemy. She recommended that the Government decriminalize blasphemy as an insult to a religion and fully implement protections for individuals against incitement to racial or religious hatred. Subsequent debates in the Houses of Parliament and a report of the Joint Committee on Human Rights explicitly referred to her recommendations. In July 2008, new laws came into force abolishing

the offences of blasphemy and blasphemous libel.

Forum On Minority Issues

The inaugural Forum on Minority Issues was held in Geneva on 15 and 16 December on the issue of “Minorities and the Right to Education”. The Forum attracted over 370 individuals, including delegates from over 40 UN Member States and approximately 90 non-governmental organizations. The Independent Expert on minority issues guided the work of the Forum, which concluded with a series of thematic recommendations.

The effects of private military and security companies: Regulation and oversight

In October 2008, the Working Group on mercenaries held its regional consultations for the Eastern European and Central Asian region. The meeting, the theme of which was “The effects of private military and security companies: Regulation and oversight”, attracted over 50 participants, including government representatives, resource persons with expertise in the subject of private military and security companies, civil society, academics, the International Committee of the Red Cross, representatives of inter-governmental organizations, and a representative from a private military and security company. The Working Group recommended the elaboration and adoption of a new international convention on the regulation of private military and security companies, including an accompanying model law.

SPECIAL PROCEDURES MANDATE-HOLDERS (as at 31 December 2008)

Mandate	Established in	Mandate-holder
Country mandates		
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Burundi	2004	Mr. Akich OKOLA (<i>Kenya</i>)
Special Representative of the Secretary-General for human rights in Cambodia	1993	Mr. Yash Ghai (<i>Kenya</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2004	Mr. Vitit MUNTARBHORN (<i>Thailand</i>)
Independent Expert appointed by the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Haiti	1995	Mr. Michel FORST (<i>France</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar	1992	Mr. Tomas OJEA QUINTANA (<i>Argentina</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967	1993	Mr. Richard FALK (<i>United States of America</i>)
Independent Expert appointed by the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Somalia	1993	Mr. Shamsul BARI (<i>Bangladesh</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the situation on human rights in the Sudan	2005	Ms. Sima SAMAR (<i>Afghanistan</i>)
Thematic mandates		
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	Ms. Raquel ROLNIK (<i>Brazil</i>)
Working Group on people of African descent	2002	Ms. Maya SAHLI (<i>Algeria</i>) Mr. Joe FRANS (<i>Sweden</i>) Ms. Monorama BISWAS (<i>Bangladesh</i>) Ms. Mirjana NAJCEVSKA (<i>The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</i>) Mr. Ralston Milton NETTLEFORD (<i>Jamaica</i>)
Working Group on arbitrary detention	1991	Ms. Manuela Carmena CASTRILLO (<i>Spain</i>) Chairperson-Rapporteur, Ms. Shaheen Sardar ALI (<i>Pakistan</i>), Mr. Malick El Hadji SOW (<i>Senegal</i>), Mr. Aslan ABASHIDZE (<i>Russian Federation</i>), Mr. Roberto GARRETON (<i>Chile</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	1990	Ms. Najat M'jid MAALA (<i>Morocco</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the right to education	1998	Mr. Vernor MUÑOZ VILLALOBOS (<i>Costa Rica</i>)
Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances	1980	Mr. Santiago CORCUERA (<i>Mexico</i>) Mr. Jeremy SARKIN (<i>South Africa</i>) Mr. Darko GÖTTLICHER (<i>Croatia</i>) Mr. Saeed Rajae HORASANI (<i>Islamic Republic of Iran</i>), Mr. Olivier de FROUVILLE (<i>France</i>)
Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	1982	Mr. Philip ALSTON (<i>Australia</i>)
Independent expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights	2000	Mr. Cephas LUMINA (<i>Zambia</i>)
Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty	1998	Ms María Magdalena SEPULVEDA CARMONA (<i>Chile</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the right to food	2000	Mr. Olivier De SCHUTTER (<i>Belgium</i>)



Mandate	Established in	Mandate-holder
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression	1993	Mr. Frank LA RUE LEWY (Guatemala)
Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief	1986	Ms. Asma JAHANGIR (Pakistan)
Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health	2002	Mr. Anand GROVER (India)
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders	2000	Ms. Margaret SEKAGGYA (Uganda)
Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers	1994	Mr. Leandro DESPOUY (Argentina)
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples	2001	Mr. James ANAYA (United States of America)
Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons	2004	Mr. Walter Kälin (Switzerland)
Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity	2005	Mr. Rudi Muhammad RIZKI (Indonesia)
Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination	2005	Mr. Alexander Ivanovich NIKITIN (Russian Federation) Chairperson-Rapporteur Mr. José GÓMEZ DEL PRADO (Spain) Ms. Najat AL-HAJJAJI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) Ms. Amada BENAVIDES DE PÉREZ (Colombia) Ms. Shaista SHAMEEM (Fiji)
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants	1999	Mr. Jorge A. BUSTAMANTE (Mexico)
Independent Expert on minority issues	2005	Ms. Gay J. McDOUGALL (United States of America)
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism , racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	1993	Mr. Githu MUIGAI (Kenya)
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery , including its causes and consequences	2007	Ms. Gulnara SHAHINIAN (Armenia)
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism	2005	Mr. Martin SCHEININ (Finland)
Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	1985	Mr. Manfred NOWAK (Austria)
Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights	1995	Mr. Okechukwu IBEANU (Nigeria)
Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons , especially in women and children	2004	Ms. Joy Ngozi EZEILO (Nigeria)
Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises	2005	Mr. John Ruggie (United States of America)
Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation	2008	Ms. Catarina de ALBUQUERQUE (Portugal)
Special Rapporteur on violence against women , its causes and consequences	1985	Ms. Yakin ERTÜRK (Turkey)

Thematic Human Rights Challenges

OHCHR provides legal and policy advice and undertakes substantive research on a broad range of thematic human rights issues. OHCHR's thematic programmes are implemented by the Research and Right to Development Division, whose work is divided between two branches—one focused on the rule of law, equality and anti-discrimination, the other on development and economic and social issues.

Approach

The Division has three main objectives:

- ▶ To integrate human rights and their gender dimension into development, humanitarian, peace and security, governance and rule-of-law programmes and activities of the UN system;
- ▶ To integrate the promotion and protection of the right to development in global partnerships for development; and
- ▶ To increase knowledge and understanding of thematic human rights issues through research, analysis, preparation of methodological tools, and training, with the aim of strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights at the country level and supporting human rights bodies.

The Division's work is grounded in research and analysis using both in-house and external expertise. Numerous research projects are undertaken each year, from mapping exercises aimed at identifying emerging human rights trends, to legal analyses of legislation and institutional arrangements for addressing human rights problems, to documenting good practices in the implementation of human rights. The results inform OHCHR's policy planning and programming at all levels of the organization. Staff in the Division work closely with OHCHR geographical staff and staff in country and regional offices, sharing knowledge and applying it to a local context, undertaking needs assessments, and participating in the development and implementation of country-engagement strategies. They also work with colleagues in supporting the Human Rights Council, the Universal Periodic Review, special

procedures and treaty bodies. A range of policy and methodological tools and learning packages that are produced are used at the country and headquarters levels to build the capacity of national institutions, civil society and other partners. OHCHR staff also work with other parts of the United Nations to help mainstream understanding of human rights and ensure that a human rights perspective is built into programmes implemented by other UN programmes and agencies.

Freedom of expression versus advocacy of religious hatred

Twelve renowned experts from different regions and varied backgrounds participated in an OHCHR seminar in Geneva, in October, intended to clarify the links between Articles 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in relation to freedom of expression and advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence. Over 200 observers, including representatives from governments, other UN agencies, regional organizations, the media and non-governmental organizations also took part in the seminar.

One of the conclusions to emerge from the two-day discussion was that existing international human rights standards ensure freedom of expression is fully protected as a fundamental and empowering human right while at the same time providing for safeguards against incitement to hatred that might lead to violence and mass human rights violations, including genocide. The challenge is to make sure that various legal and policy instruments already at the disposal of Governments are used effectively to encourage greater tolerance and acceptance of diversity including through education, inter-faith dialogue and inter-cultural exchanges.

Rule of Law and Democracy

The Rule of Law and Democracy Unit works with Member States to identify where domestic laws fall short of established international standards; advises on necessary legislative and policy reforms to



OHCHR's "Dignity and Justice for Detainees" initiative sought to highlight the plight and the rights of detainees around the world.

strengthen national protection systems; and provides the methodological tools and training needed to enhance the capacity and efficiency of State institutions. Within OHCHR, the unit provides legal advice to management, special procedures mandate-holders, OHCHR field operations and UN partners. It also contributes to the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force by leading the Working Group on "Protecting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism".

Activities

- ▶ Provided legal support to, *inter alia*, the Secretariat of the High-level Fact-Finding Mission to Beit Hanoun, established under Human Rights Council resolution S-3/1, and an inquiry panel on the response of the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) to xenophobic violence in South Africa, as well as on several matters concerning human rights and traditional, customary and indigenous legal systems. Technical assistance on human rights issues was also provided to Iraqi lawyers in Jordan and to prosecutors, lawyers and the police in Rwanda.
- ▶ In the area of transitional justice, where OHCHR has been designated as the lead entity within the UN system, the Office promoted the use of existing standards and rule of law policy tools, including by providing training on monitoring legal systems for field-based staff in Liberia and organizing an expert workshop in Geneva. In 2008, the Office finalized the second series of its Rule of Law Tools for Post-Conflict States, including on the legacy of hybrid courts, reparations programmes, amnesties, national consultations on transitional justice, and archives. Two regional seminars (Asia Pacific and Africa regions) were organized to operationalize the tools and to take stock of activities and needs.
- ▶ Provided expert and technical support to the UN Democracy Fund on democracy and rule of law-related projects.
- ▶ Undertook consultations on the Draft Principles on the Administration of Justice by Military Tribunals, which are pending consideration by the Human Rights Council.
- ▶ Provided expert advice to OHCHR field presences and other UN agencies on the issue of detention in peace operations and conflict, and provided expert support to the High Commissioner's initiative on "Dignity and Justice for Detainees Week" (6-12 October 2008).
- ▶ Submitted two *amicus curiae* briefs in proceedings before the Cambodian Supreme Court and before the Guatemalan Constitutional Court, and supported the creation of a web-based model network of judges on the application of international human rights at the national level.
- ▶ Undertook research on the impact of terrorism and counter-terrorism measures on key human rights obligations, particularly in the field of economic, social and cultural rights. An Expert Meeting was held on these topics in November 2008 under the auspices of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Working Group "Protecting human rights while countering terrorism".
- ▶ Provided legal advice to OHCHR and the human rights components of peacekeeping missions on such issues as UN authority, and privileges and immunities of OHCHR staff and special procedures mandate-holders.
- ▶ Increased engagement with relevant staff of the International Criminal Court, including in respect of detention, witness protection and prosecution.
- ▶ Held expert meetings on witness protection and national commissions of inquiry, and supported the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in developing a model law and model agreement on witness protection. The Office also provided technical assistance to the Government of Argentina in organizing an international conference on witness protection, held in October 2008.

Dignity and Justice for Detainees Week

As part of the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, OHCHR designated the week of 6-12 October as the “Dignity and Justice for Detainees Week” to draw attention to the rights of people who are deprived of their liberty. The initiative worked to make the public aware that detainees do not forego their human rights while in detention, to help national authorities to improve respect for detainees’ rights, and to raise the international profile of issues related to the rights of detainees.

Results

- ▶ Judges in the Argentina gained new knowledge and an opportunity to exchange experiences through new, pilot web-based networks on witness protection and on the application of international human rights standards.
- ▶ Increased understanding among UN staff and national stakeholders of international standards and good practices in transitional justice processes, through the new transitional justice tools and training on their use in post-conflict States.
- ▶ Improved guidance materials on international standards relating to witness protection.
- ▶ Greater consistency in agreements used by OHCHR for the establishment of national and regional OHCHR offices through the elaboration of standard model agreements.



Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Work undertaken in 2008 emphasized the ongoing need to underline the indivisibility, inter-dependence and inter-relatedness of human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, particularly with the aim of encouraging an appropriate human rights approach in programming within the UN system.
- ▶ Due to the high turnover of staff in field presences, particularly within peace-keeping operations, efforts must be made to disseminate and raise awareness of human rights standards and transitional justice tools so as to facilitate their implementation and consistency of policy in this area.

Anti-discrimination

The fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, are priorities for OHCHR. The Anti-Discrimination Unit provides substantive and organizational support to the mechanisms established in the follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and to the preparatory process of the Durban Review Conference. The unit is also responsible for ensuring that efforts to counter racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance extend across the UN system.

Activities

- ▶ Serviced the annual sessions of the mechanisms created to follow up the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, including the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.
- ▶ Provided substantive and organizational support to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Human Rights Council on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards, and prepared reports on issues pertaining to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance as mandated by relevant resolutions of the Council and the General Assembly.
- ▶ In preparation for the Durban Review Conference, which is scheduled to take place in April 2009, the Office serviced the Conference’s

preparatory committee and its bureau, the Inter-sessional Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group and its informal group of “Friends of the Chair”, and regional preparatory meetings in Brasilia, Brazil and Abuja, Nigeria. OHCHR also provided support to the formal and informal negotiations on the draft outcome document of the Conference.

- ▶ In commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, OHCHR held a high-level panel discussion on “Dignity and Justice – the Cornerstones of Combating Racial Discrimination”.
- ▶ Initiated research and drafted guidelines on national legislation relating to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Results

- ▶ Increased public awareness and understanding of the preparatory process for the Durban Review Conference.
- ▶ Organized and supported preparatory meetings held in the lead-up to the 2009 Durban Review Conference.
- ▶ Met the requirements of the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly with respect to the preparation and submission of requested reports and studies.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The preparatory process for the Durban Review Conference led to a substantial increase in the workload of the Anti-discrimination Unit and precluded completion of a number of other technical cooperation projects on related issues.

Indigenous Peoples and Minorities

Indigenous peoples and minorities are often victims of discrimination and are among the poorest in many countries. OHCHR’s Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Unit works to improve human rights protection for indigenous peoples and minorities at the international and national levels through strategies such as strengthening laws, policies and practices and promoting the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Declaration on Minorities and other key standards.



Participant of the seventh session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Activities

- ▶ Organized the inaugural meeting of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, coordinated the Inter-Agency Group on Minorities, and played an active role in the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples’ Issues.
- ▶ Provided technical assistance in a number of countries and regions, including training for Parliamentarians of the Republic of the Congo to facilitate passing a law on indigenous peoples.
- ▶ Launched a regional project on the promotion of the rights of Afro-descendants in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru and cooperated with regional bodies, including the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights and the Council of Europe.

- ▶ Promoted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the UN Development Group guidelines on indigenous peoples, contributed to the UN Development Programme (UNDP) resource guide on minorities in development and to the UNDP/Inter-Parliamentary Union project “Promoting Inclusive Parliaments”.
- ▶ Conducted consultations to inform new guidelines, including on indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation, on indigenous peoples and extractive industries, and on policing in diverse societies.
- ▶ Produced a range of information tools, including regular newsletters on indigenous peoples and on minorities, a booklet and a poster on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and guidelines on developing country-engagement strategies for minorities.
- ▶ Implemented five fellowship programmes (indigenous programmes in English, Russian and Spanish and minority programmes in English and Arabic), involving ten months of training, in partnership with universities in Spain (Bilbao) and the Russian Federation (Moscow) and in close cooperation with agencies, including the International Labour Organization, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNDP, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the UN Institute for Training and Research.
- ▶ Indigenous and minority issues are now more systematically considered in the work of treaty bodies and special procedures mechanisms, following efforts to raise awareness among NGOs and other key stakeholders.
- ▶ Twenty-nine newly trained minority and indigenous fellows (15 men and 14 women) are empowered to use human rights mechanisms to the benefit of their communities and to lead local training activities in the 20 countries they represent.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Close cooperation with OHCHR field offices is essential for responding to rising demand for targeted assistance on indigenous peoples and minority issues and to raise awareness of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other key documents.
- ▶ Recent developments, such as the launch of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Forum on Minority Issues, increase the need for close cooperation among the relevant UN bodies to ensure maximum impact of the UN's work in this area.

Results

- ▶ OHCHR's work in establishing and supporting the new Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has led to a new avenue for addressing the human rights concerns of indigenous peoples.
- ▶ The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has become a central tool to advance the rights of indigenous peoples and is increasingly used as a normative reference at the international, regional and local levels.
- ▶ Engagement with governments and national legislatures on indigenous issues has resulted in concrete improvements in legislation and policies on indigenous peoples and minorities, such as an improved draft law on indigenous peoples in the Republic of the Congo and increased attention to the concerns of Afro-descendants in Latin America.
- ▶ Indigenous peoples and minority issues are more consistently integrated into the work of UN agencies and in the implementation of UN programmes in various countries and regions.

Indigenous and minority fellowships

The indigenous and minority fellowship programmes bring together indigenous experts and individuals belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and provides them with information about the UN system and mechanisms dealing with international human rights, particularly minority rights and rights of indigenous peoples. Evaluations of programmes held so far show that, in addition to increasing their knowledge of indigenous peoples' and minority rights, the training also bolsters fellows' self-confidence and encourages them to assume leadership positions in their organizations and communities. For example, in 2008, a former indigenous fellow was elected to the Finnish Sami Parliament. When returning to their countries, trained fellows are encouraged to advocate for and protect the rights of their communities by using human rights mechanisms, particularly special procedures. Many of them also lead local training activities, sharing the knowledge they have acquired. In October 2008, one of the minority fellows from Bangladesh trained 15 students of his Bihari community who were living in six different settlements. This training raised minority students' awareness of their rights, and more of the same activities have been requested.



Members of a group that campaigns for women's rights in the Bundelkhand region of India.

Women's Human Rights and Gender

Whether in conflict or in peace, human rights violations based on deeply rooted gender inequality and far-reaching discrimination against women are a constant reality. Established in late 2006, the Women's Human Rights and Gender Unit works to address a range of gender-related human rights issues, with a particular focus on gender mainstreaming and integration of women's rights into the programmes and planning of OHCHR and other parts of the UN system.

Activities

- ▶ Finalized and published two legal analyses on prosecuting perpetrators of sexual violence during and in the aftermath of conflict and the use of temporary special measures related to economic and social rights to ensure that women survivors of rape in post-conflict countries have access to justice. The studies are available on the OHCHR website.
- ▶ Launched a new study on discriminatory laws to assist governments to identify mechanisms to eliminate *de jure* discrimination against women.
- ▶ In collaboration with government and non-government stakeholders, organized and participated in panel discussions at the Human Rights Council on violence against women, maternal mortality as a human rights issue, and the integration of a gender perspective in the work of the Council.
- ▶ Assisted OHCHR field presences in their work on gender-related issues, including finalizing a gender strategy for OHCHR Colombia, follow-up training for Palestinian human rights defenders to develop a strategy to combat crimes committed in the name of honour, and training on gender-based violence in Sudan, the occupied Palestinian territory, for Iraqi NGOs and for judges from the United Arab Emirates.
- ▶ With the aim of improving gender integration within OHCHR, established a high-level OHCHR Gender Evaluation Reference Group to follow and guide the Office-wide gender evaluation planned for 2009, opened a weekly "Gender Clinic" for OHCHR staff, and approved an OHCHR Task Force on Women's Rights and Gender, which will begin its work in 2009.
- ▶ Commissioned legal analyses of international, regional and national legislation on sexual orientation and gender identity that will form the basis for developing policies and standards during 2009.
- ▶ Participated in a number of international meetings on women's rights and gender-related issues, including: the 43rd session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights and related NGO Forum (Swaziland); the VI African

Development Forum (Addis Ababa), focusing on empowerment of women and combating violence; Amnesty International's annual strategic planning meeting for the last phase of its Campaign for the elimination of violence against women; and the French European Union Presidency's EU-NGO Forum on the implementation of new EU guidelines on violence against women and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. OHCHR also continued to be actively involved in the "UN-Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict" initiative.

Results

- ▶ OHCHR's development of legal positions on various aspects of access to justice for victims of sexual violence has laid the groundwork for protecting women's rights during and after conflict, and for advocating and developing more tools, guidelines and learning resources in this area.
- ▶ Direct collaboration with special procedures, particularly on violence against women and torture, led to strategic interventions to advance women's rights and improved understanding of the nexus between housing and domestic violence.
- ▶ Following the unit's work to promote awareness of laws that discriminate against women, including panel discussions, briefings, analyses

and follow-up with Member States, a resolution on this issue was proposed in the Human Rights Council.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Making a difference in the area of gender and women's rights requires a combination of capacity-building and fresh legal analyses, research and the development of learning resources in priority areas. Different interpretations of gender integration and mainstreaming have also proved challenging.
- ▶ The unit will be faced with the additional task of playing a leading role in ensuring implementation of recommendations coming from the Office-wide gender evaluation during 2009.

Millennium Development Goals and the Right to Development

In her 2005 Plan of Action, the High Commissioner committed the Office to working more closely with other parts of the UN system and national partners to integrate human rights into the full range of development work, including in the areas of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), poverty reduction and HIV/AIDS.

"Full and equal members of the human family"

"Those who are lesbian, gay or bisexual, those who are transgender, transsexual or intersex, are full and equal members of the human family and are entitled to be treated as such," UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navanethem Pillay told high-level panel discussion on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity, held at UN Headquarters in New York on 18 December 2008.

"No human being should be denied their human rights simply because of their perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. No human being should be subject to discrimination, violence, criminal sanctions, or abuse simply because of their perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

It is not easy for decades of prejudice and intolerance to disappear by the stroke of the legislators' pen, but change must be started. It is our task and our challenge to move beyond a debate on whether all human beings have rights – for such questions were long ago laid to rest by the Universal Declaration – and instead to secure the climate for implementation" the High Commissioner said.



Protesters in California call for an end to discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Activities

Human rights mainstreaming

- ▶ Supported human rights mainstreaming within the UN system, with a particular focus on strengthening support to the role of UN Resident Coordinators in promoting human rights as a common UN value and coordinating mainstreaming activities within UN country teams. OHCHR contributed to induction briefings and other trainings for Resident Coordinators, and provided policy guidance and training to UN country team personnel in Ecuador, Iran, Liberia, Moldova and Serbia on mainstreaming human rights and applying a human rights-based approach to their work.
- ▶ Undertook activities to strengthen linkages and operational coherence between the human rights-based approach and other key principles guiding UN programming, namely gender equality, environmental sustainability, capacity

development and results-based management. In collaboration with the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP), learning modules on human rights-based approaches and environmental sustainability were developed within the UN Common Learning Package and were incorporated into UNEP training programmes in different regions.

- ▶ Successfully concluded the inter-agency Action 2 Global Programme that has helped build the capacity of over 60 UN country teams to more effectively meet national demands for strengthening human rights protection systems.
- ▶ Chaired the third inter-agency workshop on implementing the human rights-based approach, which took stock of progress achieved in mainstreaming human rights into the UN system and canvassed ideas for follow-up to strengthen inter-agency collaboration and support mainstreaming efforts at the country level.

Action 2 Global Programme: Delivering as One UN on Human Rights

The Action 2 Global Programme, launched in 2004 as a three-year initiative and extended for an additional year in 2007, concluded in December 2008. The programme was designed as a multi-agency initiative aimed at reinforcing the capacity of UN country teams to integrate human rights-based approaches into their work and support governments and civil society to build up national human rights protection systems. A small secretariat located within OHCHR's New York Office supported the programme and its Interagency Task Force chaired by OHCHR, in close collaboration with the UN Development Programme as administrative agent and with input from a system-wide Reference Group. In all, the Action 2 Programme disbursed over US\$ 9 million, contributed by governments from Belgium, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom and Sweden.

Over 60 country teams received direct support from the programme, including for example advisory services, seed funding for capacity-building and joint

programming as well as learning resources and training (Afghanistan, Brazil, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Colombia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uruguay), and the deployment of human rights advisers (Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Moldova, Nicaragua, Niger, Papua New Guinea and Rwanda). A UN system-wide Common Learning Package on the human rights-based approach was developed and more than 1000 UN staff benefited from training. Action 2 also produced a number of guidance notes on key issues such as national protection systems, interaction with treaty bodies and special procedures, and suggested terms of reference for human rights theme groups for greater in-country coordination. The reviews and feedback from agencies/UN country teams indicate the high value of this programme in meeting needs at country level. They also indicate the high degree of appreciation for OHCHR's leadership and satisfaction for the cooperative inter-agency spirit that it fostered.

The key institutional partners for OHCHR in human rights

mainstreaming have included the UN Children's Fund, the UN Development Programme, the UN Development Fund for Women, the UN Population Fund, the UN Development Operations Coordination Office, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Public Information, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Labour Organization, the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, the UN Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the UN System Staff College.

With the end of the implementation phase in December 2008, the period from 1 January to 31 March 2009 will focus on finalization of activities, evaluation and final reporting. At the same time, a new UN inter-agency process will explore what comes next - how the successful outcomes and lessons learned from Action 2 can be further strengthened through system-wide coherence, collaboration and continued support for human rights mainstreaming.



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with participants of the 2008 World Economic Forum in Davos.

- ▶ Contributed to the work of the UN Development Group and the OECD Development Assistance Committee's Governance Network in preparing the Third High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, which aims to ensure that donors' aid and development policies are consistent with their international human rights commitments.

Human rights and poverty reduction

- ▶ Supported country-level initiatives in Liberia to apply a human rights-based approach to the national poverty-reduction strategy and national policies, and ensure that a human rights perspective was integrated into the UN Development Assistance Framework for Liberia.
- ▶ Finalized publications begun in 2007: "Claiming the MDGs: A Human Rights Approach", a practical guide for policy makers and practitioners to strengthen MDG-based policies and UN programming from a human rights perspective; "Guidelines on Human Rights, Health and Poverty Reduction Strategies", a joint OHCHR and WHO publication designed to help health practitioners and policy makers integrate human rights in health-sector work and national poverty-reduction strategies; and a brochure entitled, "Human Rights and the Millennium Development Goals".
- ▶ In partnership with the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the University of Oslo, launched the "Dialogues for Action: Human Rights and MDGs" initiative that held two regional dialogues. The first regional workshop was held in Johannesburg, in partnership with the South African Human Rights Commission; the second was held in Bangkok in partnership with UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. These two events brought together stakeholders from 14 countries to define various rights-based approaches to national MDG-based development strategies, and identify scope for country-level follow-up in 2009.
- ▶ Carried out a second round of consultations among Member States, civil society and international human rights expert bodies on the draft "Guiding Principles for the Implementation of Existing Human Rights Norms and Standards in

the Context of the Fight against Extreme Poverty", pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 7/27 of March 2008.

- ▶ Provided organizational and substantive servicing of the first session of the Social Forum in its new setting as a mechanism of the Human Rights Council.

Right to development

- ▶ Supported the High-level Task Force on the Implementation of the Right to Development and the Working Group on the Right to Development.
- ▶ Organized an international workshop and discussion with civil society to discuss financing for development from the perspective of human rights, including the right to development, providing input into the preparatory process leading to the Doha Review Conference on Financing for Development.
- ▶ Provided human rights input to a UN-wide preparatory process leading to the Accra High-level Forum on the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in September 2008 and undertook a joint initiative with UNICEF and the UN

Integrating human rights in financing for development

Basing development on human rights standards and principles means making sure that development policy and programmes fairly reflect the views and needs of local people and focus the most help on the neediest sectors of society, according to a workshop on "Integrating Human Rights in Financing for Development". The workshop was held in September 2008 and was jointly organized by OHCHR and civil society groups, bringing together experts and advocates from different regions to discuss a number of thematic areas covered by the Monterrey Consensus from a human rights perspective. The goal of the Monterrey Consensus, adopted in Monterrey, Mexico in 2002, is "to eradicate poverty, achieve sustainable economic growth and promote sustainable development as we advance to a fully inclusive and equitable global economic system."

Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to produce a study on aid effectiveness, human rights and gender.

- ▶ Co-organized and participated in panel discussions on human rights, trade policies and trade-related issues, raising awareness of the links among them, in preparation for a publication on trade and human rights.
- ▶ Provided substantive and secretarial support to the Independent Expert on international solidarity, with a focus on international cooperation as a key aspect of the right to solidarity.

A rights-based response to HIV/AIDS

- ▶ Provided expert advice to OHCHR field operations and UN partners on applying a rights-based response to HIV, including technical guidance at the country level on integrating human rights norms and standards into HIV-related legislation.
- ▶ Provided briefings to treaty monitoring bodies, special procedures mandate-holders and the Human Rights Council, which resulted in the adoption of HIV-specific recommendations by these human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Advocated for the centrality of human rights in the AIDS response, including at the High-level Meeting on AIDS, the International AIDS Conference, and the International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa.
- ▶ Contributed to the work of the International Task Team on HIV-related Travel Restrictions, which developed recommendations on the elimination of restrictions in the freedom of movement of people living with HIV. These restrictions are applied in some 60 countries.

- ▶ Provided grants for developing a database to document human rights violations committed against people living with HIV and for strengthening the capacity of Rwanda's National Human Rights Commission to integrate HIV into its work.

Lifting HIV-related travel restrictions

The International Task Team on HIV-related Travel Restrictions, which consists of representatives of governments, the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations and civil society, met in Geneva in April to draw up a strategy to encourage the removal of HIV-related travel restrictions worldwide. It pointed out that such restrictions raise serious human rights concerns, including violations of the principles of equality and non-discrimination, freedom of movement, and the right to privacy. The team resolved to meet regularly over a period of six months in order to develop recommendations on eliminating HIV-related travel restrictions.

Human trafficking

- ▶ Continued formulating and promoting a human rights-based approach to every aspect of combating trafficking, including developing policy guidance and creating practical tools to integrate human rights into combating human trafficking.
- ▶ Strengthened partnerships with other UN agencies and intergovernmental organizations, including within the framework of the UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, and engaged in consultations on joint projects aimed at capacity-building at the national level.
- ▶ Participated in the World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, held in Brazil in November 2008, and organized a workshop on human rights and combating trafficking of children, in which the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, UN entities and civil society organizations played a key role.
- ▶ Supported a research project implemented by the Office of the National Rapporteur of the National Human Rights Commission in Nepal on gender vulnerability, trafficking, and human rights in western Nepal.

Human rights indicators

- ▶ Developed additional illustrative indicators on selected civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights by applying the conceptual and methodological framework on the use of indicators to promote and monitor the





Indian children in New Delhi during a protest on the Global Day against Child Trafficking.

implementation of human rights
(see HRI/MC/2008/3).

- ▶ Conducted workshops and consultations on human rights indicators for country-level stakeholders, including national human rights institutions, government bodies responsible for preparing reports to treaty bodies, statistical agencies, NGOs and UN country teams.
- ▶ The human rights indicators framework developed by OHCHR in consultation with key stakeholders was endorsed by the Inter-Committee Meeting of treaty bodies in June 2008 (HRI/MC/2008/3).

Good governance and anti-corruption initiatives

- ▶ In cooperation with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and civil society, co-organized a workshop on corruption and human rights at the 13th International Anti-Corruption Conference in Athens, which raised awareness of the impact of corruption on human rights and the added value of a human rights approach to fighting corruption.

Results

- ▶ As a result of concerted efforts by OHCHR, the landmark UN Secretary-General's Policy Committee decision on Human Rights and Development came at a critical juncture in 2008, re-energizing

system-wide commitments to human rights, and clarifying the central role of human rights in both development and the Resident Coordinator system.

- ▶ High quality publications, thematic analyses and country support were provided on MDGs, poverty, HIV/AIDS and human rights, meeting numerous demands received from the field and other key partners. A notable achievement was the strengthening of partnerships with UNICEF, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the UN Development Programme and civil society actors forged through the "Dialogues for Action: MDGs and Human Rights" initiative.
- ▶ Completion of the Action 2 Global Programme, an inter-agency initiative launched in 2004 to assist UN country teams in integrating a rights-based approach in their work and improving national human rights protection systems.
- ▶ Inclusion of new learning modules in the UN Inter-agency Common Learning Package, which helped to strengthen capacity across the UN system to apply a human rights-based approach to development and HIV/AIDS-related programmes.
- ▶ Following OHCHR's participation, the Accra Action Agenda, agreed in September 2008, contained an unprecedented and widely-shared political commitment that aid policies should respect international human rights.

Rights and goals

In 2008, OHCHR published *Claiming the Millennium Development Goals: A human rights approach*, a publication that aims to show how the application of human rights standards and practices can help fill critical gaps in activities to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. One of the ideas in the new publication is that a rights-based development approach views people as active *claimants* of their rights, rather than passive beneficiaries of charitable works or government services.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Continued efforts are required to support the leadership role of UN country teams, particularly through targeted training and guidance on how senior UN staff can more effectively advocate in support of national capacity-building on human rights.
- ▶ Strengthened partnerships within the UN system are essential for generating effective results in this area of work, but they take time to build and the impact of partnership-building takes time to emerge.

- ▶ The framework of human rights indicators needs to be made more accessible to a wider group of users at the country level through resource materials and tools. These materials and tools will be more widely disseminated in 2009.

Economic and Social Issues

The Human Rights, Economic and Social Issues Unit provides policy guidance and advice to the Office and its field presences, and cooperates with the UN system and other partners in realizing rights in areas of economic, social and cultural rights; human rights and disability; human rights and business; and climate change and migration.

Activities

Economic, social and cultural rights

- ▶ Supported the Working Group on an Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, including informal consultations and a regional consultation in Egypt.
- ▶ Finalized several capacity-building tools on economic, social and cultural rights, including a paper setting out Frequently Asked Questions, a training manual, a CD-Rom toolbox, a guidance note on human rights in the context of the global food crisis, and fact sheets on the right to health.
- ▶ Conducted a pilot training workshop for 35 human rights field officers in Liberia on economic, social and cultural rights, and conducted a technical assessment mission to Haiti and Nepal.



A volunteer of an NGO speaks with two women who took shelter at the Saint-Merri gymnasium in Paris.



Disabled youth playing football as part of the activities to commemorate International Day of Peace in Liberia.

- ▶ Formulated policy statements for the High Commissioner and Deputy High Commissioner, including on the human rights implications of the global food security crisis, the right to health, the right to water, and the right to adequate housing and protection against forced evictions.
- ▶ Strengthened OHCHR's institutional partnerships with UN-Habitat, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the UN Environment Programme and other relevant UN partners working in the field of economic, social and cultural rights, including through joint programmes of work.

Human rights and disability

- ▶ Developed information materials on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol, including a thematic study on key legal measures for the ratification and implementation of the CRPD, a Questions-and-Answers on the CRPD and on the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, a joint publication with UN Mine Action Service, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and UNICEF on the CRPD and mine action, and training materials on the rights of persons with disabilities for stakeholders working with this issue.
- ▶ Co-chaired the Inter-Agency Support Group for the CRPD and led the development of a strategic action plan for the UN system on CRPD implementation.
- ▶ Supported the mainstreaming of the rights of persons with disabilities into the work of special procedures mandate-holders, specifically on torture and on the right to education.
- ▶ Commissioned expert studies giving recommendations to improve the Office's physical accessibility to persons with disabilities.
- ▶ Raised awareness and understanding of the CRPD through participation in numerous conferences and meetings and through technical assessment

missions to the Maldives and the Russian Federation.

- ▶ Conducted training on the CRPD for 35 human rights field officers and for 40 representatives of civil society organizations on the rights of persons with disabilities in Liberia.

Human rights and business

- ▶ Developed or contributed to a series of publications on business and human rights, including “Human Rights Translated: A Business Reference Guide” (jointly with the UN Global Compact, the International Business Leaders Forum and the Castan Centre for Human Rights at Monash University), a revised e-learning tool for corporations on human rights, Volume III of “Embedding Human Rights in Business Practices”, and chapters on business and human rights for the revised OHCHR Monitoring Manual.
- ▶ Supported the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations, including the development of a three-pillar analytical framework on business and human rights, which was endorsed by the Human Rights Council in June 2008.
- ▶ Participated in the UN Global Compact, retaining shared secretariat responsibility for the Global Compact Human Rights Working Group.
- ▶ Conducted pilot training on business and human rights for 35 human rights field officers in Liberia and for 20 representatives of community-based organizations in South Africa, and co-facilitated

an expert workshop on indigenous peoples and extractive industries in the Russian Federation.

- ▶ Developed a country-engagement strategy for human rights field presences to integrate corporate-related human rights issues in their work.

Climate change and environment

- ▶ Based on consultations with key UN partners and relevant NGOs, developed a thematic study on the relationship between climate change and human rights, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 7/23.
- ▶ Provided analysis and policy direction to the High Commissioner, Deputy High Commissioner and the Office in addressing the human rights dimensions of climate change.

Results

- ▶ The General Assembly’s adoption of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in December 2008 represented an important step towards recognizing the importance of these rights and enhancing their justiciability.
- ▶ The development of information and training materials on economic and social issues resulted in increased substantive understanding of economic, social and cultural rights, and of the CRPD and its Optional Protocol within the Office, by national partners and across the UN system.





Displaced children fetching water in Sudan.

- ▶ Technical assistance on economic, social and cultural rights to human rights field presences has significantly increased their work in this area with national counterparts. For example, a public report on the right to food was issued in Timor-Leste, studies on the right to adequate housing and forced evictions were undertaken in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, and on housing, land and property restitution in post-conflict northern Uganda.
- ▶ The entry into force of the CRPD and its Optional Protocol in May 2008 represented a significant development in strengthening the protection of rights of persons with disabilities internationally and at national level.
- ▶ As a result of the accessibility audits of the Office, an internal taskforce was established to ensure the Office's compliance with the CRPD concerning physical accessibility, information technology and relevant administrative and personnel guidelines to increase equal employment opportunities for persons with disabilities at OHCHR.
- ▶ The country-engagement strategy and related materials on business and human rights have resulted in greater capacity of OHCHR field offices to analyze and monitor duties and responsibilities related to corporate human rights issues.
- ▶ OHCHR's participation in the Global Compact Human Rights Working Group led to an agreement to identify "good practices" in the

implementation of Global Compact human rights principles, thereby providing better guidance to companies participating in the initiative.

- ▶ Conceptual clarity on the relationship between climate change and human rights was achieved and attention was drawn to the human rights dimensions of climate change, especially within the UN system.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ While advances were made in promoting understanding and implementation of economic, social and cultural rights, there remains a tendency at international and national levels to view these rights as of secondary importance, without clear strategies for their implementation and monitoring. Ensuring systematic, high-level engagement that will lead to meaningful change on these issues remains difficult.

Strengthening protection of economic, social and cultural rights

"The establishment of a communication procedure under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights will truly be a milestone in the history of universal human rights, sending a strong and unequivocal message about the equal value and importance of all human rights and putting to rest the notion that legal and quasi-judicial remedies are not relevant for the protection of economic, social and cultural rights",

Former High Commissioner Louise Arbour,
31 March 2008.

On 10 December 2008, the General Assembly adopted the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The Protocol enables individuals to seek justice for violations of their economic, social and cultural rights at the international level, for the first time, through the establishment of a *communications procedure* (individual complaints process) and an *inquiries procedure*. The formal adoption of the Protocol on 10 December 2008, on International Human Rights Day and during the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, was highly symbolic. For many years, the ICESCR was the only major human rights treaty lacking a petition mechanism. The Optional Protocol to the ICESCR confirms the equal value and importance of all human rights, as initially envisaged by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and remedies a long-standing gap in human rights protection under the international system.

Methodology, Education and Training

Quality and relevant policies and methodologies to support human rights implementation, programming, education and training are vital to advancing human rights protection and promotion. OHCHR's Methodology, Education and Training Unit develops guidance tools and best practices for conducting human rights work by OHCHR and other actors, and designs and delivers training. It focuses on human rights assessment and planning; human rights monitoring and investigations; human rights education and training; and human rights in peace operations. It also provides general methodological support based on changing needs, and improves understanding of human rights issues through its publications programme and its library references services.

Activities

Human rights assessment and planning

- ▶ Following the development of an Office-wide methodology for country engagement strategies in 2007, supported the trial of these methodologies at the field level.
- ▶ Advised OHCHR field offices and governments on National Human Rights Action Plans and developed an electronic resource page to facilitate knowledge sharing.
- ▶ Participated in the Inter-agency Group on Humanitarian Coordinators Learning and Briefing System.

Human rights monitoring and investigations

- ▶ Finalized guidance on "Protection of Victims, Witnesses, Sources and Other Persons Cooperating with OHCHR" in the context of OHCHR monitoring and investigations work, to be published in the first quarter of 2009.
- ▶ Produced new tools for human rights monitoring, fact-finding and protection on "Information-gathering for Analysis", "Analysis for Strategic Action" and "Using Visibility Strategies".
- ▶ Working with the UN Protection Cluster Working Group, participated in the drafting, field-testing and review of an Inter-agency Handbook on the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons.
- ▶ Conducted post-mission reviews following rapid deployment of human rights officers to Kenya, Bolivia, Somalia and Beit Hanoun in the occupied Palestinian territory as part of a new exercise to learn lessons and best practices to improve OHCHR's work in this area.
- ▶ Completed field testing of a new OHCHR database for recording human rights violations and began revising the database using results of the pilot phase. In 2008, plans were approved to roll out the database progressively to OHCHR field presences, as resources permit.
- ▶ Conducted training sessions for 48 human rights officers from OHCHR and human rights components of peace missions in Asia and Latin America on strategies and skills to monitor and protect human rights; 35 OHCHR staff assisting special procedures mandate-holders on human rights monitoring and fact-finding skills; 40 members and staff of national human rights institutions and NGOs in Ethiopia and Timor-Leste.

OHCHR staff training session on Designing, Managing and Delivering Human Rights Training, December 2008.





Police training conducted by OHCHR in Uganda, January 2008.

Human rights education and training

- ▶ Provided methodological support on the design and delivery of human rights training to OHCHR field presences, human rights components of peacekeeping operations, UN entities, and international and national government and non-governmental actors.
- ▶ Posted a series of good practices on national initiatives to integrate human rights education into national school systems on the OHCHR website.
- ▶ Facilitated joint UN action to support national human rights education initiatives by convening and supporting the UN Inter-agency Coordinating Committee for Human Rights Education in the School System, composed of 12 UN entities.
- ▶ Consolidated and delivered the OHCHR Introductory Training Course for Human Rights Field Officers, a two-week course to strengthen the skills and thematic knowledge of entry-level human rights staff.
- ▶ Trained 20 national and international human rights officers and ten indigenous and minority fellows on enhanced human rights training methodology and skills.

Human rights in peace missions

- ▶ Helped to better define OHCHR's role in respect of security sector reform by organizing a workshop and producing an internal study on human rights approaches to security sector reform in coordination with partners.
- ▶ Provided human rights input into policy directives for peacekeeping missions including: United Nations Peacekeeping Operations Principles and Guidelines (Capstone Doctrine); Policy Directive on Civil Affairs; Policy Directive on Assessment of Police and other Law Enforcement Agencies; and Temporary Detention in Peace Operations (draft).
- ▶ In collaboration with the UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), developed a training-of-trainers course for the Chadian Police that has been acknowledged as a good practice to be replicated. The course was delivered as pre-deployment training for selected police units.
- ▶ Developed training modules on arrest, detention and use of force and firearms for UN Police and Formed Police Units, in cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping

Operations/Department of Field Support Integrated Training Service.

- ▶ Provided training materials, methodological advice and personnel to support implementation of training programmes for senior leaders of peace missions.
- ▶ Uploaded more than 300 human rights guidance and reference materials onto the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) intranet and launched the new electronic resource centre on human rights in peace operations, which is available to all staff in Geneva and in the field.

General methodological support and knowledge management

- ▶ Updated the CD-ROM-based resource package for human rights officers, containing guidance and reference materials on OHCHR, UN regulations, international instruments, reports, manuals, and other publications on human rights issues to support the work of OHCHR staff.
- ▶ Carried out an internal survey on users' assessments of OHCHR guidance and training tools to identify issues on which new materials should be produced and to survey users' needs.

Reference tools and publications

- ▶ Continued to provide bibliographic and on-line information from OHCHR's library.
- ▶ Issued 11 new human rights publications and 44 translations of human rights reference materials, some jointly with other UN organizations.
- ▶ Distributed over 125,000 copies of OHCHR publications to 117 countries around the world.

Results

- ▶ Developing guidance materials and training on human rights monitoring, fact-finding and investigations contributed to the professionalization of OHCHR and strengthened the capacity of national institutions to perform this function at the national level. This work has also led to the international harmonization of methodologies in this area.
- ▶ Effectively mainstreamed women's rights and gender equality into all training activities.
- ▶ A sub-regional project on best practices and coordination of initiatives to promote human rights education in South-East Asian school systems, co-sponsored with UNESCO Bangkok,

led to the creation of national teams for human rights education in various countries, involving both key people from ministries of education and NGOs from the region.

- ▶ Improved coordination with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support resulted in the integration of human rights in a number of their policies and other guidance.
- ▶ Partnerships with academic institutions and NGOs in various sectors led to the production of specialized and high-quality guidance materials in a number of groundbreaking areas.
- ▶ Improved on-line facilities through the OHCHR library allow staff anywhere in the world to communicate directly through web pages, transmitting book requests, suggesting new acquisitions and reserving material for loan. More than 3,500 individual visitors have consulted the catalogue.
- ▶ Sustained efforts to promote major OHCHR publications in Spanish among potential readers in Latin America resulted in significantly increased demand from that region. Similar efforts are planned in other regions in 2009.
- ▶ Access to human rights information has been improved through the development of an electronic resource database accessible to the public and OHCHR staff through the OHCHR website and Intranet and the Intranet of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Training is a key function of OHCHR, but greater efforts are needed to ensure that training meets common quality standards and is based on effective methodologies. In 2009, more resources will be devoted to establishing common best practices in this area and implementing evaluation tools to assess the impact of training organized by OHCHR.
- ▶ Post-mission reviews undertaken following fact-finding missions and other missions drawing on the OHCHR rapid deployment roster have been instrumental in ensuring that lessons learned and continuous improvement are integrated into OHCHR organizational culture in a way that could be replicated in other areas of the Office's work.

Outreach

The High Commissioner's ability to make a contribution to international debate on human rights issues requires continuous engagement with Member States, the media, civil society and partners in the United Nations system. While almost all parts of OHCHR are involved in this effort to some extent, five organizational units within the Executive Direction and Management Branch play a particularly important role: the Executive Office of the High Commissioner and Deputy High Commissioner, the Donor and External Relations Section, the Communications Section, the Civil Society Unit, and the New York Office.

Leadership

In September 2008, Judge Navanethem Pillay of the International Criminal Court succeeded Louise Arbour as High Commissioner. As the United Nations' top human rights official, the High Commissioner has a broad leadership role to play in helping to raise awareness of human rights issues and stimulate discussion on effective ways to address them. A small executive office supports the work of the High Commissioner and her Deputy, providing policy advice and administrative support and coordinating policy recommendations and communications from other parts of the Office.

In 2008, OHCHR supported a wide range of events and initiatives marking the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. While organizing its own programme of events, many of which took place at the country level, the Office also encouraged other UN departments and agencies to celebrate the anniversary by drawing attention to the relevance of certain articles of the Declaration to their own areas of work and by applying rights-based approaches to their respective efforts. As part of the celebrations, the week of 6 to 12 October 2008 was devoted to a special initiative designed to highlight the rights and plight of detainees. This initiative, which involved a variety of activities under the slogan "Dignity and Justice for Detainees," was carried out in collaboration with many national human rights institutions worldwide.

Activities

In 2008, the High Commissioner and her Deputy:

- ▶ Undertook, between them, 18 official country missions to: Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Kenya, the Kyrgyz Republic, Liberia, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Qatar, Slovenia, Sweden, Thailand and the United Kingdom.
- ▶ Maintained regular, confidential communication with Member States on particular human rights concerns relating to both general issues and individual cases.

Deputy High Commissioner visiting a camp for Somali refugees in Kenya, October 2008.



- ▶ Delivered more than 70 keynote speeches.
- ▶ Addressed the Human Rights Council at each of its sessions, including a six-hour interactive dialogue on 7 March 2008 by then High Commissioner Louise Arbour, and gave speeches at a variety of UN events, including on the global food crisis at the Food and Agricultural Organizational summit in Rome and during the plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 10 December 2008 to mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- ▶ Led efforts to prepare for the 2009 Durban Review Conference, which will review challenges to implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action agreed at the 2001 World Conference against Racism. In addition to servicing meetings of the review conference's preparatory committee and its bureau, OHCHR supported a series of regional preparatory meetings, and planning for the conference itself.

Prevention and punishment are key: 60th anniversary of the Genocide Convention

The ultimate responsibility for preventing genocide lies with States, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Navanethem Pillay said on 9 December 2008, as the world marked the 60th anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The High Commissioner emphasized the need to punish the perpetrators of genocide. She also underlined that while the international community shares a collective responsibility to prevent genocide, individual States have a primary role and a higher stake in putting a stop to the crime. As of December 2008, 140 States had ratified the Genocide Convention.

Results

- ▶ Despite the transition period in the leadership of OHCHR, the High Commissioner and her deputy conducted many official country missions. These missions continued to raise the profile of the UN's human rights work and more specific human rights concerns in a number of countries.
- ▶ The High Commissioner's continuous dialogue with government authorities led to the resolution of a number of individual cases, and helped to change human rights policies at the national level.
- ▶ Communication tools such as speeches, newspaper opinion pieces, and press releases enhanced global awareness about human rights norms and principles and about OHCHR activities. For the first time, an article by the High



High Commissioner meeting the President of Colombia during her visit to Bogotá, October 2008.

Commissioner was published in a medical journal, on the right to health, sending a human rights message to medical professionals.

- ▶ The High Commissioner's coordination role in the activities for the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was crucial in attracting attention worldwide. The Office plans to conduct a survey on the impact of the anniversary campaign.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The implementation of the many new mandates given to OHCHR by UN legislative bodies is stretching the ability of the Office to respond appropriately to human rights concerns and implement its existing priorities.
- ▶ Media coverage of the High Commissioner's country missions remains uneven. Local coverage of the visits has been very good, but more engagement with international media on country visits is needed.
- ▶ OHCHR input and participation into key policy and decision-making processes at UN headquarters in New York needs to be strengthened so as to more fully and effectively integrate human rights into the UN's peace and security, development and humanitarian endeavours.

Donor and External Relations

The Donor and External Relations Section is responsible for mobilizing sufficient extra-budgetary resources from Member States and the wider donor community to enable the Office to implement its programme. To this end, the Section works to raise awareness and understanding of OHCHR's work

around the world and generate support for the objectives, priorities and implementation strategies laid out in the Office's biennial Strategic Management Plan.

Activities

- ▶ Organized 24 briefing sessions for all Member States in Geneva on a variety of human rights-related topics, including semi-annual sessions on OHCHR's fieldwork in each region of the world.
- ▶ Liaised with Geneva and New York-based representatives of current and potential donors, providing information on various aspects of OHCHR's work, organizing formal consultations with delegations from donor countries, soliciting contributions and negotiating funding arrangements.
- ▶ Provided a stream of written reporting to donors on implementation of activities and use of funds, and prepared the Office's yearly report on its work, the *2007 Report on Activities and Results*.
- ▶ Undertook missions to Brussels, Berlin and Washington D.C., with the aim of strengthening donor relations and increasing support for OHCHR's work.
- ▶ In the lead-up to the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a special effort was made to expand OHCHR's donor base by establishing contact with a larger number of prospective donors, including Member States that had never or only rarely made a contribution to the Office in the past.

Results

- ▶ The overall level of contributions rose from \$95.7 million in 2007 to \$119.9 million in 2008—an increase of \$24.2 million, or 25 per cent. This represents the largest ever year-on-year increase OHCHR has achieved since its inception.
- ▶ For the first time in 2008, more than half (54 per cent) of all contributions received in 2008 were unearmarked. The total amount of unearmarked funding rose from \$40.9 million in 2007 to \$64.6 million in 2008—an increase of \$23.7 million.
- ▶ The number of institutional donors increased from 72 to 93. Some 83 Member States provided a contribution in 2008 (19 more than in 2007) with greater geographical diversity among donors than in previous years.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ An important factor in attracting broader donor support was the appeal made by the High Commissioner for as many Member States as possible to support the Office as a way of signalling their support for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in the lead up to the Declaration's 60th anniversary. The challenge in 2009 will be to persuade those countries that contributed for the first time in 2008 to renew their support and become regular donors to the Office.
- ▶ The global economic downturn, combined with increased volatility in exchange rates, pose serious fundraising challenges for OHCHR in 2009. With all major donors now in or close to recession and facing increasing budgetary pressures of their own, the capacity of donors to continue increasing the level of their contributions will be limited. Some donors will likely find themselves having to reduce spending on foreign aid, including voluntary contributions to the United Nations. In addition, OHCHR may suffer additional falls in funding as a result of shifts in exchange rates since mid-2008. As of late March 2009, the currencies of most of OHCHR's top 20 donors were worth considerably less than during 2008, with many losing a third or more of their value.

For more information on funding, please refer to pages 171-185.

New York Office

The High Commissioner's New York office is responsible for ensuring that a human rights perspective is reflected in high-level discussions at UN Headquarters in New York and is more generally reflected in the work of partners throughout the UN system. While the office in New York serves an important liaison function, including a donor and external relations component, it also carries out substantive human rights work, housing experts on peace and security, development, humanitarian affairs, economic and social affairs, rule of law, and women's rights, among other topics.

Activities

- ▶ Provided support and advice to the Third Committee of the 63rd General Assembly, as well as the Fifth Committee and Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ).

- ▶ Followed the work of the General Assembly and the intergovernmental bodies on economic and social affairs, including the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and its functional commissions, as well as various inter-agency mechanisms.
- ▶ Followed the work of the UN Security Council, and participated in planning for missions in Chad/Central African Republic, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi.
- ▶ Contributed expertise on gender issues to several meetings and fora, including the 52nd session of the Committee on the Status of Women, the eighth session of the Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, the UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict, the Inter-agency Taskforce and UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, and the Task Force on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse established by the Executive Committees on Peace and Security and on Humanitarian Affairs.
- ▶ Contributed expertise on rule of law and transitional justice-related issues to other UN departments and to the work of the UN Rule of Law Coordination and Resources Group.
- ▶ In cooperation with UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, managed the UN Rule of Law Indicator Project (ROLIP).
- ▶ Chaired the UN Democracy Fund Programme Consultative Group and participated in the Fund's Advisory Board.
- ▶ Contributed to the Counter- Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) by chairing the Working Group on Protecting Human Rights While Countering Terrorism.
- ▶ Housed the secretariat for the Action 2 Global Programme and chaired meetings of the inter-agency task force established to oversee its implementation and closure on 31 December 2008; organized the third inter-agency consultations on a human rights based-approach, which included a review of options for the establishment of the Action 2 successor mechanism.
- ▶ In commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, organized a 12-month series of panel discussions called "the New Human Rights Dialogue Series" in collaboration with the NGO Committee on



Human Rights, Member States, special procedures mandate-holders, academia, civil society organizations, the UN Department of Public Information and other partners.

- ▶ In collaboration with the Special Rapporteur on the right to food and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), organized the first consultation on the human rights perspective of the world food crisis with the participation of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, UN agencies and departments, and key international NGOs.

Results

- ▶ The General Assembly authorized additional funds for OHCHR to implement a number of decisions and recommendations of the Human Rights Council. The Secretary-General's Strategic Framework, including the part dealing with the UN human rights programme ('Programme 19') was approved by a vote in Third Committee.
- ▶ Key UN entities agreed on continuing support for the integration of human rights into UN development programmes and operations of the UN system, including clear articulation of the role and responsibility of Resident Coordinators in the protection and promotion of human rights at the country level in their Terms of Reference.
- ▶ OHCHR's rule of law and transitional justice policy tools were increasingly used by UN partners in New York and reflected in UN system-wide policies in relation to rule of law.
- ▶ Through its participation in the Working Groups of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, ensured that the human rights perspective was reflected in their work and outcomes.
- ▶ The Action 2 Global Programme completed its final year in 2008. Funding was provided to 37 countries and three human rights advisers were deployed to support UN Resident Coordinators in Moldova, Niger and Papua New Guinea; needs assessments and tailored support were provided for the integration of human rights in the programmes of the Delivering as One pilots (Uruguay, Tanzania, Rwanda, Vietnam); at the global level, the pool of qualified trainers on the UN Common Learning Package on the human rights-based approach was expanded; and the HuriTalk network began developing a Practitioners Portal on the human rights-based approach to programming. (For further information on the results of the Action 2 Global Programme, please refer to page 46).
- ▶ With an average attendance of over 250 people per session, the New Human Rights Dialogue Series provided a platform for dialogue and exchange on topical human rights issues, such as

new media and human rights, the right to decent work in the era of globalization, the struggle against racism, the realization of the responsibility to protect, the integration of human rights into peacemaking and counter-terrorism efforts, reconciliation between indigenous peoples and States, and the impact of the global food and financial crises on the right to food and other economic, social and cultural rights. Media coverage of the Series was extensive.

Communications

The year-long public information campaign to mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights dominated the work of the Office's Communications Section in 2008. With OHCHR's support, an array of partners, including the wider UN family, national institutions, civil society, media, academia and Member States, took various advocacy and communications initiatives designed to raise awareness of human rights and improve protection of vulnerable groups. In the second quarter of 2008, work also began on developing strategies and materials for a public information campaign to support the Durban Review Conference.

Activities

- ▶ Produced public information materials, OHCHR website content, media interviews and briefings to support the implementation of the current Strategic Management Plan.
- ▶ Prepared and uploaded to the OHCHR website over 80 feature stories with photographs, video or audio, depicting the work of the Office and the human rights mechanisms it supports.
- ▶ Distributed to the media and/or uploaded to the OHCHR website video and audio clips concerning: the new High Commissioner's first day in office; her missions to Colombia and Haiti; the Office's annual Indigenous Fellowship Programme; the Convention on the Prevention of Genocide; and the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- ▶ Drafted information notes on more than 30 topics in user-friendly language to help inform the wider public which were distributed through partner networks and through the OHCHR website.
- ▶ Sourced around 160 photographs used on the OHCHR website and by others.
- ▶ Continued to work on the redevelopment of the OHCHR website. The first phase of a planned

comprehensive site upgrade began in November with an online survey of visitors.

- ▶ Arranged briefings for 1,917 students, educators, public servants, journalists-in-training and UN tour-guide candidates from more than 25 countries, and for the human rights component of the annual three-week Graduate Study Programme organized by the UN Information Service in Geneva for post-graduate students.
- ▶ Provided information and updates on preparations for the Durban Review Conference through a new dedicated website, information notes, and an electronic newsletter, all branded with a new logo.

Results

- ▶ Visibility in print and electronic media increased, with 4,407 articles referring to or quoting the High Commissioner or her Office in 2008 (up from 3,800 in 2007 and 3,300 in 2006).
- ▶ Opinion articles by the High Commissioner appeared in at least 52 publications in 46 countries (in 2007, opinion articles appeared in

75 publications in 60 countries and in 2006 in 84 newspapers in 45 countries).

- ▶ Press conferences, media interviews and briefings by the High Commissioner totalled 35 (2007 figure 45, 2006 figure 70).
- ▶ There was a 14 per cent increase, to 2.85 million, in the number of unique visits to the OHCHR website, up from 2.5 million in 2007.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ While a valuable source of information, the OHCHR website has a number of shortcomings. The analysis of the website and user survey undertaken in 2008 produced a series of recommendations that will be implemented in 2009, subject to available funding. An improved website will provide an easy-to-navigate platform for OHCHR's public information materials, including information notes, stories, photos, videos and work produced by various parts of OHCHR, thereby making it a more influential and effective tool for the realization of human rights.



Commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Bangkok, December 2008.

People around the world mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights



The UN Secretary-General's call to the extended UN family and their partners around the world to join in marking the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights produced a vast array of initiatives in dozens of countries. It is clear that this remarkable and timeless international charter remains the anchor for human rights defenders, rights-holders and duty-bearers.

From primary school students to Foreign Ministers, from street parades to international conferences, from bus-shelter posters to television documentaries, the list of people involved and activities undertaken is long and varied. While it is impossible to say how many individuals and organizations responded to the Secretary-General's call, it is evident that in 2008 many millions of people talked, thought and learned about their inalienable and fundamental human rights because of this global action.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights took the lead in the UN system in providing all partners with expert guidance and substantive information, as well as speakers and participants for many international and national events throughout the year. OHCHR field presences, in cooperation with other UN entities and partners, combined wide engagement with advocacy. The 60th anniversary logo and slogan, *Dignity and justice for all of us*, made available in six languages,

was used in many forms, including on stamps, T-shirts, flags, coins, books, brochures and posters. It was even sent into space on 14th November on the Space Shuttle Endeavour from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida.

Special commemorative sessions of the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council celebrated the Declaration's enduring power. At the General Assembly in New York on 10 December, Human Rights Day, a day-long session included the awarding of the 2008 UN Human Rights Prize to seven winners. At the Human Rights Council in Geneva two days later, the Secretary-General paid tribute to those who framed the Declaration. '[They] proclaimed the inherent dignity and equality of all human beings ... [and] ... unequivocally linked destitution and exclusion with discrimination,' he said. The High Commissioner for Human Rights highlighted the universality of the human rights enshrined in the Declaration, which she described as '...a single short document of 30 articles that has probably had more impact on mankind than any other document in modern history.' At both sessions, representatives of Member States spoke of their support for the Declaration and the ways in which the anniversary has been marked.

The centrepiece of OHCHR's own commemorative activities was a project entitled *Stories on Human Rights by Filmmakers, Artists and Writers*, undertaken in partnership with the NGO Art for the World and financed largely by the European Union, with additional funding from France. The project comprised films, a book and posters. A

feature-length film was created, composed of 22 short films by leading directors from around the world who used their storytelling, artistic and technical talents to convey human rights principles in ways that range from simple tales to more symbolic representations. The book contains interviews with the directors, stills from the films and selected texts by internationally renowned writers, several of whom are Nobel Prize winners. The posters were the winning entries in an international competition among arts students. The film premiered at numerous locations on 10 December and will continue to be screened at film festivals during 2009 and distributed for education purposes.

The UN Department of Public Information also undertook a number of initiatives related to the 60th anniversary, many with OHCHR support, including the 61st annual NGO conference on the human rights theme *Defenders Take the Floor* in Brussels with the European Commission and the website www.KnowYourRights2008.org. The *Sketching Human Rights* collection of thought-provoking works by international cartoonists opened in New York before travelling to Brussels, Vienna, Paris and Geneva.

In October, the High Commissioner used the anniversary of the Declaration to focus attention on the rights of people deprived of their liberty in prisons and other places of detention. A report with case studies and personal stories of activities carried out by the main partner for this project, national human rights institutions, is forthcoming.

Civil Society Liaison

The Civil Society Unit is responsible for supporting OHCHR's outreach to civil society actors around the world and for facilitating their access to the UN human rights system. In 2008, the unit prioritized civil society support for the Universal Periodic Review and NGO engagement with the Durban Review Conference and its preparatory processes. By the end of the year, the unit, which has operated until then with only two staff members, was planning to recruit two additional professional-level staff.

Activities

- ▶ Produced a comprehensive, user-friendly guide for civil society actors on how to access UN human rights mandates and mechanisms entitled, "Working with the UN Human Rights Programme: A Handbook for Civil Society". Plans were underway to translate the guide into several official UN languages, and to make it available online.
- ▶ In cooperation with the UN Non-governmental Liaison Service, developed an introductory pamphlet in English and French entitled, "The United Nations Human Rights System: How to Make It Work for You". The pamphlet was produced to mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and as part of OHCHR's contribution to the 61st annual NGO Conference held by the UN Department of Public Information in Paris in September.
- ▶ Led an Office-wide initiative to support NGO engagement with the Durban Review Conference and its related preparatory processes, including financial support for NGOs to attend the Regional Meetings in Brasilia and Abuja, and the production of a dedicated e-bulletin for NGOs.
- ▶ Provided logistical support and advice to NGOs attending both regular and special sessions of the Human Rights Council, including regular updated information distributed through e-mails.
- ▶ Liaised with colleagues working on the Universal Periodic Review and NGOs to ensure that accurate and timely information was provided to

civil society stakeholders regarding the process, calendar and deadlines.

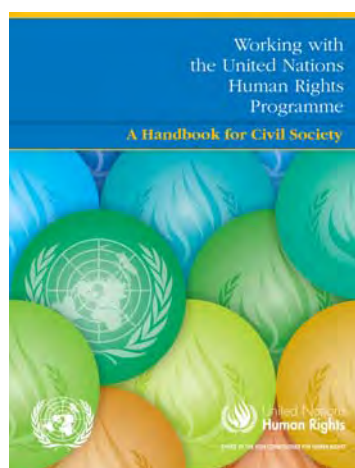
- ▶ Facilitated 78 briefings and inter-active meetings in Geneva, and provided more than 1,500 responses to individual inquiries.
- ▶ Continued to develop its database, which provides the basis for much outreach to NGOs around the world. In 2008, priority was given to under-represented sectors and regions.

Results

- ▶ The widespread dissemination of up-to-date and authoritative information and guidelines for NGO interaction with UN human rights mechanisms and bodies ensured that civil society actors could more easily access these mechanisms.
- ▶ OHCHR's outreach capacity was expanded by increasing the total number of detailed NGO profiles in the civil society unit's database to 1,290 entries by the end of 2008, representing a growth of more than 27 per cent.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

- ▶ The e-bulletin issued to facilitate NGOs' engagement with the Durban Review Conference elicited positive feedback. Additional feedback will be sought to determine whether a more general e-bulletin might be helpful for NGOs and other civil society actors seeking information on UN human rights mechanisms.



Programme Planning, Management and Support

Converting the vision of the High Commissioner's Plan of Action into reality and implementing the more detailed proposals contained in the Office's biennial Strategic Management Plans have required a sustained investment in the management of financial and human resources and a commitment to improve internal procedures and administrative processes. During the 2006-2007 biennium, the Office implemented a programme of internal reform designed to strengthen key management functions and improve Office-wide planning and coordination. In 2008, priorities included refining the Office's performance-monitoring system and strengthening administrative capacity in OHCHR's field operations.

Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

The Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Section works closely with all parts of the Office to ensure that the High Commissioner's strategic vision is translated into concrete priorities and operational plans and procedures, and that implementation is properly monitored, lessons learned, and results evaluated. The section is also responsible for identifying gaps in OHCHR's policies, both in respect of internal issues and substantive human rights challenges, and for assisting in the development of new policy positions. In 2008, priorities included increasing staff awareness of approved policies; improving the strategic planning process; and encouraging greater sharing of knowledge and experience among staff, especially concerning implementing OHCHR's strategies.

Activities

- ▶ Published the Strategic Management Plan for 2008-2009 in French and English and led the drafting of the Strategic Framework for 2010-2011.
- ▶ Reviewed and made improvements to the strategic planning process ahead of the

preparation for the Office's Strategic Management Plan for 2010-2011.

- ▶ In collaboration with a consultancy firm, reviewed and refined OHCHR's performance-monitoring system through a consultative process including a technical validation workshop with OHCHR staff from headquarters and nine field presences to validate the refined set of indicators, and a roundtable on indicators for senior OHCHR managers from the field and headquarters to discuss and help to refine the system.
- ▶ Guided the 2008 internal review and evaluation of OHCHR's work.
- ▶ Provided technical assistance for an evaluation of human rights mainstreaming at the country level, an evaluation of the OHCHR China technical cooperation project, and an evaluation of OHCHR's performance in gender mainstreaming. The section also worked with the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services in designing and implementing the first phases of its evaluation of OHCHR's overall programme.
- ▶ Finalized four standard operating procedures to rationalize internal OHCHR practices and developed a mechanism to identify substantive and management policy gaps within OHCHR to be launched in 2009.

Results

- ▶ Internal mechanisms and guidelines, including in relation to planning, monitoring and reporting, identifying gaps in policy, and policy development and dissemination were established in order to increase internal coherence and ensure effective planning and monitoring.
- ▶ Previously identified performance indicators were refined to be more specific and measurable, and a staggered approach to monitoring them was adopted.
- ▶ The evaluation of OHCHR's performance in human rights mainstreaming provided valuable lessons that will be taken into account in the next Strategic Management Plan.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The Office needs to ensure that the specialized conceptual knowledge and experience that are at the basis of policy development, programme planning, and monitoring and evaluation exist at the working level. There is a need for the professionalization of planning, monitoring and evaluation functions across the Office, and the Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Section is looking at how the unique human rights expertise of staff members who also perform planning and programme management functions can be reinforced by a stronger understanding of results-based management.

Programme Support and Management Services

As part of the United Nations Secretariat, OHCHR benefits from the common administrative services provided by the United Nations Office at Geneva. Within OHCHR, administrative functions are provided by Programme Support and Management

Services, with 77 staff distributed among four sections handling finance and budget, human resources, information technology, and general services (travel, logistics, procurement and record-keeping), as well as a Staff Development Unit that was established during the year.

Actions

- ▶ Following receipt of a delegation of authority from the United Nations Controller, took responsibility for managing all extra-budgetary resources, including issuing allotments, monitoring use of funds, and reconciliation of charges under agreements with other agencies in the field.
- ▶ Implemented revised methodologies for regular and extra-budgetary planning and budgeting, in order to reduce time and steps involved in producing cost plans and to increase their accuracy and reliability.
- ▶ Handled 118 recruitment cases for new and existing posts, in addition to temporary assignments and replacements.
- ▶ Reviewed and streamlined internal travel procedures and processed more than 3,000 travel

Monitoring performance

In the Strategic Management Plan (SMP) of 2008-2009, OHCHR published a set of indicators designed to help the Office gauge its performance in each of its nine expected accomplishments. Indicators were identified to assess performance at both the global and national levels. The indicators were presented as a work in progress, with baselines still to be determined, further work needed to review and refine a number of proposed indicators, and increased staff capacity and a specialized information technology system required to support performance monitoring. Nevertheless, the indicators presented in the 2008-2009 SMP constituted an important step forward for the Office and an improvement on the more rudimentary framework proposed in the earlier 2006-2007 SMP.

During 2008, the Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Section

led a consultative process to address shortcomings in the proposed framework of indicators and ensure that OHCHR had in place the necessary elements of an effective performance-monitoring system. The proposed indicators were refined in order to make them more specific and easily measurable. At the same time, the process helped to raise awareness among OHCHR staff through discussions and validation processes involving senior managers and staff at both headquarters and in the field.

As a result of these efforts, a staggered approach to operationalizing OHCHR's system of performance monitoring was adopted. Monitoring and reporting on a core set of indicators was initiated in 2008, with some additional indicators to be added in 2009, once steps are taken to ensure adequate data collection

capacity. By 2010, the Office will have in place a performance-monitoring system that allows it to track and assess its performance at both the global and national levels with reference to a full set of indicators.

This approach takes into account the need to move from anecdotal assessments of results to an effective management tool, based on qualitative and quantitative measurements of results, using a sound methodology for data collection and processing. It also gives consideration to the ongoing need to professionalize the monitoring function across the Office. The phased approach will allow OHCHR to increase its monitoring capacity through technical and organizational structures and through its human resources, and ensure the proper management and use of the information generated.



Participants of OHCHR's Orientation Programme for new staff, July 2008.

- authorizations and related travel claims for staff, mandate-holders and meeting participants.
- ▶ Introduced a new in-house “e-Travel” system to improve travel planning and organization, and enable closer follow-up of arrangements.
- ▶ Established a Staff Development Unit to promote and foster a learning culture within the Office, supporting staff in their skills and career development.
- ▶ Reinstated a regular staff orientation programme to assist new staff members in better understanding the history, structure and mandate of OHCHR as well as their role in the Office.
- ▶ Undertook missions to field presences to assist field staff with general administration, human resources, finance and budget, logistics and procurement, and information-technology issues.
- ▶ Organized the orderly closure of the OHCHR Angola office under challenging conditions and at short notice.
- ▶ Completed a field administrative manual that covers the full range of administrative guidelines and procedures for field offices, from establishment to liquidation.

- ▶ Continued efforts to improve computer network connectivity between the OHCHR field presences and Geneva to enhance coordination and information sharing.
- ▶ Upgraded the OHCHR public website to conform to United Nations accessibility standards for persons with disabilities.

Results

- ▶ Total number of OHCHR staff increased by 48 during 2008 (from 942 on 31 December 2007 to 990 on 31 December 2008).
- ▶ Continued improvement in the geographic diversity of OHCHR staff with the implementation of internal measures to ensure full consideration of the broadest possible pool of candidates.
- ▶ Improved quality of administration in field presences through greater administrative support from headquarters and training provided to local administrative staff on internal policies and procedures, and United Nations regulations and rules.

- ▶ Four fellows from least developed countries completed a special four-month fellowship programme established with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research using voluntary contributions from OHCHR staff.
- ▶ More thorough briefings and provision of information to special procedures mandate-holders has resulted in better understanding of needs and constraints and reduced problems related to travel and other support issues.
- ▶ Better planning of resource requirements has allowed for tailored allocation of resources during the year to ensure that funds are available for activities when needed.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The closure of the Angola country office demonstrated the need for highly organized planning and close supervision. Instructions and checklists for closing an office have since been developed and included in the field administrative manual.
- ▶ Better information leads to better implementation and better compliance with procedures. Early briefings and explanations can greatly facilitate interaction with both clients and stakeholders.

Human Rights Fellowship for Students from Least Developed Countries

With the assistance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, in 2007 OHCHR launched the first Human Rights Fellowship for students from least developed countries, funded with prize money received by the High Commissioner and other monies donated by OHCHR staff, a Canadian newspaper and various NGOs. Out of more than 2,000 applications, OHCHR selected four fellows: Mahbuba Ahmed, from a social development NGO in Bangladesh; Narcisse Dongar, from an NGO project on cowherd children in Chad; Vera Mussah, a nurse working with survivors of sexual violence in Liberia; and Hari Chandra Sharma, who grew up in a refugee camp in Nepal where he was a teacher of children's rights.

The fellowship allowed these four individuals to acquire an in-depth understanding of the United Nations and OHCHR. In particular, they learned about the mechanisms and tools available for local organizations to enforce respect for human rights. The fellows particularly appreciated the opportunity to learn from the other fellows in the programme. The Office also gained from their presence and their perspectives, and hopes to organize similar fellowships in the coming years.

OHCHR in the Field: Introduction

OHCHR's Approach to Fieldwork

The Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division leads OHCHR's dialogue with countries on human rights issues. It works in cooperation with other parts of the Office, involving UN partners, government actors, regional organizations, civil society, and national human rights institutions to ensure that:

- ▶ National authorities and civil society actors are better informed about international human rights standards and how to translate these into laws, regulations, and policies;
- ▶ Government officials and civil society have the capacity to address human rights concerns;
- ▶ Government authorities are aware of their human rights obligations and design effective remedies to overcome obstacles in the realization of human rights;
- ▶ Rights-holders are better protected;
- ▶ OHCHR is in a better position to respond to human rights needs on the ground; and
- ▶ OHCHR supports its staff and other UN colleagues working on the ground.

OHCHR cooperates with countries at various levels. The most intensive form of cooperation is through its field presences. In 2008, two regional offices for Central Asia (Bishkek) and West Africa (Dakar) became fully operational, and human rights advisers were established within UN country teams in Guinea, Kenya, Moldova, Niger, Papua New Guinea and the Russian Federation. Five field presences were discontinued: in Santiago de Chile (regional office), Angola (country office), Guyana, the Maldives, Pakistan (human rights advisers) and Ethiopia/Eritrea (peace mission). By the end of the year, OHCHR was running or supporting a total of 52 field presences, compared with 47 at the end of 2007.

Types of Field Presence

The decision to establish an OHCHR field presence is made in consultation with the government concerned, taking into account the human rights situation, security and political considerations, available human and financial resources, administrative arrangements, and the scope of the activities to be undertaken.

Country Offices

To establish a country office, OHCHR negotiates a mandate with the host government that includes human rights observation, protection, technical cooperation activities and public reporting. Country office mandates are standardized and are signed with the concerned government, while the specific focus of each country office is decided in cooperation with governments and is based on an assessment of the human rights concerns, national and international actors involved in human rights work, and the most effective means available to OHCHR for addressing gaps in the realization of human rights. Regular reports on the work of country offices and the human rights situation of host countries are presented to the Human Rights Council for further action and consideration.

By the end of 2008, OHCHR had eight country offices in Bolivia, Cambodia, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Nepal, Togo and Uganda as well as two stand-alone offices in Kosovo (Serbia) and the occupied Palestinian territory. OHCHR closed its office in Angola in mid-2008. An office in Mauritania is expected to be opened in 2009.

Regional Offices

Where possible, regional offices complement the expertise of country presences by providing support on institutional and thematic issues as needed. They focus on cross-cutting regional human rights concerns. They also support national governments with special procedures and

treaty-body follow-up and matters relating to the Universal Periodic Review. They work closely with regional and sub-regional intergovernmental organizations.

By the end of 2008, OHCHR had regional offices in East Africa (Addis Ababa), southern Africa (Pretoria), West Africa (Dakar), Southeast Asia (Bangkok), the Pacific (Suva), the Middle East (Beirut), Central Asia (Bishkek) and Central America (Panama City, with a liaison office in Santiago de Chile), and a sub-regional centre for Central Africa (Yaoundé). In 2008, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between OHCHR and the Government of Qatar for a human rights, training and documentation centre for Southwest Asia and the Arab region. The regional office for Latin America (Santiago de Chile) will re-open early 2009. It is expected that in the course of 2009, an additional regional office will become operational in Europe (Brussels). Offices for Southwest Asia and North Africa are under consideration.

Human Rights Components of UN Peace Missions

OHCHR supports human rights components of peace missions, providing expert advice and functional support on human rights to other UN actors in integrated missions. Human rights components of peace missions have a dual reporting line: one to the head of the peace mission and one to the High Commissioner.

Based on Security Council resolutions, human rights components of peace missions focus their work on:

- ▶ Observing, documenting, investigating and reporting on the human rights situation;
- ▶ Ensuring that peace processes promote justice and equity;
- ▶ Preventing and redressing violations of human rights;
- ▶ Building human rights capacities and institutions; and
- ▶ Mainstreaming human rights into all UN programmes and activities.

At the end of December 2008, there were 17 UN peace missions that incorporated human rights promotion and protection into their mandated work, namely in Afghanistan, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Darfur (Sudan), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iraq, Kosovo (Serbia), Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan and Timor-Leste.

In June 2008, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs and OHCHR issued a joint Policy Directive on public reporting by human rights components of UN peace operations, which aimed at standardizing periodic and thematic public reporting processes across missions. OHCHR provides technical assistance and, in some instances, financial support to the integrated peace missions. It also participates in inter-departmental technical assessment missions for the design and establishment of peace operations.



Camp for internally displaced persons in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Human Rights Advisers in UN Country Teams

Human rights advisers assist the Resident Coordinators, heads of UN agencies, and UN country teams to integrate human rights in their programme strategies and implementation. Human rights advisers are deployed upon request by Resident Coordinators and typically perform the following functions:

- ▶ Advise the Resident Coordinator and the UN country team on strategies to build and strengthen national human rights capacities;
- ▶ Advise and provide training to independent national human rights institutions;
- ▶ Advise duty-bearers on how best to promote UN normative values;
- ▶ Build networks with, and provide practical support to, civil society actors at large; and
- ▶ Provide operational support to human rights training and/or national capacity-building activities, including activities conducted under the Action 2 Programme.

As of 31 December 2008, OHCHR had 15 human rights advisers in Ecuador, Guinea, Indonesia, Kenya, the Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Nicaragua, Niger, Papua New Guinea, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Serbia, Sri Lanka, and the South Caucasus (based in Tbilisi and covering Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia). Human rights advisers in Guyana, the Maldives and Pakistan discontinued their work in 2008. Advisers are expected to be deployed to Albania, the Great Lakes Region (Bujumbura) and Tajikistan during 2009.

Headquarters Support to Field Operations

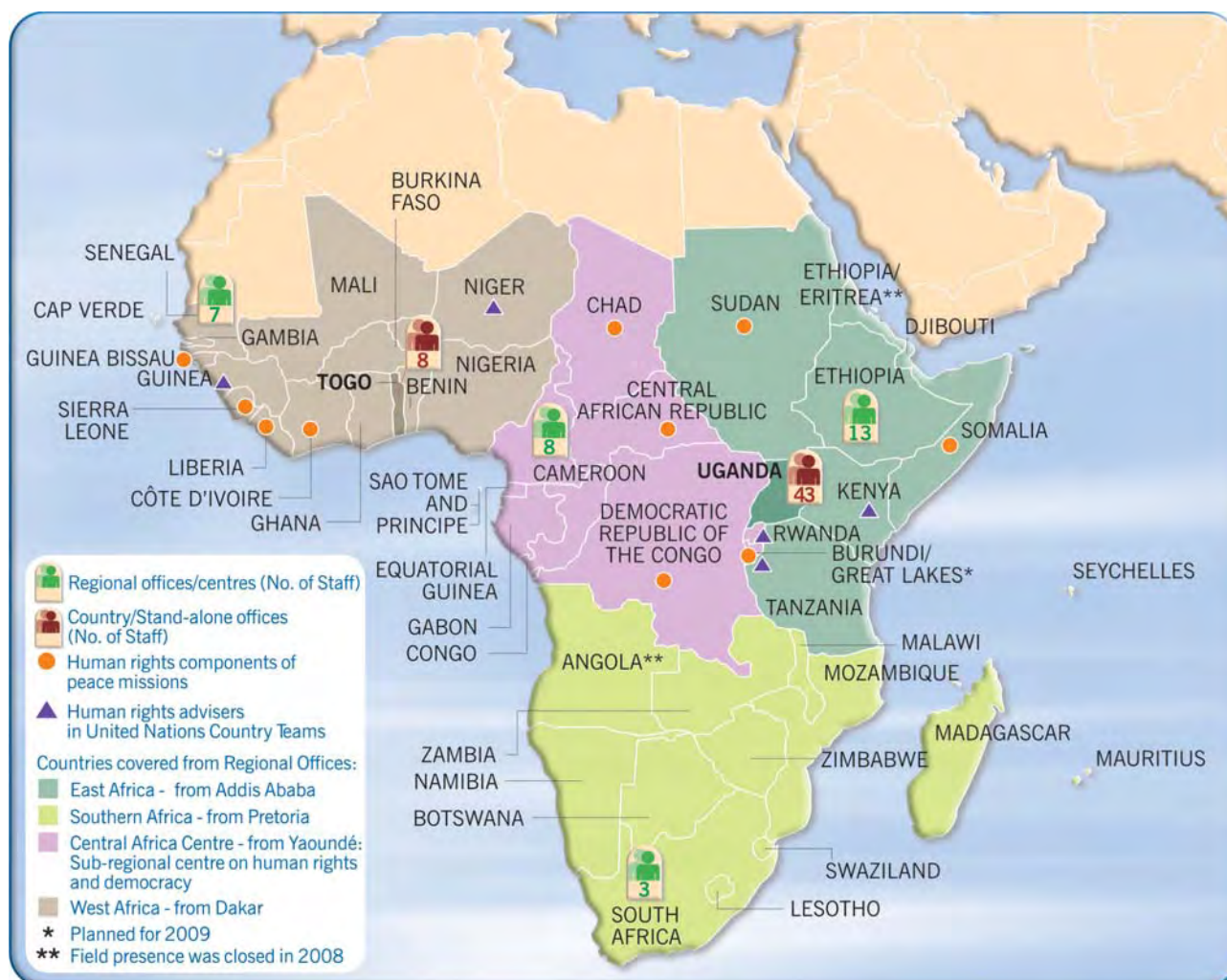
In 2008, 101 staff members worked at headquarters in the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division. The Division reinforces headquarters' support to the field and follows human rights developments closely, especially in areas where the Office lacks a field presence, including through the Office's rapid response capacity. Internal coordination in respect of country-based initiatives, including with the treaty bodies, special procedures, the Human Rights Council, the Universal Periodic Review and thematic areas, has been strengthened.

Cooperation with Humanitarian Agencies

OHCHR participates in the activities of the humanitarian community through its work in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), the Executive Committee for Humanitarian Affairs, the Global Protection Cluster Working Group, the Humanitarian Coordinators Group, ProCap (Protection Capacity) Steering Committee, and the IASC Sub-working Group on Preparedness and Contingency Planning. OHCHR strives to integrate human rights in the programming and policies of humanitarian activities through its membership in these inter-agency mechanisms, as well as through participation in protection-cluster work on the ground.

In the field, OHCHR staff is increasingly involved in mainstreaming human rights into the delivery of humanitarian assistance in the aftermath of natural disasters and in preparing and implementing Common Humanitarian Action Plans and the Consolidated Appeal Processes. OHCHR's participation in the Consolidated Appeal Processes has benefited from more coordinated support from headquarters and streamlining with the budget-planning process.

OHCHR in the Field: Africa



Type of presence	Location
Country offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Angola** Togo Uganda
Regional offices and centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Africa (Yaoundé, Cameroon) East Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) Southern Africa (Pretoria, South Africa) West Africa (Dakar, Senegal)
Human rights components in UN peace missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burundi Central African Republic Chad Côte d'Ivoire Darfur (Sudan) Democratic Republic of the Congo Ethiopia/Eritrea** Guinea-Bissau Liberia Sierra Leone Somalia Sudan
Human rights advisers to UN country teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guinea Kenya Niger Rwanda

** Closed during 2008

Despite the diversity of Africa's countries and cultures, a number of common human rights challenges are apparent. While several States held peaceful and fair elections in 2008, in other countries violence was used to manipulate election results and members of the political opposition, journalists and civil society leaders were silenced in the run-up to polling. The financial crisis and climate change exacerbated existing poverty and increased the percentage of the population dependent on food aid. Coupled with mounting frustration of poor governance, these factors led to growing social unrest, including a number of mass demonstrations and riots, which were often met with heavy-handed responses by State security forces. Conflicts in Sudan, Chad, Somalia and the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo continued, marked by widespread human rights violations, including sexual and gender-based violence and rape, and caused massive population displacements.

There were, however, some welcome developments at the institutional level. The African Court of Justice completed its merger with the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Network of National Human Rights Institutions grew in membership and prominence. A number of States engaged with the treaty-body system, making impressive progress on reporting; several countries took steps to abolish the death penalty.

In 2008, OHCHR had two country offices in Africa, in Togo and Uganda, and four regional offices/centres, in Addis Ababa (East Africa), Dakar (West Africa), Pretoria (Southern Africa), and Yaoundé (Central Africa). The Office supported the human rights components of 12 UN peace missions, in Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Darfur (Sudan), the

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Sudan. In addition to the human rights adviser in Rwanda, OHCHR deployed advisers to Guinea, Kenya, and Niger. In May, OHCHR closed its field office in Angola due to the failure of negotiations to formalize its continued presence in the country. A unit of 16 professional and four administrative staff covers the continent from headquarters, monitoring areas of concern and providing substantive and administrative support to field presences. The Office also continued to support the work of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Burundi, the Independent Expert on technical cooperation and advisory services in Liberia, the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Sudan.

OHCHR in Africa: Examples of impact in 2008

Promoting legislative and policy change:

- ▶ In **Cameroon**, the Government prepared a law to protect the rights of indigenous peoples.
- ▶ In the **Central African Republic**, the penal code and military law were reviewed for their compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law.
- ▶ In **Côte d'Ivoire**, the Government established new policies to fight human trafficking and corruption and prosecute perpetrators of human rights violations.
- ▶ In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, Parliament adopted a law to protect persons suffering from HIV/AIDS against discrimination and stigmatization.
- ▶ In **Guinea-Bissau**, a police code of conduct was developed.
- ▶ In **Liberia**, the country's Security Sector Reform Strategy included provisions relating to human rights.
- ▶ In southern **Sudan**, the Government accepted the need for a legal aid programme.

Supporting human rights education and training:

- ▶ In **Uganda**, training for staff of the Human Rights Commission and the Civil-Military Cooperation Centre led to increased human rights monitoring, outreach and mediation efforts in camps and return areas.
- ▶ In **Côte d'Ivoire**, 100 new human rights clubs were established in schools and colleges. These clubs prepared action plans and independently conducted numerous activities to raise public awareness on human rights.
- ▶ In **Guinea-Bissau**, training sessions for journalists and media professionals contributed to an increased number of human rights radio programmes and the creation of a journalist network for human rights.
- ▶ In **Sierra Leone**, training for police prosecutors, local court chairmen and prison officers contributed to some improvement in the administration of justice, including a reduction in the backlog of cases and increased respect for human rights in the administration of justice.

Strengthening national human rights institutions:

- ▶ The **Cameroon** National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms was granted financial autonomy.
- ▶ In the **Central African Republic**, the authorities established a national committee to draft legislation establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.
- ▶ In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, the Senate adopted a draft law, subsequently submitted to the National Assembly, on the establishment of a national human rights institution.
- ▶ **Djibouti** established a national human rights commission.
- ▶ In **Ethiopia**, staff of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission received training and a human rights resource centre and website were developed.
- ▶ In **Guinea**, a National Human Rights Observatory was created, which may be a first step towards establishing a national human rights institution based on the Paris Principles.
- ▶ In **Lesotho**, OHCHR recommendations on the establishment of a national human rights commission were accepted by the authorities and will be incorporated into forthcoming legislation.



Promoting treaty-body reporting:

- ▶ **Angola** finalized its common core document and submitted its initial report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- ▶ In **Djibouti** an inter-ministerial committee was created to coordinate the reporting process to treaty bodies.
- ▶ **Ethiopia** submitted its common core document and its overdue report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
- ▶ **Rwanda** submitted its reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Human Rights Committee. Reports to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination were also prepared.
- ▶ **Senegal** submitted outstanding reports to three treaty bodies.
- ▶ In **Sierra Leone** a national strategy for treaty-body reporting and an institutional framework for the preparation of country reports were adopted by the cabinet.
- ▶ In **Uganda**, the Ugandan Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting made a submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on its implementation of the Optional Protocol on Children in Armed Conflict and finalized an Action Plan on Children and Armed Conflict.

Supporting transitional justice initiatives:

- ▶ In **Burundi**, awareness-raising activities prompted widespread public debate on transitional justice and helped pave the way for national consultations, which are expected to begin in 2009.
- ▶ In **Liberia**, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission submitted the first volume of its final report to the president and legislature on 19 December 2008.
- ▶ In **Sierra Leone**, key recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission were implemented, including the Gender Justice Acts, the Child Rights Act, and the initial phases of the reparations programme.
- ▶ In **Somalia**, a clause relating to justice and reconciliation was included in the Djibouti agreement and a joint working group was established between the Transitional Federal Government and the Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia on justice and reconciliation within the framework of the Djibouti agreement.
- ▶ In **Togo**, a Presidential Decree was adopted creating a Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission.

Supporting mechanisms to monitor, investigate and redress human rights violations:

- ▶ In **Burundi**, judges received training on human rights. Consistent follow-up on specific cases of human rights violations with relevant authorities led, in many cases, to their resolution.
- ▶ In **Côte d'Ivoire**, staff from the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights conducted field missions to monitor prison conditions and held public meetings with the community and civil and military authorities.
- ▶ In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, a victims and witnesses protection network was set up and five legal aid clinics established to provide assistance to victims of rape and other forms of sexual violence.
- ▶ In **Uganda**, local governments in Lira, Kitgum, Gulu and Pader districts established human rights desks to monitor the human rights situation and to integrate the human rights-based approach into development plans at the district level.
- ▶ In **Chad**, there was a reported improvement in adherence to the period of time legally allowed for pre-trial detention following visits to detention facilities by human rights officers serving as part of the integrated UN mission.
- ▶ In **Guinea-Bissau**, regular monitoring of the human rights and humanitarian situation of detainees resulted in medical care and basic non-food items being provided to detainees.
- ▶ In southern **Sudan**, advocacy secured the release of several illegally detained persons and appeals were lodged against a number of death sentences.

Mainstreaming human rights into UN system policies and programmes:

- ▶ Human rights activities were integrated into UN Development Assistance Frameworks prepared or under preparation in **Angola** and **Botswana**, and into the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers for **Sierra Leone** and **Liberia**.
- ▶ In **Guinea-Bissau**, gender issues were mainstreamed into development-cooperation programmes in the context of efforts to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.
- ▶ In **Kenya** a network of human rights focal points was created consisting of representatives of UN agencies.
- ▶ In **Niger**, human rights were integrated into the strategic action plan and annual plan of action of the UN Development Programme.

Country Offices

Angola

Date established	May 2003
Date closed	May 2008
Staff as at 31 May 2008	19
Expenditure in 2008	\$ 1,356,692

Following its independence in 1975, Angola endured 27 years of civil war, which ended with a peace agreement in April 2002. Since then, Angola has focused on consolidating peace, rebuilding its infrastructure, resettling thousands of refugees and internally displaced persons, and strengthening its human rights institutional framework. Legislative elections, the first in 16 years, were held in September 2008. The elections were held peacefully but NGOs raised concerns about some irregularities. There is still limited freedom of expression, impunity and widespread poverty in the country.

OHCHR maintained a country office in Angola for five years, between May 2003 and May 2008. The office was closed in 2008 at the request of the Angolan authorities on the grounds that OHCHR representation was no longer needed. The Government acknowledged the valuable support provided by OHCHR over the previous five years and insisted that the decision not to renew OHCHR's mandate in the country should not be interpreted as a retreat from its human rights commitments or an end to its cooperation with the Office. OHCHR will continue to maintain dialogue with the Government of Angola, as it does with all governments, in order to promote and protect all human rights.

Activities

- ▶ Assisted the Government with treaty reporting, preparation of the common core document and Angola's first report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. OHCHR also helped civil society organizations prepare a parallel report.
- ▶ Trained civil society organizations on UN human rights mechanisms and provided financial assistance to allow them to attend the Human Rights Council session in March 2008.
- ▶ Organized an annual consultation on the Joint Programme on Justice Reform with the Ministry of Justice, the UN Development Programme and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and held discussions with the Attorney General's Office on improving the methodology and coordination

mechanisms of the joint training programme on human rights monitoring.

- ▶ Assessed the impact of the human rights training programme delivered by the Office in 2003-2007 for police officers.
- ▶ Assessed the needs of and mapped human rights actors in several provinces together with the Provincial Human Rights Committees.
- ▶ Provided ongoing operational support and technical advice to the Ombudsman, the Provincial Human Rights Committees and the Human Rights Coordination Council.

Results

- ▶ Angola's engagement with the UN human rights system was strengthened, demonstrated, in part, by the finalization of a common core document and submission of its initial report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- ▶ The UN country team agreed to adopt a human rights-based approach as the basis for a new UN Development Assistance Framework.
- ▶ Interagency coordination was fostered by the Technical Working Group on Protection regarding human rights and protection issues.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Maintaining flexibility was important in order to overcome frequent delays, cancellations and modifications that occurred when working with Angolan institutions, and to take advantage of unexpected political opportunities to advance human rights.
- ▶ The closure of the country office in May 2008 came before OHCHR had an opportunity to finish strengthening national institutions so that they could assume the human rights work previously carried out by OHCHR. The Office will look for ways to re-engage with these institutions, in the absence of an OHCHR country presence, in order to help close gaps in capacity.

Angola: Expenditure in 2008

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	736,460
Consultants	-	-
Official travel	-	173,559
Contractual services	-	48,195
General operating expenses	-	119,927
Supplies & materials	-	40,412
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	63,521
Subtotal	-	1,182,074
Programme support costs	-	174,618
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,356,692

Togo

Date established	2006
Staff as at 31 December 2008	5
Expenditure in 2008	\$1,267,724

A new political dynamic has been evident in Togo since the peace agreement was signed in August 2006 and non-violent legislative elections were held in 2007. During 2008, there were improvements in the enjoyment of civil and political rights, particularly freedom of expression, and fewer incidents of arbitrary detention were reported. However, impunity continues, particularly in relation to violent acts committed in connection with the 2005 presidential elections.

Since it was established in November 2006, the Togo office has sought to strengthen the capacity of national authorities and institutions to fulfil their human rights obligations, including implementation of the 22 commitments on democracy and human rights made with the European Union in April 2004, the recommendations of OHCHR's fact-finding mission of 2005, and the recommendations of various UN treaty bodies and special mechanisms.

Activities

- ▶ Organized national consultations to raise public awareness among national actors on transitional justice issues and the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- ▶ Monitored the human rights situation and provided assistance to victims of human rights violations through direct intervention with the Government and other relevant institutions.
- ▶ Organized six national seminars and meetings on international human rights standards. Approximately 300 Members of Parliament, representatives of national human rights commissions, and staff of the ministry of Human Rights, the National Army, the police, and NGOs took part in these meetings.
- ▶ Organized 167 meetings on transitional justice in five administrative regions of the country, attracting some 2,000 participants including members of NGOs, youth groups, university students, lawyers, magistrates, civil servants, women's associations, journalists, community religious groups, local police and military leaders, and traditional authorities.
- ▶ Participated in joint workshops organized by the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the International Committee of the Red Cross, and in the joint monitoring of returning refugees with the UN refugee agency (UNHCR).
- ▶ Supported the visit of the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders.
- ▶ Organized training and provided technical assistance to the Inter-Ministerial Commission on State Reporting on how to prepare State reports to treaty bodies.
- ▶ Commemorated the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including with a debate on the impact of the Declaration on national legislation, a workshop on the administration of justice for prison staff, and distribution of 3,000 copies of the Declaration.
- ▶ Trained programme officers of the UN country team on basic techniques of the human rights-based approach to development programming.



Results

- ▶ National consultations on the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, organized by OHCHR resulted in the adoption of a Presidential Decree creating the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission. The national consultations also raised awareness and capacity among civil society to participate in the fight against impunity.
- ▶ OHCHR's direct intervention with the authorities in the cases of 80 victims of human rights led to tangible improvements in the lives of the individuals concerned.
- ▶ Training activities and national seminars and meetings increased both public awareness and understanding of human rights principles and standards among the targeted groups, which included legislators, civil servants and NGOs.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Managing high expectations for this small office continues to be a challenge. Despite recent improvements, Togo continues to suffer the consequences of a history of political violence and complex human rights challenges that will take time and sustained efforts to address. The focus of the office should remain on efforts and initiatives to promote the consolidation of peace, democracy, the rule of law and a culture of human rights.

Togo: Expenditure in 2008		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	481,198
Consultants	-	78,644
Official travel	-	97,524
Contractual services	-	104,002
General operating expenses	-	82,458
Supplies & materials	-	19,327
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	258,727
Subtotal	-	1,121,880
Programme support costs	-	145,844
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,267,724

Uganda

Date established	2005
Staff as at 31 December 2008	43
Expenditure in 2008	\$3,407,341

The human rights and security situation in northern and northeastern Uganda continued to improve during 2008 with 75 per cent of the 1.8 million internally displaced persons returning to their homes. The two-year old Juba peace process was stalled in December 2008 with a joint military operation by Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and southern Sudan against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) bases in eastern Congo after the LRA failed to sign a final peace agreement. At the national level, torture and other forms of ill-treatment continued to be reported. Uganda registered progress in reducing extreme poverty, increasing primary school enrolment and addressing major diseases, such as HIV/AIDS and malaria. However, regional disparities remain, and trends indicate that national Millennium Development Goal targets for reducing maternal and under-five mortality ratios by 2015 are unlikely to be met.

The primary role of OHCHR's country office is to protect and empower people in the conflict-affected areas of northern and northeastern Uganda. In view of the overall improved human rights and security situation in the country, in 2008 the Office prioritized strengthening local capacity to monitor and respond to conflict and post conflict-related human rights violations. By the end of the year, the office had six sub-regional/district offices in Gulu, Pader, Kitgum (Acholiland), Lira (Lango), Soroti (Teso), and Moroto (Karamoja), in addition to its headquarters in Kampala, and a liaison office in Kotido (Karamoja).

Activities

- ▶ Trained 2,239 police officers, 950 members of the army, 60 members of local district authorities, 25 investigators from the Ugandan Human Rights Commission and 30 members of the Civil-Military Cooperation Centre.
- ▶ Led advocacy efforts to establish durable solutions for the return of internally displaced persons and conducted joint missions to the camps and return areas.
- ▶ Provided technical advice on the rights of persons with disabilities and advocated for ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

- ▶ Conducted sensitization meetings on reparations and human rights for key stakeholders, including local policy-makers and cultural leaders in Acholiland, Lango and Teso.
 - ▶ Intensified dialogue with the Government on children and armed conflict.
 - ▶ Led rights and gender advocacy within the Joint UN Task Force on HIV/AIDS and supported the Uganda Law Reform Commission in drafting the HIV/AIDS Prevention Bill.
 - ▶ Promoted human rights mainstreaming among members of the UN country team, including through training for 36 staff of UN agencies.
 - ▶ Supported the UN Development Programme on the use of a human rights-based approach to the Millennium Development Goals.
 - ▶ Provided a human rights analysis for the ten-year review of Uganda's Poverty Eradication Action Plan, intended to inform a new National Development Plan.
 - ▶ Advised the UN country team on human rights elements of the justice, law and order sector and provided technical guidance for the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's policy papers.
 - ▶ Trained over 90 local government officials in applying a human rights-based approach.
 - ▶ Supported Government and civil society engagement with UN human rights mechanisms and initiatives, including reporting obligations under key treaties.
 - ▶ Based on the office's monitoring of the return of internally displaced persons, a thematic research report was completed on housing, land and property rights in northern Uganda.
- the police, army and judiciary were used more consistently in northern Uganda.
- ▶ Following training by OHCHR, the Human Rights Commission and the Civil-Military Cooperation Centre increased human rights monitoring, outreach and mediation efforts in camps and return areas.
 - ▶ The Office's advocacy work with local governments in Lira, Kitgum, Gulu and Pader districts led to the establishment of human rights desks by local governments in these districts. The desks are tasked to monitor the human rights situation and to integrate the human rights-based approach into development plans at the district level.
 - ▶ Sensitization and research on transitional justice led to an understanding of reparations as a human right among key stakeholders. This was reflected in a subsequent advocacy campaign by the civil society group, Coalition on Transitional Justice, in northern Uganda. The campaign advocated that the Government's Transitional Justice Working Group include reparations within its mandate. A civil society group working with women in conflict developed an action plan to enhance women's engagement in transitional justice, including raising awareness about the gender dimension of reparations.
 - ▶ At OHCHR's initiative, the Ugandan Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting made a submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on its implementation of the Optional Protocol on Children in Armed Conflict, and helped to finalize an Action Plan on Children and Armed Conflict.
 - ▶ UN specialized agencies have requested wider staff training on human rights indicators, especially on the rights to food, health and education.

Results

- ▶ Awareness of human rights increased and existing processes to address violations among





OHCHR staff interviewing victims of human rights violations in Uganda.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The level of NGO presence and the capacity of NGOs to undertake human rights work varies across the country, with particularly low levels in northern Uganda and Karamoja. Since NGO participation adds legitimacy and new perspectives to advocacy, the lack of sufficient numbers and capacity poses challenges.
- ▶ Gaps in capacity should not only be addressed through training, but through technical assistance projects and policy proposals aimed at institutional changes. In addition, future programmes should focus on improved institutionalization of OHCHR training efforts, particularly by linking them to the training units of the respective bodies.

Uganda: Expenditure in 2008		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	2,253,582
Consultants	-	6,231
Official travel	-	55,681
Contractual services	-	18,822
General operating expenses	-	240,712
Supplies & materials	-	101,706
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	338,613
Subtotal	-	3,015,346
Programme support costs	-	391,995
GRAND TOTAL	-	3,407,341

Regional Offices and Centres

Sub-regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (Yaoundé, Cameroon)

Year established	2001
Staff as at 31 December 2008	8
Expenditure in 2008	\$1,118,262

Serious human rights and democracy challenges persist in Central Africa. While some countries' national constitutions expressly guarantee human rights, much work remains to ensure they are reflected in ordinary legislation. Discrimination against ethnic minorities, women and children remain of great concern and judiciaries require substantive and financial strengthening. Conflict persists in some parts of the sub-region while impunity and democratic deficits pose a potential threat to the sub-region's long-term stability. Most countries have national human rights institutions, but these generally fall short of fully complying with the Paris Principles in terms of independence, adequate budgets, premises and staff. However, there is growing awareness of these deficits, and steps are being taken in several countries to improve the situation.

The Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa was established by the General Assembly and operates under the auspices of OHCHR in Yaoundé. During 2008, the Centre concentrated its efforts in the areas of gender equality and women's empowerment, child trafficking, non-discrimination towards indigenous peoples, transitional justice, the rule of law and human rights standards in police work.

Activities

- ▶ Conducted three missions to the Republic of Congo to provide training on human rights-related issues for Government officials and parliamentarians, and to support the establishment of the Congolese Human Rights Commission.
- ▶ In collaboration with the Economic Community of Central African States, organized a regional conference on child trafficking in Gabon for 26 participants of Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, Gabon and the Republic of Congo.
- ▶ Convened a four-day training-of-trainers on transitional justice for 13 participants from six countries of the sub-region.

- ▶ Trained UN programme staff on the human rights-based approach to programming.
- ▶ Cooperated with the International Labour Organization, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Wildlife Fund on an evaluation of the human rights situation of indigenous peoples in Cameroon, with the aim of addressing identified problems in Cameroon's next Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and future UN project work.
- ▶ Trained 15 participants from Central and West Africa on human rights education in collaboration with the Islamic Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organization.
- ▶ Contributed to training programmes in two police schools in Cameroon by developing three hour-long modules on human rights norms for law enforcement officials; delivered four training courses in a sub-regional advanced school for police officers in charge of law and order and three in the national training centre for Gendarmerie officers in charge of criminal investigations, with around 25 to 30 participants per course; and co-organized a conference on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Cameroon.
- ▶ Worked with the UN country team of Equatorial Guinea on defining a UN contribution to national HIV/AIDS policies.
- ▶ Continued to participate in the periodic meetings of Economic Community of Central African States and the UN Advisory Committee on Peace and Security in Central Africa.

Results

- ▶ Established a sub-regional network of trainers in transitional justice, which has been exchanging information since its inception.
- ▶ Provided clarity on the discrepancies between the national laws on women's rights and the international human rights instruments to which Cameroon is a party, to assist the Government and Parliament in drafting laws that comply with Cameroon's international obligations. The Ministry of the Family and Women's Promotion has expressed interest in working further with OHCHR on the discrepancies identified.
- ▶ Following OHCHR advocacy and technical input, and in collaboration with other UN agencies, the Government of Cameroon prepared a law to protect the rights of indigenous peoples.
- ▶ In response to technical advice from OHCHR, the Cameroon National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms was granted financial autonomy.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ OHCHR's work has demonstrated the need to prioritize engagement with regional organizations to achieve maximum impact with limited means.
- ▶ OHCHR is well placed to assist national human rights institutions in Central Africa in improving cooperation among themselves, exchanging information and experiences, and engaging in lessons-learned exercises at a sub-regional level.
- ▶ The sub-regional centre would benefit from having a full mandate that includes human rights investigation and observation, rather than only a promotion and technical cooperation mandate.

Sub-regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa: Expenditure in 2008		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	528,611	15,839
Consultants	-	21,705
Official travel	91,203	67,792
Contractual services	-	26,674
General operating expenses	53,100	62,434
Supplies & materials	38,373	19,947
Seminars, grants & contributions	49,000	102,401
Subtotal	760,287	316,792
Programme support costs	-	41,183
GRAND TOTAL	760,287	357,975

Regional Office for East Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

Year established	2001
Staff as at 31 December 2008	13
Expenditure in 2008	\$1,010,165

The human rights situation in East Africa saw no major improvement during 2008. The United Nations Mission for Ethiopia and Eritrea closed due to the longstanding *impasse* on the border dispute between the two countries. The increasingly restrictive legal environment for both the media and NGOs in Ethiopia, continued escalation of violence in Somalia, the unresolved border tension between Eritrea and Djibouti, coupled with the global food crisis, threatened the already fragile peace and security prevailing within the region.

The East Africa regional office is responsible for engaging with the African Union, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and countries in the east and Horn of Africa, focusing primarily on Ethiopia, Djibouti and Tanzania, which lack an OHCHR country presence. The Office works to enhance the human rights capacity of the ECA and the African Union Commission, engages with UN country teams and offices in the target countries to support a human rights-based approach to programming, and helps to build the capacity of national actors to protect and promote human rights.

Activities

- ▶ Held a consultative meeting during the 43rd session of the African Commission on human and peoples' rights in Swaziland.
- ▶ Facilitated meetings of the UN African Union sub-cluster on human rights, justice and reconciliation in the context of the United Nations ten-year capacity-building programme for the African Union.
- ▶ Was involved in regional and international conferences organized by ECA, including the African Union/ECA African conference of ministers in charge of finance, planning and economic development, the first Pan African conference on the international convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, the ninth Regional Consultative Meeting, and the sixth Africa Development Forum, which focused on women's rights.
- ▶ Organized a sub-regional workshop on reporting to treaty bodies for 62 participants from government, national human rights institutions, civil society and the United Nations from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Tanzania, Kenya, Sudan, Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda. Trained an additional 68 members of government, national human rights institutions and civil society from Ethiopia and Djibouti on reporting to treaty bodies.
- ▶ Helped to establish the Ethiopian protection cluster, which holds regular meetings for multiple national and international actors.
- ▶ Co-organized a national conference on human rights in Djibouti for 70 representatives of government, civil society, national institutions and the United Nations to discuss the country's accomplishments and needs in the area of human rights.
- ▶ Trained 67 UN staff from Ethiopia and Tanzania, including heads of agencies, on the human rights-based approach to programming.
- ▶ In collaboration with the Tanzanian UN country team and the Tanzanian Commission on Human Rights and Good Governance, co-organized a national conference on the human rights situation in Tanzania. Some 150 participants from government, civil society and national institutions attended.
- ▶ Arranged for five members of the Ethiopian ad hoc inter-ministerial coordination committee to attend treaty-body sessions to expand their knowledge of how they operate.

Results

- ▶ As a result of OHCHR's work to mainstream human rights, human rights issues were increasingly integrated into regional and international conferences held by the African Union Commission and the ECA; and the Pan-African Conference on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities led to a call for action to adopt and implement the Convention.
- ▶ OHCHR successfully advocated for the creation of an inter-ministerial committee in Djibouti to coordinate the reporting process to treaty bodies and to the Human Rights Council. As a result, Djibouti's report to the Universal Periodic Review process was submitted on time.
- ▶ Following OHCHR's capacity-strengthening activities, Ethiopia was able to submit its common core document and overdue reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.
- ▶ OHCHR helped to increase the capacity of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission by providing staff training and by developing a human rights resource centre and a website. Subsequently, the Commission assumed ownership of human rights activities initiated by OHCHR.
- ▶ Following advocacy undertaken by OHCHR, a national human rights commission was created in Djibouti and its members were nominated.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ In Djibouti, limited capacities at the national level, particularly among civil society, have made it difficult for OHCHR to widen the group of stakeholders with which it can engage.
- ▶ In 2008, OHCHR was unable to work in Eritrea due to the reluctance of Eritrean authorities to cooperate with UN agencies based in Ethiopia.

Regional Office for East Africa: Expenditure in 2008

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	554,376
Consultants	-	10,100
Official travel	-	58,972
Contractual services	-	29,954
General operating expenses	-	87,600
Supplies & materials	-	21,500
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	131,450
Subtotal	-	893,951
Programme support costs	-	116,214
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,010,165

Regional Office for Southern Africa (Pretoria, South Africa)

Year established	1998
Staff as at 31 December 2008	3
Expenditure in 2008	\$568,562

The regional human rights situation was adversely affected in 2008 by the deteriorating situation in Zimbabwe. The country's deepening crises of governance, health, education, land/property and food security, with an economy collapsing under record hyper-inflation, resulted in a significant outflow of migrants and asylum-seekers to neighbouring countries. These movements triggered a wave of xenophobic violence in South Africa in May 2008, after which thousands of persons were displaced into temporary camps set up by the Government of South Africa with UN assistance. A cholera epidemic that developed in Zimbabwe in August ultimately took over 3,000 lives and spilled over into neighbouring countries, necessitating a coordinated and effective international humanitarian response.

OHCHR's regional office in Pretoria provides human rights advice and assistance to governments and civil society in Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The office also engages with regional and sub-regional organizations and works closely with UN country teams to integrate a rights-based approach to UN development programming.

Activities

- ▶ Co-organized two conferences in South Africa on business and human rights, and on human rights and the Millennium Development Goals.
- ▶ In collaboration with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, co-organized a regional workshop on human rights and migration.
- ▶ Provided training and information to help establish or strengthen national human rights commissions in Lesotho, Zambia and Mauritius.
- ▶ Carried out training on reporting to treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review at numerous regional seminars and conferences and on the national level in Mozambique, Zambia and Botswana.
- ▶ Participated in the assistance mission to Madagascar by the UN Committee on Counter-terrorism.
- ▶ Worked closely with the UN country team in Comoros to develop a strategy integrating human rights in the Government's peace-building efforts.
- ▶ In consultation with the UN country team in Zimbabwe, developed a medium-term strategy to provide human rights assistance to the Government of National Unity in the areas of constitutional reform, establishment of a human rights commission, transitional justice, national reconciliation and human rights training for security forces.
- ▶ Provided a strategy for the South African Development Community (SADC) to establish a SADC Human Rights Commission and facilitated the participation of the SADC Tribunal in a global, OHCHR lessons-learned workshop on regional human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Worked closely with the South African Human Rights Commission and civil society in South Africa to provide training and information at numerous seminars on issues such as strengthening regional human rights mechanisms; human rights and faith-based organizations; human rights and peacekeeping; and human rights and counter-terrorism.

Results

- ▶ National human rights institutions in Zambia and Mauritius were strengthened; in Lesotho, a bill on the establishment of a national human rights commission will incorporate recommendations made by OHCHR.
- ▶ Following technical assistance from OHCHR, there was greater integration of human rights in the UN Development Assistance Framework for Botswana.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Given its small size, its extensive geographic mandate and its limited budget, the regional office continued to rely on cooperation with national and regional partners to undertake joint activities while helping to build national capacities.

Regional Office for Southern Africa: Expenditure in 2008		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	359,116
Consultants	-	-
Official travel	-	45,050
Contractual services	-	7,000
General operating expenses	-	41,718
Supplies & materials	-	11,700
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	38,568
Subtotal	-	503,152
Programme support costs	-	65,410
GRAND TOTAL	-	568,562

Regional Office for West Africa (Dakar, Senegal)

Date established	2007
Staff as at 31 December 2008	7
Expenditure in 2008	\$639,201

Rising food costs affected West Africa during 2008, prompting demonstrations in many countries of the sub-region, namely in Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal. The situation was aggravated by natural disasters, such as floods, which affected local populations in Senegal, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Togo, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. Although significant progress was made in peace consolidation and democratic governance through successful elections in Guinea-Bissau and Ghana, security threats posed by narcotic trafficking throughout the region, political instability and the failure to respect the rule of law continue to raise concern.

The regional office for West Africa complements the work of existing OHCHR presences in the region, namely the human rights advisers in Guinea and Niger, the country office in Togo and the human rights components of peace missions in

Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The regional office also works to address issues related to impunity and the rule of law, migration, trafficking in persons, economic, social and cultural rights, and seeks to help integrate a rights-based approach into the work of the UN country teams and other partners, including sub-regional organizations.

Activities

- ▶ Together with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), organized a regional conference on refugee protection and international migration in West Africa, in Dakar in November 2008, and chaired the working group on addressing challenges to human rights protection.
- ▶ Worked closely with the UN country team in Senegal to train 58 UN staff and representatives of Government partners, civil society and the national human rights institution on the human rights-based approach to programming.
- ▶ Participated in the 15th International Conference on AIDS and sexually transmitted infections in Africa held in Dakar in December, which was attended by more than 5,000 people from around the world. In particular, the office chaired a session on creating an enabling legal environment for the HIV response.
- ▶ In collaboration with UN and national partners in Senegal, commemorated the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including monitoring detention centres, holding panel discussions on the theme "dignity and justice for all of us", and mass sensitization about the Declaration through performances by local singers, theatre groups and poetry written by school children.
- ▶ Provided technical assistance on human rights to the Government of Cape Verde within the framework of the 'Delivering as One' programme.

Results

- ▶ The relationship between the Government of Senegal and the UN human rights mechanisms improved. In particular, technical advice provided to the national human rights organization and the national human rights commission led to the preparation and submission of outstanding reports to three treaty bodies and an official invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the right to education.

Regional Office for West Africa: Expenditure in 2008

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	298,909	6,800
Consultants	-	-
Official travel	42,826	17,324
Contractual services	6,400	-
General operating expenses	25,498	8,417
Supplies & materials	45,300	88,732
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	71,000
Subtotal	418,933	192,273
Programme support costs	3,000	24,995
GRAND TOTAL	421,933	217,268

Support for United Nations Peace Missions

Human Rights and Justice Integrated Office in Burundi

OHCHR's former country office in Burundi, established in 1995, merged with the United Nations Integrated Office in that country in 2007. The new human rights component, known as the Human Rights and Justice Division, works with the Government of Burundi to monitor the human rights situation, advocate for legal reform, combat impunity, and make the justice system more effective and credible. The two critical tasks emerging in 2008 were to assist the Government in fulfilling its commitments to establish an independent national human rights commission and embark on a transitional justice process.

Activities

- ▶ Monitored the human rights situation in all 17 provinces in close collaboration with local partners, and issued various reports, including weekly and monthly public reports.
- ▶ Trained 254 magistrates on international human rights instruments, 120 penitentiary personnel on basic human rights standards, 1,076 magistrates on professional ethics and 12 national trainers on the management of courts and tribunals, who subsequently trained 205 prosecutors, judges, clerks, and registrars.
- ▶ Organized a series of mobile court sessions to help accelerate court proceedings and decrease the

number of pre-trial detainees. Also supported the renovation of seven prisons throughout the country.

- ▶ Supported the construction or renovation of 17 local courts and the enforcement of court judgements in three northern provinces.
- ▶ Provided assistance in establishing transitional justice mechanisms by holding national consultations on these mechanisms, three training workshops on transitional justice for members of the Interfaith Council of Burundi, and 14 sessions to raise awareness about transitional justice issues for religious representatives, civil society and students in various provinces.
- ▶ Supported the Government in establishing the National Human Rights Commission in conformity with the Paris Principles and raised awareness about these principles in workshops and other sessions.
- ▶ Developed and implemented an integrated UN system-wide strategy to combat sexual and gender-based violence that led to 148 awareness-raising sessions for 8,172 persons throughout the country, three training-of-trainers sessions and four training sessions for security forces and media representatives.
- ▶ Provided technical support to the Government in meeting its reporting obligations to the treaty bodies and under the Universal Periodic Review process. As a result of this programme, a group of ministerial focal points in charge of drafting reports to the treaty bodies was established.
- ▶ In collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, organized an awareness-raising workshop on the concluding observations of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) for Burundi.
- ▶ Provided regular training to members at various levels of the national security forces, the national intelligence agency, and police.
- ▶ Supported two visits of the Independent Expert on the human rights situation in Burundi, in June and November 2008.

Results

- ▶ Regular human rights reports and forums for learning, dialogue and information exchange have provided a reliable source of information that has increased national awareness on human right violations.
- ▶ Consistent follow-up on specific cases of human rights violations with relevant authorities at the national and regional levels has, in many cases, led to their resolution.
- ▶ In June 2008, following advocacy undertaken in collaboration with the UN Children's Fund

(UNICEF), Burundi ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

- ▶ Awareness-raising activities prompted widespread public debate on transitional justice and helped to pave the way for the national consultations, which are expected to begin in June 2009.
- ▶ Improved access to justice by renovating and constructing local tribunals nationwide, clearing backlogs of unexecuted judgements, and professionalizing the judiciary through training.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The justice system continues to suffer from a lack of public confidence due to its lack of independence, weak accountability structures, and a persistently large backlog of cases, despite some progress in these areas.
- ▶ The compromises reached in the pursuit of peace include the acceptance of thousands of former rebel combatants into State structures, including the police and defence forces. These new elements must be properly trained early in their induction, including in the human rights implications of their work.

United Nations Peace-building Office in the Central African Republic

Despite regular elections, the Central African Republic has suffered 20 years of political instability. The Human Rights Section of the UN Peace-building Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA), which is supported by OHCHR, monitors the human rights situation, helps to strengthen the capacity of national institutions to protect and promote human rights, assists the judicial system in combating impunity, and helps the national authorities to protect the rights of most vulnerable groups. In addition to its office in Bangui, the Human Rights Section has three regional offices in Bambari, Bossangoa and Bouar and is establishing a fourth regional office in Paoua. The section is composed of 18 staff members.

Activities

- ▶ Based on its monitoring activities, published a first public human rights report in October 2008.
- ▶ Conducted ten sensitization and training activities for law enforcement officers and other State officials, such as local authorities and officials of the Ministry of Defence.
- ▶ Conducted eight training sessions for contingents of the Mission for the Consolidation of Peace on the mandate of the BONUCA and more general human rights issues that are of concern to the

Central African Republic, such as sexual and gender-based violence and how to address human rights violations.

- ▶ Held an awareness-raising campaign on human rights in the context of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in all communes of Bangui and all the prefectures of the country, as well as in the main prison, with the support of a local NGO and the Central African authorities.
- ▶ Provided assistance to the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions during his mission to the Central African Republic in February 2008.
- ▶ Provided advice to the Government on establishing an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.
- ▶ Assisted national authorities in revising the penal code and military law.

Results

- ▶ The authorities established a national committee to advise on legislation that will create a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.
- ▶ The authorities have shown a greater willingness to engage with BONUCA and with OHCHR on human rights protection issues, including in relation to specific cases of human rights violations.
- ▶ The Government invited the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons to conduct a follow-up visit to the country.
- ▶ There has been greater integration of human rights activities into the work of the UN agencies, including in the work of the UN Protection Working Group, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UN Population Fund.
- ▶ The penal code and military law were reviewed for their compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law, but have not yet been adopted by the National Assembly.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Impunity, democratic governance and rule of law remain the key challenges in the Central African Republic, and efforts should continue to assist the authorities in bringing alleged perpetrators of human rights violations to justice, foster the rule of law, and combat corruption within the judicial and security systems. In this respect, it will be important to strengthen the monitoring mandate of the Human Rights Section, particularly in view of the upcoming electoral process.



United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad

The United Nations Mission in Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) was established in 2007 to help create the security conditions conducive to a voluntary, secure and sustainable return of refugees and internally displaced persons, following the deterioration of the security situation in the region bordering Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic. The Human Rights Section within MINURCAT has a mandate to promote and protect human rights, focusing on sexual and gender-based violence, child soldiers and impunity. The Section currently has four regional offices in Chad (Abéché, Farchana, Iriba and Goz Beida) and a liaison office in N'Djamena.

Activities

- ▶ Registered 119 incidents, including 32 incidents of attacks against NGOs, 34 attacks against civilians, 15 separate incidents of violations of child's rights, mostly concerning recruitment into armed forces, and 20 incidents related to sexual and gender-based violence. In most cases, with the assistance of the MINURCAT, victims referred their cases to the police. MINURCAT followed up with the authorities to ensure enquiries and prosecutions took place according to the law.
- ▶ Trained 500 officers of the Chadian police responsible for the camps and security in the border region (the *Détachement Intégré de Sécurité*) on human rights standards and principles, human rights in the administration of justice, and the human rights situation in the east of Chad.
- ▶ Provided technical assistance to the Chadian Ministry of Human Rights and Promotion of Liberties to prepare a national human rights forum to develop a national human rights work plan.
- ▶ Provided technical assistance to civil society organizations to enhance their capacity to monitor and report on human rights violations and abuses, and conducted three sensitization seminars on sexual and gender-based violence for women in refugee camps.
- ▶ Held regular meetings with relevant stakeholders including UN agencies, international and national non-governmental humanitarian organizations and local authorities to address human rights concerns and make recommendations for corrective actions.
- ▶ Organized 85 visits to sites for internally displaced persons, refugee camps and villages in eastern Chad to monitor specific cases of human rights violations.
- ▶ Reported systematically on the human rights situation in eastern Chad through daily, weekly, monthly and other ad hoc reports.

- ▶ Conducted weekly visits to detention facilities in the east of Chad to monitor the conditions of detention and the treatment of detainees.

Results

- ▶ With the assistance of MINURCAT, several victims, particularly of sexual and gender-based violence, had their cases heard in court.
- ▶ Following the recommendations of the Human Rights Section, the Ministry of Human Rights gathered several national human rights actors to define a common plan of action to promote and protect human rights in Chad. In the past, and because of the current political situation in Chad, official entities and the civil society avoided working together on sensitive issues.
- ▶ Following regular visits to detention facilities, there was a noticeable improvement in adherence to the period of time legally allowed for pre-trial detention.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The dangerous security situation limits the mobility of human rights officers, hampering their work. Escorts, which are needed for all missions outside of the base, are not always available.
- ▶ Entrenched cultural beliefs and practices continue to pose obstacles to respecting human rights, especially concerning sexual and gender-based violence. In addition, the absence of a functional judicial system in most areas in eastern Chad undermines efforts to tackle impunity.

United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) was established in 2004 with a mandate to facilitate implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis Peace Agreement (2003) and other relevant agreements signed by Ivorian parties. OHCHR supports the Human Rights Division of UNOCI with its mandate to engage in training, advocacy, awareness-raising activities and technical assistance to address key human rights challenges, including impunity and the rights of women and children. The division is composed of 61 staff members deployed at the headquarters in Abidjan and in the nine regional offices throughout the country.

Activities

- ▶ Monitored daily the human rights situation and conducted special investigation missions into allegations of human rights violations.

- ▶ Worked with the Ministry of National Education on mainstreaming human rights into school curricula, established 100 new human rights clubs in schools and colleges and provided training and technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of 100 existing human rights clubs.
- ▶ Conducted an information campaign to sensitize the general public on human rights issues through 40 weekly radio programmes on human rights; printed and distributed 100,000 pamphlets; held six human rights briefings for the media and the diplomatic community; conducted various outreach activities, including forums, in nine locations to commemorate International Human Rights Day; produced four short television documentaries on human rights themes; and organized workshops in Abidjan and in regional locations to explain human rights issues and the electoral process.
- ▶ Provided technical assistance and substantive support to the National Human Rights Commission on a monthly basis and organized eight training courses on investigating, documenting and reporting human rights violations and on reporting to treaty bodies for the 50 members and 20 staff of the National Human Rights Commission.
- ▶ Organized human rights training for 20,000 Ivorian military, law enforcement and judicial personnel, emphasizing the rights of women and children as well as human rights in relation to elections; held 50 seminars, conferences and public-awareness campaigns on human rights issues for local authorities, NGOs and civil society in 18 regions of the country; and trained 500 staff of local NGOs in investigating and documenting human rights violations.
- ▶ Supported the visit of the Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteurs on toxic waste and education during their visits to the country.

Results

- ▶ Following technical cooperation and advocacy activities to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, staff from the Ministry conducted four three-day field missions to monitor prison conditions and hold public meetings with the community and civil and military authorities on the human rights situation. A comprehensive report from these activities was prepared and shared with national stakeholders.
- ▶ Several human rights clubs established their action plans and independently conducted numerous activities to raise public awareness on human rights.



Women rejoice at the signing of the peace accord between the rebel movements and the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, January 2008.

- ▶ As result of public reporting and contributions to reports of the UN Secretary-General to the Security Council, the Government established new policies to fight human trafficking and corruption and prosecute perpetrators of human rights violations.
- ▶ Following advocacy and reports on sexual and gender-based violence by UNOCI, the Government trained magistrates to tackle this issue.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Ensuring that human rights remain central to the political process during upcoming general and presidential elections will be a challenge. The Human Rights Division of UNOCI conducted a field visit to the MONUC Human Rights Office to share information and learn from their experiences in handling human rights issues in post-conflict areas.

United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (UNJHRO) comprises the Human Rights Division of the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and the Office of the United Nations High

Commissioner for Human Rights. The two offices have been fully integrated and the UNJHRO functions in accordance with their two mandates. Through these mandates, the UNJHRO carries out a wide range of human rights promotion and protection activities, including efforts to combat sexual violence, build the capacity of civil servants, army and police personnel, and civil society members, and conduct investigations into human rights violations. The UNJHRO operates from its headquarters in Kinshasa and from 18 field offices, with a total of 131 staff.

Activities

- ▶ In close collaboration with its local partners and the local authorities, UNJHRO monitored and documented human rights violations across the country and produced various weekly and monthly public reports and special reports.
- ▶ On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UNJHRO organized a three-month sensitization campaign in Kinshasa and in the provinces for Government representatives, security forces, civil society, schools, universities and the general population. Activities included theatre productions, presentations on a theme followed by debates, and marches.

- ▶ In the framework of the UN Sexual Violence Task Force, UNJHRO was designated to serve as the lead agency for implementation of the UN Action Plan to mitigate impunity for all crimes of sexual violence. It has also developed and is implementing, with the Ministry of Justice, a six-point roadmap aimed at addressing the root causes of impunity for sexual violence.
- ▶ Provided legal assistance to victims of rape and other forms of sexual violence.
- ▶ Provided human rights training to members of the security services, parliamentarians, the judiciary, journalists and civil society organizations.
- ▶ Conducted seminars on establishing a national human rights institution for leading stakeholders, including members of Parliament and civil society.

Results

- ▶ A draft law on the establishment of a national human rights institution was adopted by the Senate on 6 June 2008 and was submitted to the National Assembly on 11 June.
- ▶ Following sensitization activities with parliamentarians, on 24 June 2008 the Parliament adopted and subsequently promulgated a law to protect persons suffering from HIV/AIDS against discrimination and stigmatization.
- ▶ Five legal aid clinics were established in Maniema, Equateur, Orientale, North and South Kivu. The clinics provide legal assistance to

victims of rape and other forms of sexual violence.

- ▶ With UNJHRO assistance, a victims and witnesses protection network was established by civil society organizations. Operating in nine provinces, the network has already relocated numerous victims and witnesses and provided them with medical, psycho-social, socio-economic and legal assistance. In parallel, the Congolese authorities have become more committed to protection matters, especially at the judicial level concerning the protection of victims and witnesses.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Tackling impunity remains the biggest challenge in the area of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Despite their expressed commitment to combat impunity, the Congolese authorities have yet to provide concrete examples of that commitment, such as to arrest and try the perpetrators of serious human rights abuses.
- ▶ Given that a common underlying cause of the many human rights violations is the systemic failure of the Congolese State to collect and redistribute the country's vast wealth from its natural resources in order to realize human rights, efforts must be made to ensure that revenues derived from the exploitation of these resources or from other business activities reach the State coffers.

Mapping human rights violations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

In July 2008, an advance team of OHCHR human rights investigators arrived in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to carry out a 'mapping' exercise intended to document serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law committed over a ten-year period, 1993-2003.

The initiative, which has the backing of the UN Secretary-General and the support of the Congolese authorities, is designed to help tackle impunity in the DRC and provide a basis for possible transitional justice mechanisms. In addition to establishing a historical

record of past suffering, the exercise will assess the capacity of the national justice system and formulate options of transitional justice mechanisms to address such violations as may be uncovered.

The project is being conducted by OHCHR in close coordination with three main implementing partners: the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the UN Mission in the DRC (MONUC) and the UN Development Programme. Work was substantially advanced by the end of 2008 and is expected to be completed by the end of May 2009, with a final report due to be

submitted to the High Commissioner for Human Rights during the first week of June 2009.

Funding for the initiative was provided through the UN Development Programme, which served as the administrative agent for the project. As of 31 December 2008, the following donors had made earmarked contributions amounting to some \$2.8 million: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Germany, the Republic of Korea, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, The Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

United Nations Mission to Ethiopia and Eritrea

The United Nations Mission to Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) was created by the Security Council in July 2000 to assist and monitor implementation of the agreed cessation of hostilities between the two countries in the temporary security zone. OHCHR assisted UNMEE in monitoring the temporary security zone and areas adjacent to it, and investigating and reporting on allegations of cross-border incidents and human rights violations. The situation began to deteriorate markedly in 2006, adversely affecting the mission's ability to fulfil its mandate. In July 2008, a Security Council resolution (1827) terminated the UNMEE mission, effective 31 July 2008.

Activities

- ▶ Monitored the return and resettlement of 113,000 internally displaced persons.
- ▶ Held regular discussions with local authorities and partners in both countries to coordinate and advise on human rights policies and practices.
- ▶ Worked with the UN country team human rights working groups in Ethiopia and Eritrea to exchange information and coordinate human rights strategies, activities and programmes.

Results

- ▶ Monitoring the return and resettlement of internally displaced persons led to a reduction in the number of reported cases of cross-border abductions, detentions, disappearances and other forms of human rights violations.

United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau

The United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau was established in 1999 to deal with challenges such as political instability, frequent military interventions, and the failure of State institutions to provide basic services and adequate protection. OHCHR provides support to the two-person human rights component to engage in monitoring and investigation, human rights education, technical cooperation, and integrating human rights into the work of UN partners. The country held free and fair legislative elections during 2008 and a new Government took office in early 2009.

Activities

- ▶ Trained 59 police officers from Bolama and Buba in human rights norms; 30 participants from the UN country team on the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security; and 35 journalists and media professionals on the role of the media in promoting and protecting human rights, especially during democratic elections.
- ▶ Collaborated with the Human Rights League, the Commission for Peace and Justice, the Red Cross and the Spanish humanitarian NGO AIDA to create and operate a forum on the humanitarian situation in prisons.
- ▶ Monitored court proceedings of dissident military suspects arrested in connection with the 23 November attack on the residence of the President, to ensure legality, transparency and respect for human rights in the proceedings.
- ▶ In partnership with national and international partners, commemorated the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Human Rights Day. Activities included sports, cultural, outreach and public-information events, conferences and an official ceremony attended by hundreds of different actors.

Results

- ▶ Elaborated a code of conduct for police officers following advocacy and a workshop aimed at integrating human rights standards into their work.
- ▶ Mainstreamed gender into development-cooperation programmes through the elaboration of a comprehensive framework for the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 1325.
- ▶ Following training for journalists and media professionals, the number of human rights radio programmes increased and a journalist network was created.
- ▶ Regular monitoring of the human rights and humanitarian situation of detainees by the humanitarian forum resulted in medical care and basic non-food items being provided to detainees.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Strengthening the working relationships within the UN country team, in the absence of an integrated UN presence, has been essential to achieving the most basic of human rights goals.

United Nations Mission in Liberia

The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) was established in September 2004. The Human Rights and Protection Section, supported by OHCHR, monitors the human rights situation and issues public reports, engages in awareness-raising activities among the general population, and works to establish and strengthen national institutions. During 2008, the section worked to ensure that UN and Government programmes reflected the human rights-based approach to programming. Priority areas were economic, social and cultural rights, the rights of persons with disabilities, monitoring trials and detention facilities, and reparations in the context of transitional justice. The Deputy High Commissioner visited Liberia in May 2008.

Activities

- ▶ Held three workshops to train the UN country team, senior government officials and civil society on the human rights-based approach to programming.
- ▶ Monitored the human rights situation in the country with a new emphasis on monitoring legal systems and economic, social and cultural rights.
- ▶ Participated in the Task Force on Disabilities assisting with training for local NGOs on monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which entered into force in May 2008.
- ▶ At the request of the Ministry of Justice, submitted comments on proposed draft amendments to the Independent National Commission on Human Rights Act, and assisted civil society organizations in submitting their comments on the draft amendments.
- ▶ Implemented capacity-building programmes with the Liberian National Police (LNP) and UN police officers to strengthen human rights knowledge and law enforcement standards, including the development of a group of internal trainers.
- ▶ Provided advice on the development of the draft Children's Bill and worked with national and local actors to improve conditions in orphanages and for inter-country adoptions.
- ▶ Continued to support 36 human rights clubs for children and youth throughout Liberia, providing a forum for children to learn about human rights and responsibilities and create a safe space for participants to discuss the issues that affect them.
- ▶ Published a report on the human rights situation in Liberia for the period November 2007 to June 2008.

Results

- ▶ The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper reflected the human rights-based approach following OHCHR technical assistance.
- ▶ Human rights were taken into account in the Security Sector Reform Strategy, which incorporated ethnic, geographic, and gender-balance provisions for the Armed Forces of Liberia.
- ▶ The Truth and Reconciliation Commission submitted the first volume of its final report to the president and legislature on 19 December 2008. Supplementary volumes and annexes are expected by June 2009.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The main challenge remains the lack of an operational independent national commission on human rights, in spite of consistent interventions by international and national organizations.

United Nations Integrated Peace Building Office in Sierra Leone

The United Nations Integrated Peace Building Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) was established in August 2008 to take over from United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone. The Human Rights and Rule of Law Section of UNIPSIL assists the Government in creating conditions for lasting peace, security and development. Human rights priorities include strengthening national capacity for the promotion and protection of human rights, particularly that of the National Human Rights Commission, implementing the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and strengthening the rule of law by promoting the independence of the judiciary and enhancing the capacity of the police and correctional services.

Activities

- ▶ Monitored the human rights situation in the country and issued regular reports, including two thematic reports on elections and sexual and gender-based violence.
- ▶ Conducted capacity-building and training programmes on human rights, democracy and the rule of law benefiting over 700 human rights advocates, 400 traditional leaders, 100 police prosecutors, 55 police on peacekeeping assignments, and 100 Government officials.

- ▶ Provided advisory and technical services to the Human Rights Commission, including development of statutory instruments for the handling of complaints and the formulation of a three-year strategic action plan.
- ▶ Provided advisory, technical assistance and training to the Government on treaty-body reporting.
- ▶ With the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, jointly organized a national conference on integrating human rights in the curriculum of secondary schools, resulting in the adoption of a strategy to this end.
- ▶ Conducted a number of activities to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including radio programmes, 48 nationwide sensitization workshops in communities and schools, benefiting over 5,000 people, erected 18 billboards in various parts of the country depicting various articles of the Declaration, and produced and distributed promotional materials, including 3,000 musical CDs and 2,000 cassettes on the Declaration.
- ▶ Established four fully equipped resource centres to host human rights NGOs in four districts to support monitoring, sensitization and advocacy activities.
- ▶ Developed learning tools on the human rights-based approach for in-country partners, conducted 32 weekly human rights radio programmes on the UN radio, and facilitated the preliminary stages of formulating a national action plan for human rights.

Results

- ▶ Greater recognition of human rights by the Government, which placed human rights among its priority areas and initiated new laws and support to rights-related programmes.
- ▶ A national strategy for treaty-body reporting and an institutional framework for the preparation of country reports were adopted by the cabinet.
- ▶ Incorporated human rights into a number of peace-consolidation strategies and development frameworks, including the Peace Consolidation Strategy, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and the UN Peace Building Cooperation framework.
- ▶ There was some improvement in the administration of justice, including a reduction in the backlog of cases, increased respect for human rights in the administration of justice, thanks to training of police prosecutors, local court chairmen and prison officers, and some reduction in delays in charging and preparing indictments.



- ▶ Some progress was evident on women's rights in the election of women to Parliament and local district Councils in strongly traditional communities. In one district where no woman had ever held office, six women were elected.
- ▶ Some of the key recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission were implemented, including the Gender Justice Acts, the Child Rights Act, and the initial phases of a reparations programme.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Despite new laws, the level of gender-based violence, including rape and domestic violence, has not decreased and the statistics are staggering. Communities continue to handle cases of domestic violence through out-of-court settlements. There is a need for greater sensitization of communities and further efforts on law reform.
- ▶ The Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone is a pillar of the national human rights system but is still a young institution. Further capacity-building and adequate budget support are required.

United Nations Political Office for Somalia

During 2008, the Djibouti peace process led to an agreement between the Transitional Federal Government and the Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia. However, armed conflict continued and armed criminal gangs engaged in piracy, kidnappings and other criminal activities. Against this

backdrop, the human rights situation deteriorated, prompting the re-establishment in June 2008 of an integrated UN Human Rights Unit within the UN Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS). The Human Rights Unit provides support and advice on human rights to the Special Representative for the Secretary-General for Somalia, UNPOS, the UN country team, the Transitional Federal Government, the Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia, local authorities and civil society.

Activities

- ▶ Conducted four monitoring and fact-finding field missions to Somalia and four missions to the Dadaab refugee camp in northeastern Kenya to monitor the human rights situation.
- ▶ Established close working relationships with civil society, the Transitional Federal Government, the Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia, the authorities in “Puntland” and “Somaliland”, and with the diplomatic community.
- ▶ Supported the peace process led by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, and ensured that human rights and justice were included in the Djibouti Agreement (article 9).
- ▶ Conducted a workshop on transitional justice involving experts from OHCHR headquarters in Geneva, members of the high-level committee established under the Djibouti Agreement, Somali civil society and representatives from the African Union, European Union, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the UN Fund for Women, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN Department of Political Affairs.
- ▶ Provided substantive and administrative support to two missions of the Independent Expert on Somalia, as well as missions by the Special Rapporteur on internally displaced persons, the Deputy High Commissioner and an OHCHR technical assessment team.

Results

- ▶ Expanded the human rights protection and monitoring network consisting of national and international partners, including Somali civil society organizations.
- ▶ A joint working group between the Transitional Federal Government and the Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia on justice and reconciliation was established within the framework of the Djibouti Agreement.
- ▶ The promotion and protection of human rights, including women’s rights, was included in relevant programmes and activities of UN agencies.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The security situation in Somalia (phase IV in all areas, except Mogadishu, which is phase V), did not allow for extensive field missions or training activities on the ground. Movement of human rights missions were restricted; after the suicide attacks against UN installations in northwestern Somalia, they were fully suspended. Verification of information remains extremely difficult and it was often not possible to do more than record allegations.

African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

The African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) was established by Security Council resolution 1769 on 1 January 2008 to contribute to efforts to protect and promote human rights in Darfur, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups and the protection of civilians, and to assist in implementing the Darfur Peace Agreement and any subsequent agreements. OHCHR supports the human rights component of UNAMID, which engages in human rights monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and awareness-raising activities. In addition to its headquarters in El Fasher, the Human Rights Section has four local offices in Darfur, 11 military out-posts and a liaison office in Khartoum.

Activities

- ▶ Conducted 235 field missions to monitor the human rights situation in Darfur and issued 36 consolidated weekly human rights reports, contributed to eight reports to the UN Security Council and submitted contributions to the Secretary-General’s report on progress made on the implementation of the Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820. These reports provided the most up-to-date and comprehensive source of information on the human rights situation in Darfur.
- ▶ Undertook capacity-building activities for Government institutions, including a workshop on fair-trial standards for judges and lawyers in south Darfur, a workshop on gender-based violence for 50 Sudanese police officers, and a workshop on human rights awareness for 25 prison officers at Ardamata Prison, west Darfur.
- ▶ Held training and information workshops to strengthen the human rights capacity of civil society organizations, including four workshops on violence against women, three training-of-trainers workshops on gender-based

violence, two workshops on basic human rights concepts for members of the Native Administration in west Darfur, and a training workshop on transitional justice.

- ▶ Provided orientation training to 352 UNAMID civilian police and military observers in human rights and a workshop on gender, human rights and Sudanese national laws for UNAMID military gender focal points.
- ▶ Provided advice on legal reforms to the Government legislative council to address deficiencies in current laws, including the Criminal Act 1991.

Results

- ▶ Creation of the Darfur Human Rights Forum, a regular meeting of senior Government and local focal points to hold transparent and constructive discussions on human rights issues, concerns, trends, recommendations, and actions taken by the Government on specific cases, and to improve the general human rights situation in Darfur.
- ▶ The North Darfur State Committee to Combat Violence against Women was strengthened

through UNAMID's support to establish subcommittees in five localities in north Darfur, which will allow for better monitoring of human rights violations against women, provide support for victims and undertake prevention campaigns.

- ▶ Established a legal library in the Offices of the Prosecutor for West Darfur State and North Darfur State, which make available legal texts and other law-related books to judges, prosecutors, lawyers, students, teachers and civil society.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The increased Security Phase in Darfur, from Phase III to Phase IV, had a significant impact on human rights staff, many of whom were temporarily relocated. It also became increasingly difficult to travel through Darfur by road to conduct routine monitoring and investigations of human rights violations. As a result, the number and scope of monitoring missions were limited.
- ▶ In spite of assurances from the Government, human rights monitors continue to be denied full and unimpeded access to all those detained in Darfur in relation to the conflict, including those held in National Security and Military Intelligence facilities.



Residents of Silea in Western Darfur.

United Nations Mission in Sudan

Security Council resolution 1590 established the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) in March 2005 to support implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Government of Sudan and the People's Liberation Movement/Army. Since the January 2008 establishment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), UNMIS concentrates exclusively on monitoring and promoting human rights in both southern and northern Sudan, excluding Darfur. The change in focus in 2008 enabled UNMIS Human Rights to strengthen its monitoring and reporting of the Government of National Unity's implementation of its obligations under international human rights law in Khartoum, the three Transitional North/South Areas and southern Sudan. Capacity-building activities and promoting human rights standards in these areas were also prioritized.

Activities

- ▶ In southern Sudan, investigated, monitored and reported on arbitrary arrest and detention, ill treatment and torture of detainees, restrictions on press freedom and interference with the work of

journalists and human rights defenders, death penalty cases and forced evictions in the context of hydropower dam projects.

- ▶ In the Transitional Areas, investigated, monitored and reported on weak administration of justice and arbitrary arrest and detention, and accountability for violations committed during the May 2008 clashes in Abyei.
- ▶ In southern Sudan, investigated, monitored and reported on killings and sexual assaults of civilians by security forces and other armed actors, impunity of State actors, women's rights under customary law, weak administration of justice and arbitrary arrest and detention, discrimination against vulnerable groups and returnees and the impact of oil extraction on human rights.
- ▶ In southern Sudan, conducted a series of joint prison visits with judges, prosecutors and parliamentarians, trained prison officials on international human rights standards and provided legal assistance to vulnerable detainees and death row inmates.
- ▶ Provided training, technical assistance and logistical support to the Southern Sudan Human Rights Commission.
- ▶ Produced draft training manuals for police officers in both northern and southern Sudan.

Internally displaced persons in Sudan receiving emergency food aid.



- ▶ Conducted a number of workshops and training sessions on fulfilling human rights obligations for parliamentarians, local authorities, judges (both State-appointed and customary), law enforcement agencies and civil society organizations throughout the country.

Results

- ▶ Advocacy throughout 2008 contributed to an improved enabling law, largely in compliance with the Paris Principles, for the Southern Sudan Human Rights Commission, which was passed by the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly in February 2009.
- ▶ In southern Sudan, advocacy secured the release of several illegally detained persons and appeals were lodged against a number of death sentences.
- ▶ In southern Sudan, continued advocacy and technical assistance led to Government acceptance of the need for a legal aid programme and to the adoption of the Legal Aid Bill in early 2009.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Work was hampered by lack of access to prisons in northern Sudan, and to detention facilities and some police stations in southern Sudan.
- ▶ Continued efforts by UNMIS Human Rights to establish a formal mechanism for dialogue with the Government of National Unity were unsuccessful.
- ▶ In northern Sudan, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court announced his decision to seek an arrest warrant for the President of Sudan on charges related to war crimes in Darfur, which fostered distrust of UNMIS Human Rights among some Government institutions. Movement of personnel was restricted, affecting monitoring work and opportunities for successful advocacy work. Official visits from OHCHR were cancelled when visas were not granted.

Human Rights Advisers in United Nations Country Teams

Guinea

Poor governance over more than two decades has brought Guinea into political and socio-economical crisis. Following the death of President Lansana Conté, who had ruled the country since 1984, a

military junta known as the National Council for Democracy and Development was welcomed to Government by the majority of the population as the best way to ensure a peaceful political transition. On 28 May 2008, OHCHR deployed a human rights adviser to the UN country team in Guinea to strengthen the team's capacity to integrate human rights into its programming and increase Guinea's engagement with UN human rights mechanisms.

Activities

- ▶ Organized workshops and seminars for Government and civil society on the establishment of a national human rights institution.
- ▶ Began consultations with the aim of supporting the National Commission of Inquiry into human rights violations committed in January and February 2007.
- ▶ Organized eight workshops for 480 participants from Government and civil society on basic human rights, special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review, in Conakry and in various prefectures of the country.

Results

- ▶ The Prime Minister created a National Human Rights Observatory, which may be a first step towards establishing a national human rights institution based on the Paris Principles. Similarly, the Government set up a human rights department within the Ministry of Justice, and appointed a human rights adviser to the Prime Minister.
- ▶ As part of the series of workshops organized throughout the country, participants drafted a human rights programme that was officially presented to the Government during a celebration in Conakry of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The human rights adviser took advantage of the workshops held around the country to establish a small group in each location to advocate for improvements in human rights protection. Seven groups have been created so far and among them, five were active in organizing the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration.

Kenya

The deployment of a human rights adviser to the UN country team in Kenya was prompted by the breakdown in social order and dramatic increase in human rights violations following the bitterly contested December 2007 presidential elections. In addition to the traditional mandate of strengthening the human rights-based approach to programming among members of the UN country team, the adviser is also tasked with providing support to the United Nations in developing and implementing a strategy to assist national actors on questions of accountability, impunity and transitional justice.

Activities

- ▶ Participated in UN inter-agency efforts to protect internally displaced persons, including developing joint UN strategies and joint missions to camps for internally displaced persons.
- ▶ The Deputy High Commissioner's visit to Kenya in October 2008 provided an opportunity to sensitize stakeholders on human rights issues.
- ▶ Organized the first UN celebration of Human Rights Day in Kenya in collaboration with Government, the Kenya National Human Rights Institution, civil society and the international community participating at central and local levels. A series of public forums were held, including one each in the north and south Rift Valley, districts badly affected by the post-election violence that erupted at the end of 2007 and in early 2008.

Results

- ▶ Established a network of human rights focal points within UN agencies. The network has multiplied opportunities for engagement on human rights issues.

Niger

After more than a decade of instability, the Government of Niger is working to strengthen democracy and the rule of law and improve human rights implementation. The human rights adviser to the Niger UN country team was deployed on 17 July 2008 with a mandate to advise on strategies to reinforce national human rights capacity; train UN country team members and national human rights actors on the human rights-based approach; and conduct training.

Activities

- ▶ Contributed to the integration of a human rights-based approach in the strategic action plan and the annual action plan of the UN Development Programme.
- ▶ In collaboration with the UN country team and the Ministry of Justice, organized several activities to mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, including training for 45 journalists and 50 representatives of civil society, awareness-raising activities in high schools in Niamey, and cultural activities, including songs and theatre pieces.
- ▶ In collaboration with the UN Population Fund, helped to establish human rights clubs in four high schools in Niamey. This programme will be extended to the provinces in 2009.
- ▶ Advised the National Commission on Human Rights and Fundamental Liberties on drafting a programme of training courses on the Paris Principles and the functioning of national human rights institutions for commissioners.

Results

- ▶ Human rights were integrated into the strategic action plan and the annual plan of action of the UN Development Programme.
- ▶ Key national stakeholders, including Government ministries, showed a willingness to engage with the human rights adviser to advance the realization of human rights.

Rwanda

With support from the Action 2 Global Programme, OHCHR deployed a human rights adviser to Rwanda's UN country team in October 2007. The mandate of the adviser is to assist the team in integrating human rights principles into the UN Development Assistance Framework and the Common Operational Document, and to provide technical assistance to the Government in complying with its reporting and follow-up commitments to the treaty-monitoring bodies.

Activities

- ▶ With the National Human Rights Commission, jointly organized three training sessions on the human rights-based approach and results-based management for senior Government decision makers, local authorities, heads of UN agencies, and civil society.

- ▶ Trained 35 prosecutors, police and members of the Bar Association on the rule of law and the administration of justice.
 - ▶ Advised the Ministry of Justice and judicial authorities on integrating international human rights principles into the judicial process.
 - ▶ Advocated for the Rwandan authorities to ratify core international human rights instruments and engage in constructive dialogue with the treaty-body task force.
 - ▶ Trained 30 secondary school teachers as human rights trainers.
- ▶ Rwanda submitted its reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Human Rights Committee, which will be considered by these treaty bodies in February and March 2009 respectively. Reports to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination were also prepared and are being validated.
 - ▶ Following advocacy by OHCHR, Rwanda acceded to three international human rights treaties and three optional protocols, and withdrew reservations under two treaties (Article 9 of the Genocide Convention and Article 13 of the Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights).

Results

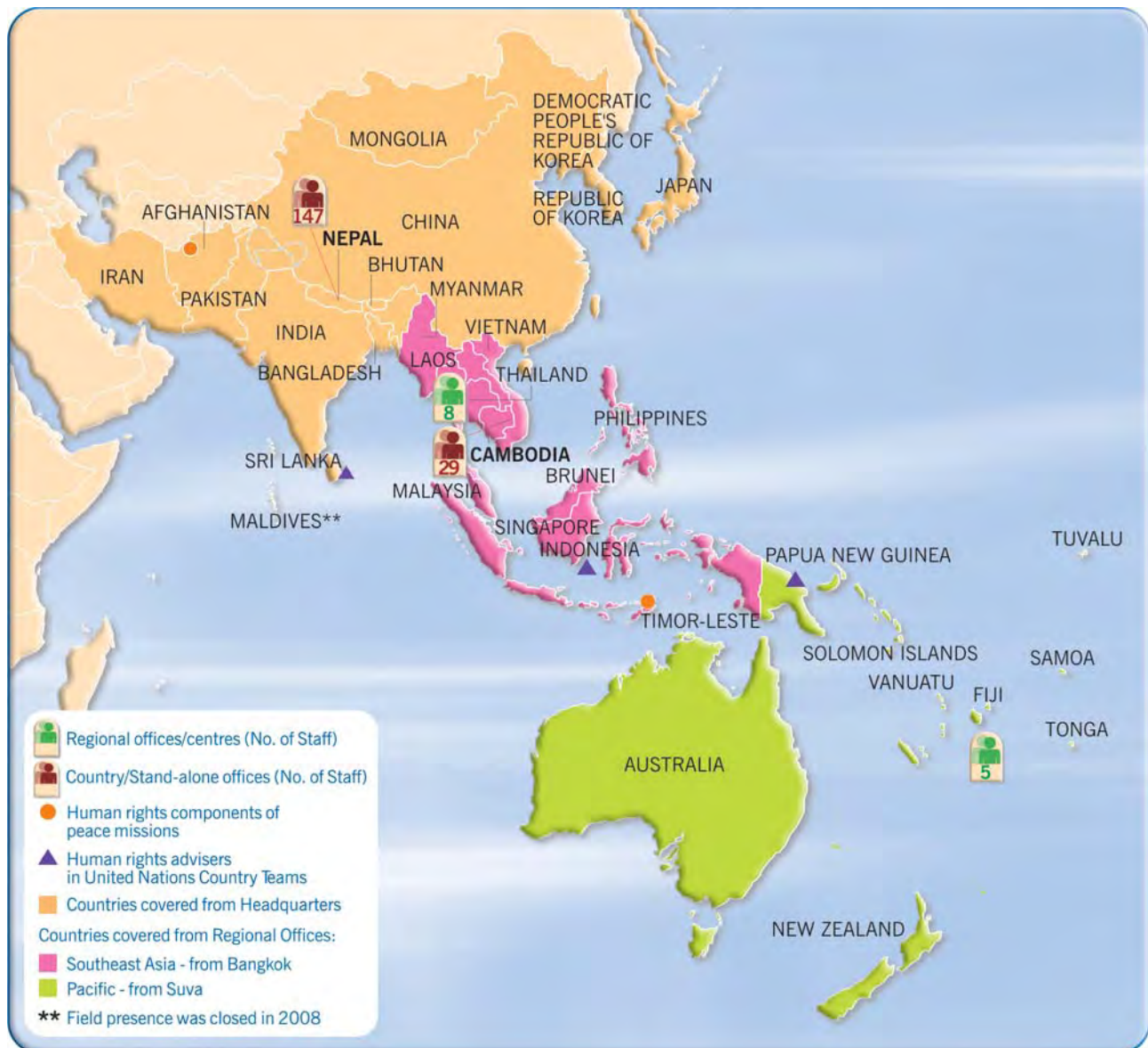
- ▶ Following training on the human rights-based approach, the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance committed itself to using the training package with national and local staff.
- ▶ Training on human rights and the administration of justice, conducted in December 2008, led to the establishment of a partnership with the national police, the Supreme Court and the prosecutor's office to find ways of integrating human rights into their work.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The results achieved by the human rights adviser in 2008 have generated more requests for support from Government institutions, UN agencies and civil society organizations. Prioritizing interventions remains a challenge.



OHCHR in the Field: Asia and the Pacific



Type of presence	Location
Country offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cambodia Nepal
Regional offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southeast Asia (Bangkok, Thailand) Pacific (Suva, Fiji)
Human rights components of UN peace missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Afghanistan Timor-Leste
Human rights advisers to UN country teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indonesia Maldives** Papua New Guinea Sri Lanka

** Closed during 2008

Asia and the Pacific, stretching from Afghanistan and Iran in the west to the Pacific islands in the east, is a diverse and dynamic region that is home to two-thirds of the world's population. In 2008, there were important democratic transitions in several countries, but increased political polarization in others. While Nepal continued to emerge from years of conflict, fighting intensified in several other parts of the region. Poverty, gender inequality and patterns of discrimination remain deeply entrenched. The impact of high oil and food prices, and later the global economic crisis, was felt widely and created new pressures on employment and migration. The

Association of South East Asian Nations took steps towards creating the first regional human rights body.

In 2008, OHCHR had country offices in Cambodia and Nepal and regional offices in Bangkok (covering Southeast Asia) and Suva (covering the Pacific). The two regional offices were strengthened with additional staff. Efforts were made to establish a third regional office for South and West Asia, but a location could not be confirmed during 2008. OHCHR also supported UN peace missions in Afghanistan and Timor-Leste and retained human rights advisers in Indonesia, the Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. A

new adviser was deployed to Papua New Guinea from February, and the Maldives adviser completed activities in September. A unit of nine professional and four administrative staff covers the region from headquarters, following developments, preparing briefing materials and providing substantive and administrative support to field presences. The Office continued to support the work of special procedures mandate-holders on Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of Korea and Myanmar, and of thematic mandate-holders visiting the region. The former High Commissioner travelled to Pakistan in June and the Deputy High Commissioner visited Nepal in February.

OHCHR in Asia and the Pacific: Examples of impact in 2008

Supporting national human rights institutions:

- ▶ In **Afghanistan**, a strengthened Special Investigations Team was created within the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission to examine cases of civilian casualties.
- ▶ In **Indonesia**, a provisional joint programme of support to Indonesia's three national human rights institutions was developed.
- ▶ In **Timor-Leste**, the national human rights institution, the Provedoria de Direitos Humanos e Justiça, benefited from technical assistance and an almost doubling of its budget. The Provedoria opened investigations into 119 new cases, and showed increased willingness and ability to issue public statements through press releases and reports.

Promoting human rights education and training:

- ▶ In **Nepal**, OHCHR helped create a pool of human rights trainers within the Nepal Police and Armed Police Force who, by the end of 2008, were delivering training to their own personnel as part of basic and advanced training programmes.
- ▶ In **Timor-Leste**, selected primary school teachers in each of Timor-Leste's 13 districts UNMIT now have a basic understanding of methodologies for including human rights into the curriculum.

Assisting treaty-body reporting:

- ▶ **Afghanistan**, the **Maldives** and **Papua New Guinea** were assisted in preparing common core documents for treaty-body reporting.
- ▶ **Afghanistan** produced its report under the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and a Human Rights Support Unit was established within the Ministry of Justice to assist the Government in implementing its human rights treaty obligations.
- ▶ **Cambodia** submitted its initial report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Increasing accountability:

- ▶ In **Cambodia**, the Supreme Court referred a case relating to the 2004 assassination of trade unionist Chea Vichea back to the Court of Appeal for re-examination, following submission by OHCHR of an *amicus curiae* brief drawing attention to several fundamental breaches of international human rights law by the lower instance courts.
- ▶ In **Cambodia**, OHCHR, in cooperation with NGOs, worked with State authorities to secure the release of dozens of people arbitrarily detained in 'social rehabilitation centres', including children, disabled people and persons living with HIV/AIDS.
- ▶ In **Nepal**, legal work and advocacy led to four army officers being charged with intentional homicide in the case of Maina Sunuwar, a 15-year-old girl who died in the custody of the Nepalese Army in 2004. Investigations and advocacy by OHCHR also contributed to the establishment by the Government of special judicial commissions to investigate serious incidents of violence and human rights violations, although the commissions' findings have not been made public.
- ▶ In **Timor-Leste**, the police issued guidelines prohibiting police officers from physically attacking or threatening citizens and perpetrators of serious human rights violations, including members of the police and military, were brought to justice.

Country Offices


Cambodia

Date established	1993
Staff as at 31 December 2008	29
Expenditure in 2008	\$2,297,702

In recent years, strong economic growth and relative political stability in Cambodia have contributed to lower levels of violence than were prevalent in the 1990s. However, reforms of the justice system and key institutions are needed to maintain these gains and tackle impunity. With peace has come development, and new forms of human rights violations have come to the fore in the form of urban and rural evictions and land dispossession. An effective land-reform policy is needed to protect land tenure for the poorest in the cities, lowland farmers, indigenous populations, and other particularly vulnerable groups. Harassment of human rights defenders is prevalent. The general elections on 25 July 2008 passed

without significant violence but restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly made it hard for Cambodians to voice their concerns and participate meaningfully in policy and decision-making. In September 2008, the Human Rights Council renewed the mandate of the (retitled) Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Cambodia, and a new incumbent was to be appointed in March 2009.

OHCHR assists the Government in complying with its international obligations and implementing appropriate human rights legislation. In addition to assisting with individual cases of human rights abuse, in 2008 the office focused on impunity, democratic deficits, weak institutions, poverty and global inequalities, and discrimination. An important part of the office's work is to promote greater integration of human rights into the work of the UN country team and to provide a supportive environment for civil society and citizens' participation in public and political life. The current Memorandum of Understanding between OHCHR and Cambodia expires on 1 May 2009 and discussions about its renewal are underway.



Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Phnom Penh, December 2008.

Activities

- ▶ Monitored the July 2008 general elections for instances of serious violence and intimidation and limitations on fundamental freedoms during the electoral process.
- ▶ Examined and responded to instances of restrictions on freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and association, illegal arrest, serious breaches of criminal-process guarantees and forced eviction by raising concerns with the authorities, proposing responses and encouraging the Royal Government to conduct credible investigations into reported allegations and ensure effective remedies.
- ▶ Participated in the public consultation process on drafting a law on peaceful assembly and was instrumental in ensuring that the draft complied with international norms.
- ▶ Provided legal advice on drafting a sub-decree on indigenous land registration that included consultations with indigenous communities and the preparation of a joint submission on the draft sub-decree with donors and UN agencies working in the land sector.
- ▶ Participated in the Technical Working Groups on Land, and Legal and Judicial Reform, and in the informal donor group on anti-corruption.
- ▶ Conducted workshops on documenting human rights violations for special procedures mechanisms for over 100 representatives of local organizations and communities in the northwest and northeast of the country.
- ▶ Continued to follow the work of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia to explore ways in which the trials could have a positive impact on the administration of justice in Cambodia.
- ▶ Conducted systematic prison visits and assessments under the new prison reform support programme, with good cooperation from the relevant authorities. Three prisons were identified as pilots for the implementation of the water and sanitation element of the programme.
- ▶ OHCHR, the International Labour Organization and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) organized, with the Ministry of Social Affairs, an awareness-raising workshop on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol.

Results

- ▶ At the initiative of the country office, the High Commissioner submitted an *amicus curiae* brief to Cambodia's Supreme Court in the case relating to the 2004 assassination of trade unionist Chea

Vichea, drawing attention to several fundamental breaches of international human rights law by the lower instance courts. In a landmark ruling, the Supreme Court released on bail the two men convicted for the murder and referred their case back to the Court of Appeal for re-examination.

- ▶ OHCHR, in cooperation with NGOs, worked with State authorities to secure the release of dozens of people, including children, disabled people and persons living with HIV/AIDS who were arbitrarily detained in "social rehabilitation centres". A gradual positive shift in the management of the centres has been observed since.
- ▶ Following OHCHR technical advice and assistance, Cambodia submitted its initial report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, overdue since 1994.
- ▶ As a result of legal and technical support from OHCHR, a draft law for a national human rights institution was finalized and awareness of the concepts of institutional independence and the content of the Paris Principles was significantly raised among civil society and Government.
- ▶ OHCHR's continued efforts in the area of land and housing rights have led the UN country team and the Resident Coordinator to recognize these issues as a priority for the next programme cycle.
- ▶ The 2007 landmark decision by the Constitutional Council, which reaffirmed that courts should take into account the age of the perpetrator when determining sentences, has continued to have an impact, with judges largely complying with the ruling when sentencing juveniles.
- ▶ The OHCHR Cambodia website is the first comprehensive OHCHR field website in a non-UN language; all content in English is now reproduced in Khmer.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The Office continues to develop its programme in Cambodia with the aim of strengthening its technical cooperation and capacity-development work with both government counterparts and civil society. This approach reflects the fact that successful protection work depends on dialogue and trust, which are best fostered through balanced, multifaceted, long-term, practical engagement with Government and civil society.

Cambodia: Expenditure 2008

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	1,027,262	180,615
Consultants	768	70,647
Official travel	52,440	61,275
Contractual services	25,300	133,850
General operating expenses	161,987	218,399
Supplies & materials	35,015	109,338
Seminars, grants & contributions	19,000	89,531
Subtotal	1,321,772	863,655
Programme support costs	-	112,275
GRAND TOTAL	1,321,772	975,930

Nepal

Date established	2005
Staff as at 31 December 2008	147
Expenditure in 2008	\$10,931,750

During 2008, important progress was made in consolidating Nepal's peace process. The Constituent Assembly elections in April led to the formation of a Government that is more broadly representative of the Nepalese population than any of its predecessors. The new Government made important human rights commitments, although less progress was made towards addressing the root causes and consequences of the conflict, including deep-seated

impunity, structural discrimination and inequality. The security situation remained fragile, particularly in the southern Terai region, where weak institutions and political interference compromised the rights of the population, particularly the rights to life, liberty and security.

OHCHR's office in Nepal was established in May 2005 following the ceasefire between the Nepalese Army and Maoist insurgents. The current Memorandum of Understanding between OHCHR and the Government, which provides the legal basis for the Office's work in the country, is due to expire in June 2009 and discussions are underway with the Government on its renewal. This is OHCHR's largest field office with a broad mandate to monitor the human rights situation, conduct investigations, issue public reports, and strengthen the national capacity to protect and promote human rights. In 2008, in response to the evolution of the human rights situation, OHCHR-Nepal refocused its work on three areas of primary importance: strengthening national human rights institutions and civil society; impunity, rule of law and accountability; and discrimination, particularly concerning access to economic, social and cultural rights. The office works in close collaboration with UN and other international and national partners in Nepal, particularly the National Human Rights Commission.

Activities

- ▶ Issued seven public reports on various aspects of the human rights situation, including on pre-election violence, the Constituent Assembly election and conflict-related disappearances in



A staff member of OHCHR monitors a demonstration by the Young Communist League in Nepal, February 2008.

the Bardiya district, based on monitoring and investigations conducted from five district-level sub-offices.

- ▶ Carried out preventive monitoring to reduce the risk of violence and human rights violations, including during pre-election protests in the Terai, and throughout the electoral period.
- ▶ Provided human rights training for security forces personnel and targeted capacity-building activities aimed at remedying human rights problems identified in the course of monitoring, such as the excessive use of force by police during crowd control, and the use of torture and ill-treatment in police custody.
- ▶ Advocated for accountability in cases of conflict and post-conflict human rights violations, particularly the prosecution of emblematic cases.
- ▶ Continued to support the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, the National Human Rights Commission and civil society in establishing credible transitional justice mechanisms, including commenting on draft legislation to criminalize disappearances and create a disappearances commission; provided technical advice to NGOs and donors on the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission; and conducted awareness-raising activities on transitional justice to encourage participation by women and historically marginalized groups.
- ▶ Supported the constitution-making process through significant legal support and by coordinating the work of key national, UN and NGO stakeholders.
- ▶ Provided general training for Government officials on treaty-body reporting and specialized training on the human rights treaty-body system for representatives of Government and civil society in all five regions.
- ▶ Delivered over 60 capacity building activities to 2,200 persons, including human rights defenders, youth and student leaders, representatives of indigenous peoples, Dalits, journalists and academics. The Office emphasized development of human rights capacity at the regional and district levels, which are often isolated from the capital, and established human rights networks.
- ▶ Promoted women's human rights in Nepal through protection and capacity-building activities, including establishing networks to coordinate approaches to gender-related issues; protection of the work of women human rights defenders; and advocacy for an improved legislative framework to protect women's rights.
- ▶ In partnership with the National Human Rights Commission, created a poster to illustrate the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The poster was widely distributed in local

newspapers and public places. The 60th anniversary of the Declaration was also celebrated with a popular film festival in Kathmandu.

- ▶ Facilitated the official visit of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples in November and provided support for the December visit of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict

Results

- ▶ Investigations and advocacy by OHCHR led, on several occasions, to the Government establishing special judicial commissions to investigate serious incidents of violence and human rights violations. However, the findings of these commissions were not made public or acted upon by the Government.
- ▶ Following advice submitted by OHCHR, draft laws were amended so that they would comply with international human rights standards and best practices. These include the draft bill establishing a disappearances commission and criminalizing disappearances.
- ▶ Advocacy by OHCHR and its partners helped prevent the passage of a flawed draft Truth and Reconciliation Commission Bill. Later in 2008, the Government initiated a new consultative process on the bill, with OHCHR's support.
- ▶ Legal work and advocacy with partners for the prosecution of emblematic cases led to positive results, including four army officers being charged with intentional homicide in the case of Maina Sunuwar, a 15-year-old girl who died in the custody of the Nepalese Army in 2004.
- ▶ The presence of OHCHR human rights officers on the streets of Nepalese towns in central and eastern Terai in early 2008, at a time when political tensions were rising and protests were spreading ahead of the Constituent Assembly elections of 8 April, is widely believed to have prevented or mitigated violence. Monitoring on polling day served to calm tensions and prevented abuses in some locations, including in the Ramechhap district and in eastern Terai.
- ▶ As a result of OHCHR's training, by the end of 2008, both Nepal Police and Armed Police Force had competent human rights trainers who were delivering training to their own personnel as part of basic and advanced training programmes. Monitoring of protests by OHCHR contributed to a more professional response and a reduction in incidents of excessive use of force by the police.
- ▶ Human rights defenders were better able to monitor, advocate and report on the human



Elections in Nepal, April 2008.

rights situation as a result of OHCHR's training and mentoring.

- ▶ OHCHR's engagement in more capacity-building activities allowed it to strengthen relations between the Office and key interlocutors, including the human rights community and other civil society actors, the media, security forces, the National Human Rights Commission and Government authorities. It also led to a broadening of partnerships, including with NGOs representing marginalized and vulnerable groups.
- ▶ OHCHR's leadership of the inter-agency protection cluster resulted, for the first time in Nepal, in applying a human rights-based approach in response to an emergency.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The Nepal office was restructured and its budget and staffing profile trimmed in 2008, reflecting continuing improvements in the situation on the ground and enabling OHCHR to focus more effectively on long-term priorities, particularly on strengthening national institutional capacity. New approaches were also developed to improve collaboration with key partners, including the National Human Rights Commission.
- ▶ Resistance to ending impunity remains a central obstacle to the advancement of human rights in

Nepal. No-one has yet been held accountable for human rights violations committed during or after the conflict. The Government also failed to make public or act on the findings of special commissions established to investigate incidents of violence or human rights violations. Most of the Supreme Court's decisions on human rights issues and recommendations of the Human Rights Commission remain unimplemented.

Nepal: Expenditure in 2008		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	7,808,447
Consultants	-	38,497
Official travel	-	363,919
Contractual services	-	118,296
General operating expenses	-	988,840
Supplies & materials	-	174,229
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	181,887
Subtotal	-	9,674,115
Programme support costs	-	1,257,635
GRAND TOTAL	-	10,931,750

Regional Offices

Regional Office for Southeast Asia (Bangkok, Thailand)

Date established	2002
Staff as at 31 December 2008	8
Expenditure in 2008	\$1,147,125

There were significant human rights challenges across Southeast Asia in 2008, including the impact of Cyclone Nargis on Myanmar; the effect of the world food and financial crises; the continuation of violent internal conflicts, causing extended population displacement; restrictions on the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of opinion, expression, thought, conscience and religion; and the need to address impunity, sexual exploitation of children, trafficking in persons and the protection of the rights of refugees and migrant workers. More positively, in December 2008, the Charter of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) entered into force, paving the way for the establishment of an ASEAN human rights body. Also during 2008, several countries in the region ratified international human rights instruments and participated in the commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Following a Government invitation, the newly appointed UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar conducted his first visit to the country.

OHCHR's regional office in Bangkok covers Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. In the cases of Cambodia, Indonesia and Timor-Leste, it complements the work of other OHCHR field presences. In 2008, priorities included supporting the creation of structures to promote and protect human rights at national and regional levels, improving coordination of human rights activities, and providing technical support on the Universal Periodic Review and reporting obligations to the international human rights treaty bodies, and in a number of human rights thematic areas.

Activities

- ▶ Undertook advocacy and training on the ratification of UN human rights treaties, including in Thailand, on reporting to the Committee Against Torture and on the working methods of

the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

- ▶ Provided technical support and advice on the establishment of an ASEAN human rights body.
- ▶ Advised and trained UN agencies in the region on integrating human rights into their work.
- ▶ Collected and analyzed information on the human rights situation across the region and established a database to ensure follow-up of cases and communications with the special procedures.
- ▶ Co-organized a two-day regional 'Dialogues for Action' meeting on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Human Rights for 50 representatives of governments, National Human Rights Institutions, UN agencies and civil society organizations in the region.
- ▶ Trained 175 senior staff from the Corrections Department in Thailand on implementation of the UN Convention against Torture, and organized a training workshop for 34 Government officials on international human rights standards on the protection of persons subjected to detention and imprisonment.
- ▶ Trained 19 members of civil society organizations and national institutions in Thailand on the role of Thai non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions in promoting and protecting human rights.
- ▶ Together with the International Labour Organization, co-organized a sub-regional meeting on improved disability legislation for 50 representatives from governments, trade unions and civil society organizations. Also established a partnership with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to create a regional inter-agency support group on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- ▶ Supported initiatives to strengthen the national human rights commissions of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand, especially concerning participation in the Universal Periodic Review and the implementation of treaty-body and special procedures recommendations. Supported a national workshop in Viet Nam on the Universal Periodic Review.
- ▶ Supported the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar.
- ▶ In commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration, a publication was produced by the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand and the UN country team featuring the voices of individual women, men, girls and boys for whom the rights in each article of the declaration had particular relevance.

Results

- ▶ Increased interest in ratifying international human rights instruments and reporting to treaty bodies, as reflected in numerous new requests for assistance.
- ▶ UN regional agencies and country teams demonstrated a strengthened capacity to integrate a human rights-based approach into their activities, as reflected in several of their strategic planning documents.
- ▶ An expanded network of NGOs was established as a result of training activities conducted by OHCHR, facilitating more direct communication between the Office and various national NGOs to address human rights more effectively.
- ▶ Improved awareness about the elements required for a credible regional human rights mechanism among the ASEAN Secretariat, the Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism, the civil society Task Force on ASEAN and Human Rights, and other key actors.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The strategy of targeting the thematic working groups within the various UN country teams in the region to make use of treaty-body recommendations in their work has proven to be a useful way to engage the country teams on specific activities to promote human rights.

Regional Office for Southeast Asia: Expenditure in 2008		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	784,042
Consultants	-	-
Official travel	-	26,409
Contractual services	-	40,700
General operating expenses	-	55,383
Supplies & materials	-	11,580
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	97,904
Subtotal	-	1,016,018
Programme support costs	-	131,107
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,147,125

Regional Office for the Pacific (Suva, Fiji)

Date established	2005
Staff as at 31 December 2008	5
Expenditure in 2008	\$772,220

The Pacific region includes a large number of small island communities that are extremely isolated, both geographically and politically. Widespread poverty and inequality, which affects much of the region, was exacerbated in early 2008 by a spike in the price of food and oil. The Pacific has made less progress than any other region outside of Sub-Saharan Africa in its efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In 2008, there were some positive steps taken by countries to adopt core human rights treaties, with six ratifications, one signing and one accession. However, there was little movement towards the creation of a regional human rights mechanism, as previously agreed in the Pacific Plan of the Pacific Islands Forum.

OHCHR's regional office for the Pacific is located in Suva, Fiji, and covers the 16 Pacific Island Forum countries of Australia, the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. During 2008, priorities included promoting improved compliance with international human rights standards by engaging countries in the Universal Periodic Review mechanism, analyzing gaps in legislation to protect detainees, and raising public awareness about human rights.

Activities

- ▶ Completed an analysis of existing laws on powers of arrest and detention in the Pacific, the results of which will be published in early 2009.
- ▶ Jointly organized three training workshops and presentations on the Universal Periodic Review mechanism for governments and civil society in the region.
- ▶ Marked the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by showing a film, airing human rights material on television throughout the region, launching a poster competition, and distributing public-information materials.
- ▶ Distributed press releases on topical human rights issues to regional media.
- ▶ Worked with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the Regional Rights

Resource Team to organize a one-day roundtable on human security and climate change, with a particular focus on human rights.

- ▶ Made several presentations on international human rights treaties and special procedures, and held bilateral meetings with government, non-government and regional organizations in which treaty ratification and implementation were discussed.
- ▶ Facilitated a meeting among the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Regional Rights Resource Team, the Asia Pacific Forum, the Australian Human Rights Commission, the New Zealand Human Rights Commission and others in which it was agreed to hold biannual information-sharing meetings on human rights in the Pacific.

Results

- ▶ OHCHR's efforts to promote and explain the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and assist governments in preparing for future participation appears to have encouraged greater formal compliance with international human rights standards, as evidenced by the increase in treaty ratification in the region and the preparation of treaty reports.
- ▶ Increased awareness of human rights in the region, particularly among civil society, has contributed to a greater acceptance of the universality of human rights standards and to a growing number of requests from NGOs for additional information on human rights and the UN human rights system.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ A human rights-based approach to development is not well known or widely applied in the region. Development and economic, social and cultural issues are usually not viewed through a rights framework. In 2009, OHCHR will give high priority to promoting a rights-based approach to development throughout the region.
- ▶ Given the large number of countries and enormous geographical area covered by the regional office, it has proven challenging to focus efforts and ensure adequate follow-through. In 2009, OHCHR will develop a strategy to focus its work in the Pacific on a limited number of immediate priorities, while also mapping human rights protection in the region to assist in developing longer-term priorities. The work of the human rights adviser in Papua New Guinea will be increasingly integrated with the work of the regional office.

Regional Office for the Pacific: Expenditure in 2008		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	479,951
Consultants	-	-
Official travel	-	43,294
Contractual services	-	5,800
General operating expenses	-	73,436
Supplies & materials	-	39,450
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	41,450
Subtotal	-	683,381
Programme support costs	-	88,840
GRAND TOTAL	-	772,220

Human Rights Components of United Nations Peace Missions

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

Afghanistan, beset by three decades of conflict, continued to face serious human rights challenges in 2008. Intensification of the armed conflict resulted in a 40 per cent rise in the number of civilian casualties. The conflict also undermined the Government's ability to deliver essential services, including justice and security. Long-standing human rights problems, such as extreme poverty, discrimination and violence against women, remained serious concerns, while widespread impunity reflected, in part, a lack of political will to address past and present human rights abuses. The Action Plan on "Peace, Reconciliation and Justice", adopted in 2005, failed to meet the objectives set for the end of 2008. Increased assaults on freedom of expression, a pattern of intimidation of human rights defenders, and the reapplication of the death penalty were of particular concern.

OHCHR works as part of the Human Rights Unit of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) to mainstream and promote respect for human rights across all components of the mission and in all mission activities. Core objectives include: preventing and addressing human rights violations and abuses; building capacities and strengthening national institutions and civil society; and mainstreaming human rights in all UN programmes. Priorities during 2008 included efforts to enhance

civilian protection, rights of women, freedom of expression, economic, cultural and social rights, transitional justice, and supporting the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission.

Activities

- ▶ Monitored individual cases of human rights violations, particularly cases concerning women's rights, housing, land and property rights, and arbitrary detention.
- ▶ Developed an electronic database for recording information relating to civilian casualties; implemented Guidance Notes on issues relating to protection of civilians; intensively trained mission staff on protection of civilians and issues such as information-gathering, analysis, reporting and advocacy.
- ▶ Co-chaired the Afghanistan Protection Cluster, developed a joint strategy on protection of civilians, and implemented joint advocacy activities with other members of the Protection Cluster aimed at international actors, the Afghan Government and Parliament on protection of civilians, caseload mapping, and gap analysis.
- ▶ Participated in the establishment of the Country Task Force on a Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism for Children in Armed Conflict, in line with Security Council Resolution 1612 (2005), including advising on priorities and developing a database to monitor incidents and a common assessment tool. OHCHR also helped draft the Secretary-General's Eighth Report on Children on Armed Conflict.
- ▶ Continued to support the State treaty-reporting process by participating in the national steering committee of the Committee on the Rights of the Child reporting process.
- ▶ Began a pilot project on the human rights dimension of poverty and how the implementation of the national poverty action plan could be used to further the enjoyment of human rights in the Central Highlands.
- ▶ Assisted Afghanistan in preparing for its 2009 examination under the Universal Periodic Review mechanism by supporting submissions from Government and other stakeholders, and holding a training workshop on the examination process.
- ▶ Promoted respect for women's rights through workshops and training on gender, criminal justice and arbitrary detention for stakeholders, including law enforcement authorities, community leaders and religious leaders.
- ▶ In collaboration with the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and two victims' groups, carried out a theatre project to raise awareness about the issue of transitional justice among the general population, explore ways to establish the truth about past human rights violations, and strengthen victims' groups.





- ▶ Held discussions with relevant law enforcement personnel, judicial officials and civil society in each of the eight regions to promote the findings of the upcoming report, 'Arbitrary Detention in Afghanistan', and encourage concrete steps to combat arbitrary detention and combat impunity, focusing on the concerns of women.
- ▶ Provided extensive support to the 4-15 May 2008 mission of the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions.
- ▶ Provided technical assistance to the Resident Coordinator's Office on integrating a rights-based approach into the UN Development Assistance Framework for 2010-2013.

Results

- ▶ Greater awareness and understanding of civilian casualty trends, and the measures needed to reduce avoidable deaths of civilians, through a public report on civilian casualties issued in September that was supported by intensive public advocacy and dialogue with international forces.
- ▶ As a result of coordinated support from UN agencies in Afghanistan, a strengthened Special Investigations Team was created within the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission to investigate cases of civilian casualties, as part of an overall strategy to develop an effective human rights protection system in Afghanistan.
- ▶ Increased awareness among government and judicial officials of problems concerning the treatment of detainees in Afghanistan, which has resulted in a commitment to work with the international community to tackle these problems.

- ▶ In partnership with the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), improved protection available to women victims of violence by establishing women's referral centres in Parwan and in Jalalabad. These centres provide shelter and support to women victims of violence and are accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- ▶ Acting in collaboration with the UN Development Programme and with the assistance of donors, established a Human Rights Support Unit within the Ministry of Justice, which will assist the Government in implementing its human rights treaty obligations in line with the pillars of the Afghanistan Compact.
- ▶ As a result of OHCHR's treaty-reporting project based in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Afghanistan produced its common core document and its report under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- ▶ Triggered discussions on transitional justice throughout Afghanistan following the transitional justice theatre performances in six regions and broadcast on national television, followed by 'town hall' meetings that allowed victims and others to express their opinions on issues of transitional justice.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Human rights work remained seriously challenged by the continuing deterioration of the security situation. A primary lesson was the importance of initiatives aimed at improving civilian protection through collaborative efforts with other UN and civil society actors, ensuring that resources are used to maximum effect and avoiding the duplication of existing mechanisms and initiatives.

- ▶ The circumstances in which poverty occurs and persists in Afghanistan have a profound relationship to the level of compliance or non-compliance with international human rights standards. An important challenge for 2009 is to understand which elements affect the level of poverty in the different regions, including which government policies have a negative impact on poverty levels and how the inability to access justice affects poverty.
- ▶ Among the challenges highlighted by the Government in preparing the State report for the Universal Periodic Review was the difficulty in obtaining relevant and quality disaggregated data. This made it difficult to determine who is subjected to discrimination and exploitation and the implications of this on poverty-reduction strategies.

United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste

The Human Rights and Transitional Justice Section (HRTJS) is an integrated component of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT). Its broad-based mandate encompasses monitoring and reporting, capacity-building, security-sector reform and transitional justice. The OHCHR Technical Cooperation Programme works with UNMIT to provide technical advice and training for Government officials and NGOs, strengthen national institutions and promote transitional justice. A primary focus during 2008 was on consolidating key Government, law enforcement and judicial institutions. Attacks against the President and Prime Minister in February, and the subsequent declaration of a state of siege and joint military and police operations, led to increased human rights violations, including ill-treatment, excessive force and threats.

Activities

- ▶ Teams in four sub-offices monitored key human rights problems, including violations during the state of siege, the right to food, protection of vulnerable groups, and access to justice. A thematic team on internally displaced persons monitored the return process and raised key human rights issues with the authorities.
- ▶ Ensured that draft legislation, including the draft Criminal Code, victim and witness-protection legislation and legislation on domestic violence, conformed to international human rights standards.
- ▶ An OHCHR-funded prosecutor began work in March 2008, focusing on cases of individuals suspected of involvement in human rights violations and crimes in relation to the 2006 crisis. UNMIT participated in an expert group on reparations, and organized consultations with Members of Parliament and civil society on establishing a reparations programme for victims of serious human rights violations between 1974 and 1999.
- ▶ Continued to support the office of the Provedoria de Direitos Humanos e Justiça/PDHJ (Ombudsperson), including by providing advice on current human rights issues, such as rights of persons with disabilities, internally displaced persons and the state of siege. Two HRTJS staff members were placed in the Provedor's office on a part-time basis, and UNMIT conducted joint human rights monitoring activities. A joint OHCHR/UN Development Programme capacity-building project, in support of the PDHJ, also continued in 2008.
- ▶ Organized over 30 human rights training sessions for NGOs; nine district-level public outreach discussions on topics including draft laws, accountability and transitional justice were held for 150 participants from NGOs, the media, local authorities and police.
- ▶ Provided human rights training for 400 Timorese police officers, 46 senior military officers, and 200 police officers from UNMIT.
- ▶ Published a human rights booklet for the Falantil-Forças Armadas de Defesa de Timor-Leste (F-FDTL) and undertook a vetting process for the Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL). Among the officers undergoing certification, 800 were found to have had minor disciplinary infractions (such as absenteeism or drinking alcohol on duty) and 70 had more serious problems, including outstanding criminal proceedings and allegations of human rights violations. It had yet to be determined what measures to take in response, but the Mission argued that the serious cases should be excluded from police service.
- ▶ Sixteen micro-grants of up to US\$ 1,000 each were given to NGOs to carry out human rights promotion activities in the districts. Six NGOs were identified as grantees for the Assisting Communities Together project, which is jointly implemented by OHCHR and the UN Development Programme.
- ▶ Provided 20 human rights education training sessions to 356 elementary school teachers in 13 districts, focusing on integration of human rights into the national curriculum.
- ▶ Published two public reports: one periodic report covering the period 1 September 2007 to 30 June 2008 on the security sector and access to justice; and a thematic report on the right to food.

- ▶ Produced and distributed a range of human rights promotional materials featuring articles from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Results

- ▶ As a result of complaints made by UNMIT and others about human rights violations during the state of siege, the police issued guidelines prohibiting police officers from physically attacking or threatening citizens.
- ▶ While accountability mechanisms remained weak, UNMIT's efforts ensured that some cases were brought to justice: one police officer was sentenced to six years imprisonment for an extrajudicial killing in 2007; a police commander and three other police officers were put on trial for a house-burning committed in 2007; 14 F-FDTL members were reprimanded for violations during the state of siege; and four F-FDTL members were imprisoned for the killing of police officers in 2006.
- ▶ Ongoing mentoring and support for the Office of the Provedor helped to strengthen the office, which opened investigations into 119 new cases, and showed increased willingness and ability to issue public statements through press releases and reports. The first district office of the PDHJ also opened in Oecussi District in December 2008.
- ▶ UNMIT lobbying for increased resources for PDHJ contributed to a near doubling of its annual budget to \$869,000 for 2009.
- ▶ With the assistance of the OHCHR-funded prosecutor, the Commission of Inquiry handed down one decision and continued investigations into 11 cases, some including senior members of the army's leadership.
- ▶ As a result of human rights education provided by UNMIT, there is now a basic level of understanding among selected primary school teachers in each of Timor-Leste's 13 districts about how human rights can be integrated into the curriculum and what kind of teaching methodologies can be used.
- ▶ Increased understanding among NGO partners in basic human rights principles and use of a human rights database.
- ▶ Coverage in national media of the release of UNMIT human rights reports helped raised awareness about issues not addressed elsewhere, including the level of human rights violations committed during the state of siege.

International Day of Peace in Timor-Leste, September 2008.



Sergio Vieira de Mello Human Rights Awards

At the end of a special session of the National Parliament, held on 10 December to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the first national human rights award in Timor-Leste, two “Sergio Vieira de Mello Human Rights Awards”, were inaugurated. This was an initiative by the Office of the President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, supported by UNMIT. These awards for outstanding contributions to the promotion and protection of human rights will be given out every year, raising awareness in the country of the important role played by human rights defenders. The National Parliament also committed itself to holding an annual plenary session devoted to human rights on 10 December.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ In spite of an increase in the operation of Government and judicial institutions in the districts, NGOs have generally remained Dili-based. This significantly limits their capacity to undertake human rights monitoring and promotional activities in the districts and underscores the need for UNMIT to maintain a presence and programmes outside the capital.
- ▶ Public reporting on the right to food proved successful in raising the profile of this issue, and contributed to the understanding that human rights are not only about civil and political rights. The research for UNMIT’s report on this issue also provided important opportunities for the Mission to strengthen and develop new links with partners in the development and humanitarian fields.
- ▶ Political commitment to ensure accountability for human rights violations, past and present, remains fragile and sometimes clashes with an emphasis on reconciliation rather than justice.

Human Rights Advisers in United Nations Country Teams

Indonesia

In the framework of the Action 2 Global Programme, OHCHR deployed a human rights adviser to the UN country team in Indonesia in August 2007. The adviser’s role is to support integration of human

rights into the work of the country team and strengthen engagement with state institutions and civil society on human rights issues.

Activities

- ▶ Advised on mainstreaming human rights within the work of the UN country team, particularly joint programming activities focusing on the provinces of Aceh, Nusa Tenggara Timur and Papua.
- ▶ Trained 30 staff of UN agencies involved in HIV/AIDS work on the human rights-based approach to programming.
- ▶ Reintroduced the Gender and Women’s Human Rights Working Group within the UN country team, which worked on supporting implementation of outstanding recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- ▶ Supported a workshop for Government and various civil society institutions on the follow-up to treaty-body recommendations.
- ▶ In collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) respectively, organized needs assessments of Komnas Perempuan, the national women’s commission, and the child-protection commission. Together with a 2007 review of Komnas HAM, the national human rights commission, these formed the basis of a draft joint programme of support to all three institutions.
- ▶ Commemorated the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through a series of activities, including an expert panel discussion on the linkages between poverty and human rights, broadcast by national television and radio; and a briefing pack distributed to all correction facilities on the right to health in prison settings.
- ▶ In collaboration with Komnas HAM and Komnas Perempuan, supported a process of national dialogue to determine the requirements for effective implementation in Indonesia of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.
- ▶ The UN country team supported the Ministry of Law and Human Rights in organizing a seminar on human trafficking.

Results

- ▶ With the participation of multiple UN agencies, a provisional joint programme of support to Indonesia’s three national human rights institutions was developed. The programme aims

to strengthen each institution and its ability to work effectively as a partner with others in improving the national protection framework. This programme is subject to final approval by all parties and availability of adequate funding,

- ▶ Training sessions helped reinforce the knowledge of national partners about follow-up to treaty-body recommendations, and of UN colleagues about HIV programming.
- ▶ A national dialogue on the role of civil society in relation to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture was initiated by Komnas HAM and Komnas Perempuan.
- ▶ UN agencies, the Indonesian Government officials, civil society and the public at large were made more aware of the principles and practical application of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through a series of events organized to commemorate the Declaration's 60th anniversary.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The work of the human rights adviser in Indonesia has shown the value of outreach to specialized commissions on women and children's rights alongside OHCHR's traditional work with the primary national institution within a country.

The Maldives

The Government proceeded with democratic reforms, particularly the adoption of a new Constitution that included reference to almost all internationally recognized human rights. The human rights adviser, deployed in July 2007, continued his activities to support the integration of human rights into the UN's work at the country level, and provided advice and assistance to national authorities requesting specific assistance on human rights issues. This successful deployment was concluded in September 2008 and ongoing support will be provided from Geneva headquarters.

Activities

- ▶ Advised the Government on the establishment of a human rights committee within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and the completion of a draft common core document for use in treaty reporting that was shared with the Human Rights Commission of Maldives, NGOs and UN agencies.
- ▶ Provided comments to the national human rights commission on the Election Bill and the Political Parties Bill in relation to the exclusion of members of the police and army.

- ▶ Trained representatives of the Government, the national human rights commission and civil society ahead of the Maldives' participation in the Universal Periodic Review in 2010.
- ▶ Provided support to the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture during its official visit in December 2008.
- ▶ In collaboration with Handicap International and the Resident Coordinator's Office, led a sensitization campaign on human rights and disability.
- ▶ Conducted three training sessions for the newly appointed directors of the national human rights commission on the international human rights obligations of the Maldives, international human rights law and UN human rights treaty bodies.
- ▶ Conducted 14 training sessions for human rights NGOs.
- ▶ Completed a rights-based assessment of UN programming and developed a tailored training module on the human rights-based approach in which all UN staff were trained.

Results

- ▶ The new Constitution included almost all human rights, including a non-discrimination clause.
- ▶ Strengthened capacity of the national human rights commission to address human rights issues, despite continuing obstacles to the implementation of its mandate.
- ▶ As a direct result of the deployment of a human rights adviser, there has been greater collaboration on human rights issues among UN agencies, the Government, national institutions and civil society.
- ▶ Increased knowledge of international human rights law and UN human rights mechanisms among senior Government officials and representatives of the national human rights commission, civil society and UN agencies.
- ▶ A completed, expanded core document for treaty-body reporting and follow-up to some of the key recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers.
- ▶ Increased capacity of the country team to integrate human rights into UN programming reflected in an increase in cases of UN country team members responding to human rights concerns.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ In spite of several appeals by the Government, United Nations and special procedures mandate-holders, the Constituent Assembly failed

to include protection of freedom of religion in the new Constitution and excluded non-Muslims from citizenship. This development shows the challenges in addressing perceived tensions between Islam and secularism.

Papua New Guinea

OHCHR deployed a human rights adviser to the UN country team in Papua New Guinea in January 2008 with the support of the Action 2 Global Programme. The adviser's priorities include assisting the country team in integrating human rights principles into UN programming, providing advice and technical support in establishing a national human rights institution, and ensuring increased Government, civil society and UN agency engagement with international human rights mechanisms.

Activities

- ▶ Provided advice and technical support to the Government in its ongoing work to establish a national human rights institution, including through stakeholder consultations, drafting a concept paper, and conducting a high-level study tour to meet the New Zealand Human Rights Commission.
- ▶ Provided advice and support to the Government on its treaty-reporting obligations, including assistance in preparing its common core document.
- ▶ Conducted advocacy aimed at encouraging ratification of additional core UN human rights treaties.
- ▶ Conducted human rights training for lawyers and journalists, and training on the Universal Periodic Review and special procedures for the Government, UN agencies and the university.
- ▶ Provided advice to the UN country team on integrating human rights into its work and training on the human rights-based approach to programming for UN staff.

Results

- ▶ Accession by the Government to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in July 2008.
- ▶ Progress was made towards establishing a national human rights institution.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The existence of very few established human rights NGOs in the country and no government

department with overall responsibility for human rights matters presents a challenge in the ongoing work to establish a National Human Rights Commission in Papua New Guinea.

Sri Lanka

OHCHR has maintained a human rights adviser in the UN country team in Sri Lanka since June 2004. The adviser's main role is to assist the UN Resident Coordinator and UN agencies in their activities to protect human rights and strengthen the human rights protection capacity of Government partners, national institutions and civil society.

Activities

- ▶ Provided technical support to the Ministry for Disaster Management and Human Rights in accordance with a number of the commitments made through Sri Lanka's participation, in May 2008, in the Universal Periodic Review, including the development of a national human rights action plan.
- ▶ Provided regular advice and recommendations to the Ministry for Disaster Management and Human Rights regarding relevant human rights challenges.
- ▶ Provided technical support to the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka for a six-month OHCHR-funded project on youth in detention.
- ▶ Supported a country visit by a delegation of the Asia-Pacific Forum to work with the national human rights commission and relevant stakeholders on developing a strategy in response to the decision of the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions accreditation subcommittee to downgrade the status of the human rights commission in 2007.
- ▶ Worked closely with the UN Development Programme to support the Government in its implementation of an Action 2 Global Programme-funded project designed to begin developing a national action plan.
- ▶ Provided technical and legal guidance on the human rights of internally displaced persons to the inter-agency Internally Displaced Persons Protection Group.
- ▶ Worked with UN colleagues and national institutions on the '1612 Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting' and helped to draft a report on Sri Lanka for the Security Council Working Group on Children in Armed Conflict.
- ▶ Conducted training in international human rights law for the UN country team and other stakeholders.

- ▶ In the context of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), drafted a UN joint programme on human rights aimed at assisting the Government with the national human rights action plan and implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on women's participation in peace processes and related activities, supported the human rights commission and provided human rights training for police.

Results

- ▶ Renewed engagement among the national human rights commission, OHCHR and the UN Development Programme. This will be developed in 2009 through collaborative small-scale projects conducted by the Asia-Pacific Forum based on the recommendations of the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions.

- ▶ The UN Joint Programme on Human Rights is awaiting final clearance from the Government and identification of adequate funding to facilitate implementation of activities.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ OHCHR's limited presence in Sri Lanka remains inadequate to respond fully to the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in the country. While OHCHR has resumed some engagement with the National Human Rights Commission, this was constrained by the decision of the International Coordinating Council of National Institutions for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights to downgrade its status to a national human rights institution not fully compliant with the Paris Principles.



OHCHR in the Field: Europe, North America and Central Asia



Type of presence	Location
Stand-alone office	• Kosovo (Serbia)
Regional Office	• Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan) • Europe (Brussels, Belgium)*
Human rights components in UN peace missions	• Georgia • Kosovo (Serbia)
Human rights advisers to UN country teams	• South Caucasus (covering Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia) • Kyrgyz Republic • Moldova • Russian Federation • Serbia • The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

* Planned for 2009

The 56 countries of Europe, North America and Central Asia face a wide range of human rights challenges. OHCHR's priorities in the region include tackling impunity for human rights violations, preventing torture and violence against women, and strengthening democratic institutions, such as judiciaries, legislatures and national human rights

institutions. The impact of the financial and economic crisis on human rights in the region is yet to be seen. One concern is the effect on migrant workers and their families who face a decrease in remittances to send home. The reaction of States with high existing migrant populations and large numbers of new arrivals will be critical. Rising unemployment in the more developed countries may serve to exacerbate social tensions, especially given that many governments are introducing increasingly stringent policies on immigration and access to work and benefits, in addition to counter-terrorism measures that are in some cases perceived to unfairly target particular groups.

During the course of 2008, OHCHR approved the establishment of a new regional office for Europe, in Brussels. The new office, which is expected to become operational in 2009, will enable OHCHR to engage more systematically with European institutions and provide advice and assistance in respect of the human rights dimensions of European and national policies and programmes.

OHCHR in Europe, North America and Central Asia: Examples of impact in 2008

Promoting ratification and implementation of international human rights instruments:

- ▶ The *Kyrgyz Republic* and *Kazakhstan* ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.
- ▶ *Turkmenistan* ratified and the *Kyrgyz Republic* signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol.
- ▶ In *Georgia*, OHCHR technical assistance contributed to the drafting of a National Action Plan against Torture and legislative changes providing for the establishment of a national preventive mechanism.
- ▶ In the *Kyrgyz Republic*, a draft law on independent public monitoring of places of detention, was submitted to Parliament.
- ▶ *Moldova* drafted a national action plan for human rights (2009-2012).

Assisting treaty-body reporting and follow-up:

- ▶ In *Azerbaijan*, OHCHR technical assistance helped the Government prepare the country's periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.
- ▶ In the *former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* a training workshop organized with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to assess follow-up to recent recommendations by treaty bodies and special procedures resulted in a plan of action for further implementation.
- ▶ In *Kosovo (Serbia)*, OHCHR support ensured information from local stakeholders was submitted to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- ▶ Submission by *Turkmenistan* of the common core document for treaty-body reporting and its initial report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, reflecting technical assistance provided through a joint OHCHR/UN Development Programme project.

Strengthening national human rights institutions:

- ▶ In *Georgia*, the Public Defender adopted a strategy for planning and managing human rights awareness-raising campaigns, with the assistance of OHCHR.
- ▶ In *Kosovo (Serbia)*, OHCHR's support helped ensure that the recruitment of the Ombudsperson proceeded in a transparent manner.
- ▶ In the *Kyrgyz Republic*, the functioning of the Ombudsman's Institution improved in relation to strategic planning and handling complaints.
- ▶ In *Moldova*, training and fundraising support helped strengthen the substantive and operational capacity of the national human rights institution, the Centre for Human Rights of Moldova.
- ▶ In *Russia*, OHCHR provided technical assistance to the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation, which was reviewed and reaccredited with A-status by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions.

Supporting human rights education and training:

- ▶ In *Georgia*, the UN Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) and OHCHR helped institutionalize human rights education through support for the NGO Human Rights Centre in Gali, the Human Rights Centre at the University in Sukhumi, and other local NGOs.
- ▶ In the *Kyrgyz Republic*, high school teachers received training in human rights education and a three-month human rights course was offered to postgraduate students at the Bishkek Academy of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.
- ▶ In *Tajikistan*, financial support helped sustain a Human Rights Information and Documentation Centre and teachers gained greater familiarity with methodology for teaching human rights.
- ▶ In the *Russian Federation*, a framework was put in place in cooperation with five leading Russian Universities for the establishment of a Human Rights Masters Programme (E.MA).

Combating impunity:

- ▶ In *Georgia*, UNOMIG received over 500 individual complaints at its "city office" in Sukhumi, which led to interventions at different levels of *de facto* authorities to address specific cases of human rights violations.
- ▶ In *Montenegro*, the Government's decision to accept responsibility and settle claims from families of 83 Bosnian nationals who disappeared in 1992 settled one of the major outstanding humanitarian law violations stemming from the wars of the 1990s.



Mainstreaming human rights into UN system policies and programmes:

- ▶ In **Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia**, the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** and **Uzbekistan**, reviews of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) covered human rights work and highlighted human rights as a cross-cutting issue.
- ▶ As a result of OHCHR inputs, the revised Crisis Flash Appeal for **Georgia** included human rights considerations.
- ▶ In **Kosovo (Serbia)**, the UN Kosovo Team's strategic framework for 2009-2011, developed with input from OHCHR, appropriately reflects human rights priorities.
- ▶ In the **Russian Federation** and the **Kyrgyz Republic**, human rights were integrated into UN country team programming, following OHCHR advice and training for UN staff.
- ▶ In **Ukraine**, the mid-term review of the UNDAF, undertaken by the UN country team, took into account recommendations arising from the Universal Periodic Review, as proposed by OHCHR.

Stand-alone Offices

Kosovo (Serbia)

Date established	1998
Staff as at 31 December 2008	7
Expenditure in 2008	\$826,127

The situation in Kosovo remained highly uncertain following the declaration of independence on 17 February 2008. The United Nations has adopted the position of "status neutral" concerning the move to independence, and several international organizations fulfil overlapping mandates. Key human rights issues concern the situation of minorities, including the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, impunity for past human rights violations, the right of return, the situation of internally displaced persons of all ethnicities, and the protection of economic and social rights.

OHCHR has been present in Kosovo since 1998. The expansion of the present Kosovo office, as envisaged in the 2006-2007 Strategic Management Plan, was completed in May 2008. Its main functions are monitoring and protecting human rights, and providing technical assistance on human rights issues to Kosovo's government institutions and civil society. OHCHR also works closely with the other UN agencies on the ground, the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), and other international actors, to ensure that human rights are fully integrated into their respective programmes of work.

Activities

- ▶ In collaboration with the Council of Europe, supported and monitored the recruitment of the Ombudsperson to ensure compliance with human rights principles.

- ▶ Provided information and training to local NGOs on preparing shadow reports to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- ▶ Trained 25 staff of the Legal Aid Bureau on human rights principles.
- ▶ Carried out various activities to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including the mass distribution of the text of the Declaration in Albanian and Serbian.
- ▶ Supported the work of the Human Rights Advisory Panel by encouraging UNMIK to ensure adequate human resources to service it, to convene the first Panel meeting and to provide a timely response to its first advisory opinion. The Office also assisted the Panel in other ways, such as by publicizing its recommendations.
- ▶ Provided human rights advice to the UN Kosovo Team and ensured that its strategic framework for 2009-2011, outlining projected activities for the next two years, appropriately reflected human rights priorities.
- ▶ Monitored the human rights situation in Kosovo and provided relevant information to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and the treaty bodies.
- ▶ Worked in close cooperation with and advised the senior human rights adviser in UNMIK on emerging human rights issues.
- ▶ In preparation for the presentation of UNMIK's report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on 10 November, OHCHR facilitated the submission of information from local stakeholders and shadow reports from Kosovo NGOs, and briefed the Committee on the situation in Kosovo.

Results

- ▶ Improved understanding of human rights issues among representatives of civil society, local government, and international organizations



through training workshops and regular human rights dialogues.

- ▶ International and local actors involved in human rights issues met regularly to exchange information on current and upcoming issues.
- ▶ Local stakeholders contributed shadow reports to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- ▶ Ensured a transparent process for the recruitment of an Ombudsperson that took account of international principles required for filling such a position.
- ▶ The Human Rights Advisory Panel became operational and issued its first opinion on the merits of a case in November 2008.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The contested status of Kosovo continued to present problems for the United Nations and other international organizations working in Kosovo. OHCHR's work was particularly affected by the uncertain political situation, which often overshadowed human rights concerns.

Kosovo: Expenditure in 2008

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	542,609
Consultants	-	-
Official travel	-	21,800
Contractual services	-	23,200
General operating expenses	-	59,276
Supplies & materials	-	9,200
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	75,000
Subtotal	-	731,085
Programme support costs	-	95,041
GRAND TOTAL	-	826,127

Regional Office

Regional Office for Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic)

Date established	2008
Staff as at 31 December 2008	6
Expenditure in 2008	\$566,223

OHCHR has had a regional representative in Bishkek since 2006. In June 2008, the Kyrgyz Republic and OHCHR signed an agreement to establish a regional office in Bishkek. The office serves Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The main mission of the office is to assist governments, national human rights institutions, civil society and UN country teams in the region to promote and protect human rights. The office also supported the human rights adviser to the UN country team in the Kyrgyz Republic. A new human rights adviser will be deployed in Tajikistan in early 2009.

Primary issues of concern in the region include shortcomings in the rule of law, torture, repression of human rights defenders, violations of freedom of assembly and expression, poverty, poor health and education services, forced evictions and homelessness, disregard of the human rights of migrants and trafficking in human beings, weak institutions, corruption, and disrespect for human rights in the fight against terrorism. During 2008, the human rights dimensions of climate change became



The OHCHR Deputy High Commissioner signing the agreement establishing the Central Asia Regional Office in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

increasingly evident. Suffering caused by the cold winter weather and water shortages in summer pose a significant risk to stability and security in the region if governments and the international community do not work together towards sustainable solutions that address respect for human rights affected by these factors. A positive development was the ratification of new human rights conventions by several countries.

Activities

- ▶ Commissioned studies on the right to adequate housing in the Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan and organized a roundtable in the Kyrgyz Republic to present the findings.
- ▶ Conducted seminars with national stakeholders in Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic on the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol.
- ▶ Assisted in drafting a law on independent public monitoring of detention facilities in the Kyrgyz Republic and provided a consultant to the Ombudsman in the Kyrgyz Republic to support associated reforms.
- ▶ Supported the visit of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women to Tajikistan.
- ▶ Trained 25 high school teachers on human rights education.
- ▶ Provided financial support to the operation of the Human Rights Information and Documentation Centre in Tajikistan.
- ▶ Participated in conferences and workshops in Tajikistan and Turkmenistan to promote the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

- ▶ Working in concert with members of the UN country team, helped to draft the UN Development Assistance Framework for Kazakhstan.
- ▶ Participated in training for Uzbek prison medical staff and employees of the Ministry of Health, organized by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime on torture-related issues.

Results

- ▶ Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture by the Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan, and ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol by Turkmenistan.
- ▶ Signing of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol by the Kyrgyz Republic and the establishment of an NGO coalition to advocate for its ratification.
- ▶ A draft law on independent public monitoring of places of detention, developed with the assistance of OHCHR, submitted to the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic for consideration.
- ▶ Submission by Turkmenistan of the common core document for treaty body reporting and its initial report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, reflecting technical assistance provided through a joint OHCHR/UN Development Programme project.
- ▶ Greater attention devoted to the problem of domestic and gender-based violence in Tajikistan, following the visit of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women.
- ▶ Improvements in the operation of the Ombudsman's Institution, following substantive advice from OHCHR on handling complaints and strategic planning.
- ▶ Inclusion of human rights issues in the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Kazakhstan.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Prior to the visit of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, local NGO representatives had little information or understanding of her role. In response, the Regional Office funded the publication of an easy-to-read leaflet in Kyrgyz and Russian with information on the Special Rapporteur's mandate. The leaflet included a template individual complaint form.
- ▶ Cooperation with the UN country teams in the region is a prerequisite for achieving a tangible

impact on the human rights situation in the respective countries.

- ▶ Uzbekistan has informed OHCHR that it does not wish to be covered by the regional office for Central Asia, despite repeated efforts by OHCHR to engage constructively with Uzbek authorities.

Regional Office for Central Asia: Expenditure in 2008

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	198,968	48,867
Consultants	1,800	24,680
Official travel	31,183	29,037
Contractual services	4,400	16,000
General operating expenses	36,680	10,419
Supplies & materials	9,829	2,500
Seminars, grants & contributions	36,186	85,909
Subtotal	319,046	217,413
Programme support costs	1,500.00	28,264
GRAND TOTAL	320,546	245,677

Support to United Nations Peace Missions

United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia

The August 2008 conflict had a profound effect on the security situation in Georgia, including the upper Kodori Valley, and on prospects for conflict-resolution in the region. OHCHR continued to support the Sukhumi-based Human Rights Office in Abkhazia, Georgia (HROAG), within the UN Observer Mission in Georgia. Working in an increasingly complex political and security environment, HROAG continued to monitor and protect human rights and report on human rights violations.

Activities

- ▶ Conducted over 60 visits to detention facilities to interview detainees, meet with penitentiary personnel and monitor registration logs and detention conditions.
- ▶ Interviewed over 500 individuals who lodged complaints of human rights violations at HROAG's "city office" in Sukhumi and intervened

with different levels of *de facto* authorities to address specific cases of human rights violations.

- ▶ Observed court hearings involving human rights and fair trial issues to monitor due process.
- ▶ Conducted regular human rights monitoring patrols in the Gali district and other districts in Abkhazia, and received individual complaints of human rights violations at the Gali UNOMIG Headquarters.
- ▶ Conducted three human rights monitoring visits to the Kodori Valley before and after the military clashes of August 2008.
- ▶ Facilitated a visit by the High Commissioner in February 2008; two visits of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) High Commissioner on National Minorities; a week-long, post-conflict assessment mission to Abkhazia, Georgia, by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities; contributed to several visits of foreign high-level delegations and organized human rights briefings for European and international organizations, bilateral government and embassy representatives, and the donor community.
- ▶ Provided financial support and substantive guidance to various human rights education activities and training by local NGOs within the framework of the Assisting Communities Together project.
- ▶ Trained 25 local NGO representatives and staff of *de facto* law-enforcement and judicial bodies across Abkhazia, Georgia, on gender and domestic violence.
- ▶ Supported the NGO Human Rights Centre in Gali in expanding its activities in human rights awareness raising, legal assistance and advisory activities.
- ▶ In cooperation with the OSCE, continued to support the Human Rights Centre at the University in Sukhumi and provided media training for Abkhaz journalists.
- ▶ Supported events to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including film screenings, debates, and discussions on human rights issues.

Results

- ▶ The monitoring, documenting and reporting of human rights violations and challenges provided rights-holders in the region and international observers with a credible source of information on the human rights situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, and a basis for engaging with the *de facto* authorities on how best to address areas of most pressing concern.



- ▶ There was greater awareness of human rights principles among the general population and specific target groups, such as the *de facto* law enforcement agencies, through training and public information efforts. For example, local partners reported the use of increasingly sophisticated human rights language and concepts in human rights-related complaints.
- ▶ The presence, in Gali, of international human rights officers and of the Gali Human Rights Centre helped to ensure that there was greater awareness of human rights problems in this area, particularly in respect of vulnerable groups during and after the August 2008 conflict.
- ▶ Regular meetings and briefings on human rights helped to improve the understanding of human rights issues among civil society, international organizations, and the donor community, especially in the aftermath of the August conflict.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The most significant challenge was how to develop and adopt an effective approach to a non-recognized territory, that is, Abkhazia in Georgia. The human rights office needed to be creative in tackling the implementation of international human rights standards and to secure a level of compliance with those standards from the *de facto* authorities. The August 2008

declaration of independence by Abkhazia and its recognition by the Russian Federation further complicated the office's work.

United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

OHCHR continued to support the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) through a senior human rights adviser who was deployed in May 2008. This post was temporarily re-established with the specific task of acting as human rights focal point within UNMIK to ensure the fulfilment of the Mission's human rights-related responsibilities as it underwent transition and reconfiguration.

Activities

- ▶ Provided advice and guidance on Kosovo's engagement with the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the European Committee for Prevention of Torture, the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for National Minorities, and other human rights mechanisms. In particular, UNMIK concluded its dialogue with the Human Rights Committee, and ensured that officials from the Prime Minister's Advisory Office on Good Governance and Human Rights

participated in the 41st session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in November 2008.

- ▶ In collaboration with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), conducted a half-day training programme on treaty bodies organized for senior government officials involved in treaty-body reporting.
- ▶ Liaised regularly with the Prime Minister's Advisory Office on Good Governance and Human Rights and the Ombudsperson Institution of Kosovo, including ad hoc meetings with the Agency for Gender Equality.
- ▶ Co-chaired fortnightly meetings on Kosovo's engagement with the international human rights machinery, including special procedures, and Council of Europe mechanisms.
- ▶ Contributed to the Secretary-General's quarterly report on Kosovo.

Results

- ▶ Ensured that government officials were engaged with the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and Council of Europe human rights mechanisms and encouraged officials to integrate the results of these engagements into government policy.
- ▶ Improved the quality of information on cases before the Human Rights Advisory Panel through UNMIK submissions.
- ▶ Strengthened government institutions working on human rights, particularly in relation to treaty-body obligations.
- ▶ Increased government commitment and competence towards the prevention of torture in light of OHCHR's support for information required by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture following the Committee's March 2007 visit to Kosovo.
- ▶ Strengthened human rights coordination among international agencies operating in Kosovo.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Given the current political environment, Kosovo's engagement with UN treaty bodies, concerning those international treaties to which Serbia is a State Party, is delicate. In 2008, communication with treaty bodies was channelled through UNMIK. Continued engagement with the treaty bodies is necessary to strengthen human rights protection in Kosovo, but will depend, at least in the short-term, on UNMIK's continued presence and follow-up efforts.

Human Rights Advisers in United Nations Country Teams

South Caucasus (covering Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia)

A senior human rights adviser based in Georgia provides advice to the UN country teams in Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia. Two national human rights officers and two administrative staff located in the UN country teams in Georgia and Azerbaijan support the senior human rights adviser, whose primary task is to implement human rights capacity-building projects in these countries. Project priorities were refocused following the crises in Armenia and Georgia during the year. In Armenia, post-election violence erupted on 1-2 March, resulting in ten deaths, numerous injuries and alleged cases of arbitrary detention. The armed conflict in August 2008 added security, humanitarian and human rights challenges to existing concerns in Georgia regarding the independence of the judiciary, conditions in penal institutions, the living conditions of internally displaced persons, and investigations into the events of 7 November 2007. In Azerbaijan, freedom of the media, women's rights, independence of the judiciary and elections all remain issues of concern.

Activities

- ▶ Supported measures to strengthen protection against torture in Georgia, including technical assistance for the drafting of a 2008-2009 National Action Plan against Torture and the legislative changes required for a national preventive mechanism under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.
- ▶ Assisted the Public Defender of Georgia in developing a conceptual framework for planning and managing human rights awareness-raising campaigns, and conducted local consultations on the rights of persons with disabilities to determine technical assistance needs.
- ▶ Conducted a study on migration policy in Azerbaijan to assist the Government with its first report to the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, which will be considered in April 2009.
- ▶ Conducted training sessions in Georgia to raise awareness of international human rights standards, including for 38 local trainers on the UN Training Manual for Prison Staff; 20 defence lawyers from the Kakheti region of Georgia on international and regional standards on the administration of justice; 46 local media

professionals on international standards on freedom of expression; and 15 members and staff of the Georgian Parliament on UN human rights treaties and mechanisms.

- ▶ In Azerbaijan, conducted three roundtables on the administration of juvenile justice for judges, lawyers, prosecutors, the staff of the Ombudsperson's Office and Government representatives; seminars on key international human rights instruments for 160 representatives of local authorities and civil society in four districts; workshops for 25 representatives of civil society on individual complaint mechanisms; workshops for 70 government representatives, Ombudsperson's staff and NGOs on the Universal Periodic Review; and training for 25 Parliamentarians and their assistants on international human rights standards and mechanisms.
- ▶ Supported improved implementation of treaties and treaty-body recommendations, including through technical assistance to the Georgian Government on draft legislative changes to be adopted following ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; printed a compilation of concluding observations by treaty bodies on the periodic reports of Georgia and Azerbaijan in the respective languages; and convened a workshop on reporting and implementation of treaty-body recommendations arising from the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, for 100 gender focal points from various Azeri ministries and representatives of civil society.
- ▶ Contributed to the annual reviews of the UN Development Assistance Framework in Azerbaijan and Georgia.
- ▶ In the wake of the August 2008 conflict, helped to draft the Georgia Crisis Flash Appeal and, in a joint World Bank, European Union and UN post-conflict needs-assessment mission in Georgia, provided human rights input into the mission report.
- ▶ Following the March 2008 crisis in Armenia, provided assistance and advice to the Resident Coordinator and the UN country team in Armenia regarding the monitoring and investigation of the events by the Ombudsman.

Results

- ▶ Azerbaijan's ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture in January 2009 followed a year-long effort by OHCHR to mobilize the support of the Government.

- ▶ The 2008-2009 National Action Plan against Torture adopted by Georgia substantially reflected technical inputs provided by OHCHR.
- ▶ With assistance from OHCHR, the Public Defender of Georgia adopted a strategy for planning and managing human rights awareness-raising campaigns.
- ▶ Azerbaijani officials and representatives of civil society were better equipped to prepare the country's periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.
- ▶ UN country teams in the region received training and assistance that enabled them to apply a human rights-based approach to programme design and delivery, as reflected in relevant programme documentation, including the 2008 reviews of the UN Development Assistance Frameworks for Georgia and Azerbaijan, both of which covered human rights work and highlighted human rights as a cross-cutting issue.
- ▶ As a result of inputs made by OHCHR, the Georgia Crisis Flash Appeal and joint World Bank, European Union, UN post-conflict needs-assessment report included important human rights considerations and an OHCHR human rights project proposal.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The armed conflict in Georgia in August 2008 and subsequent declarations of independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, presented a major challenge to OHCHR's field presence in the South Caucasus. As the conflict affected only part of the country, in the post-conflict period, OHCHR needed to meet the needs of two different situations: it participated in the emergency needs assessment and assistance coordination conducted by the UN humanitarian country team in the conflict-affected areas, and it implemented the activities contained in the 2008 work plan in the rest of the country.

Kyrgyz Republic

In March 2007, a human rights adviser was deployed to the UN country team in the Kyrgyz Republic through the Action 2 Global Programme and with co-funding from the UN country team. The adviser's work is focused mainly on advising members of the country team, representatives of state authorities and civil society activists on how to apply a human rights-based approach to their work. Upon invitation, the human rights adviser provided training to UN country teams in other countries.

Activities

- ▶ Held a workshop to build the advocacy capabilities of NGOs working in the field of rights of persons with disabilities.
- ▶ Held a seminar on health and human rights for UN staff, representatives of state authorities and civil society activists in Bishkek.
- ▶ Evaluated the work of the Kyrgyz Ombudsman to develop a joint UN technical assistance project and conducted a workshop for Ombudsman staff on strategic planning and the handling of complaints.
- ▶ Recruited a national human rights adviser to work with the Kyrgyz Ombudsman from September 2008 to March 2009.
- ▶ Taught a three-month human rights course at the Bishkek Academy of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for postgraduate students from across Central Asia.
- ▶ Conducted four training sessions on human rights and the human rights-based approach for UN programme staff and trainers in the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic.

Results

- ▶ UN agency staff, representatives of state authorities and civil society learned how to apply a human rights-based approach to programming,

particularly in the areas of poverty reduction and health.

- ▶ The Ombudsman in the Kyrgyz Republic benefited from engagement with OHCHR and helped to develop a programme of capacity-building activities to be implemented over the coming year.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The human rights adviser was able to maximize impact through cooperation with the newly-established OHCHR regional office in Central Asia.
- ▶ Training in a human rights-based approach is more likely to be effective when applied to specific development sectors and new programmes rather than existing ones.

Moldova

Moldova faces challenges in implementing laws and policies concerning violence against women, preventing trafficking in human beings, fighting corruption, and ensuring effective administration of justice. There have also been concerns in the context of the run-up to the 2009 parliamentary elections. In July 2008, a human rights adviser was deployed to the UN country team in Moldova through the Action 2 Global Programme, with co-funding from the



country team. The adviser's work focused on strengthening UN and national capabilities to promote and protect human rights, promoting democratic principles and human rights mainstreaming, and using the human rights-based approach in designing and implementing UN and civil society programmes.

Activities

- ▶ Conducted a series of training seminars to strengthen the substantive and operational capacity of the national human rights institution, the Centre for Human Rights of Moldova, and helped to develop two funding proposals to support institutional strengthening.
- ▶ Helped to develop the National Plan on Promoting Gender Equality, the National Human Rights Action Plan, and anti-trafficking proposals.
- ▶ In cooperation with the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the UN Population Fund, the UN Development Programme, and civil society, developed materials and facilitated training on human rights in relation to the national HIV/AIDS programme and reproductive health, and strengthened the mediation capacity of judges, prosecutors, and lawyers.
- ▶ Helped to design several UN country team project proposals, including a 'One UN' initiative to eliminate domestic violence, and UN Development Programme projects on electoral support, promoting transparency and accountability in local government, human rights education, and strengthening the Centre for Human Rights of Moldova.
- ▶ Provided human rights briefings on international standards relating to free and fair elections, freedom of expression, and discrimination based on sexual orientation.
- ▶ Supported the mandate of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and the work of the Special Rapporteurs on torture and violence against women.

Results

- ▶ Strengthened capacity among the Government, the UN country team, the Centre for Human Rights of Moldova, and civil society to design and implement human rights-sensitive laws, policies and programmes. This was reflected in the drafting of the Moldova national action plan for human rights (2009-2012).
- ▶ Credible information on the human rights situation and emerging human rights challenges, generated as a result of monitoring conducted by

OHCHR, provided a basis for decision-making, planning and programme implementation by UN partners, the Government and civil society.

Russian Federation

Following the adoption of OHCHR's Framework for Cooperation with the Russian Federation in August 2007, a senior human rights adviser was deployed to the UN country team in Moscow in March 2008. The Framework for Cooperation, which is unique in both form and content as a legal basis for OHCHR's activities, focuses on three main areas: rule of law; equality and tolerance; and education and dissemination of information on human rights. In addition, the adviser promoted a human rights-based approach to programming among UN agencies operating in the Russian Federation.

Activities

- ▶ Provided technical advice and guidance to Government and non-governmental actors on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to encourage Russia to sign and eventually ratify the Convention.
- ▶ Facilitated training in Moscow and Geneva on UN and national human rights systems for eight representatives of indigenous communities from the Russian Federation, under the auspices of OHCHR's Russian-speaking Fellowship Programme, in collaboration with the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia.
- ▶ Organized a roundtable in Moscow on the establishment of a Human Rights Masters Programme, with participation of the General-Secretary of the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratization in Italy and representatives of leading Russian universities. A Working Group was established to accelerate the creation of a pilot course by the third quarter of 2009.
- ▶ In cooperation with the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East, organized an international workshop on the role of extractive industries in the protection of indigenous peoples' rights.
- ▶ Carried out a series of events commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- ▶ Provided technical guidance to the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation so that the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions could review the status of his organization and re-accredit it as a full member.



Children playing in Serbia.

- ▶ Conducted briefing and training sessions on the Universal Periodic Review procedure of the Human Rights Council in preparation for the review of the Russian Federation in February 2009.

Results

- ▶ Advanced implementation of the agreed Framework for Cooperation in relation to indigenous peoples' rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the establishment of a Masters degree course in human rights at leading Moscow universities.
- ▶ Human rights activities integrated into UN country team programming, following training of UN staff.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The main challenge in the Russian Federation is managing expectations. A small field presence with limited financial and human resources is working towards achieving strategic goals in a vast country. While the main focus has, of necessity, been on implementing the jointly agreed programme of work set out in the Framework for Cooperation, OHCHR also needs sufficient flexibility to accommodate important ad-hoc requests, use newly emerging opportunities for cooperation, and facilitate activities not specifically set out in the Framework.

Serbia

Since OHCHR closed its country office in Belgrade in 2007, OHCHR has supported a national human rights adviser to the UN country team. The adviser works to strengthen interaction between Serbia and UN human rights mechanisms, increase compliance with international human rights standards, and incorporate human rights into UN assessments and development programming. In 2008, there were violent street protests and attacks on ethnic Albanians after the Parliament of Kosovo declared independence in February, and after the arrest of two suspected Serbian war criminals and the extradition, in August, of Mr. Radovan Karadžić to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

Activities

- ▶ In collaboration with the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, organized roundtables on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Human Rights Committee in 2004 and those of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights defenders following her visit to Serbia in September 2007.
- ▶ Conducted information sessions on the Universal Periodic Review for civil society, the Office of the Ombudsman, and the UN country team prior to Serbia's review in December 2008.

- ▶ Organized two public events on follow-up to recommendations issued by the Human Rights Committee and Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Human Rights Defenders.
- ▶ Facilitated a meeting on the situation of human rights defenders with the aim of raising awareness of the Human Rights Council's system of special procedures.
- ▶ Supported a coalition of NGOs working to produce an alternative report on Serbia's implementation of the UN Convention against Torture.
- ▶ With the European Commission and UN country team, co-organized public events to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Human Rights Day under the slogan 'Five Steps Forward to Combat Discrimination in Serbia'.
- ▶ Assisted the Law Faculty of the University of Belgrade in organizing an international conference titled "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights – 60 Years After".
- ▶ Supported a joint UN study on the human rights of the Roma people in the Republic of Serbia, resulting in the report "Realizing Roma Rights", which was printed in English, Serbian and the Roma language and distributed at the event to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration.
- ▶ Provided guidance on human rights issues to UN partners in the context of preparing the UN Development Assistance Framework 2010-14, and contributed to a training seminar on applying a human rights-based approach for senior UN staff.
- ▶ Made a presentation on UN housing-rights standards at a conference on Roma housing issues in southeast Europe hosted by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights.

Results

- ▶ Training for civil society organizations in the lead-up to Serbia's participation in the Universal Periodic Review mechanism contributed to several high-quality submissions and meaningful recommendations from NGOs.
- ▶ Roundtables helped improve dialogue between the Government and civil society on a number of sensitive issues, such as the protection of human rights defenders and reforms of the criminal justice system.
- ▶ Events on follow-up to recommendations of human rights mechanisms generated commitment by the Government to accept participation by civil society in monitoring implementation of recommendations of treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR.

- ▶ Clear and pertinent concluding observations were delivered by the Committee against Torture, in part because a strong alternative report, supported by the human rights adviser, was submitted. The UN report, "Realizing Roma Rights", attracted much interest and is considered to be the most comprehensive document on the human rights situation of the Roma in Serbia.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Cooperation with the Office of the Serbian Ombudsman on its international accreditation to the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions was delayed due to lack of staff and resources in the Ombudsman's Office. Efforts to strengthen capacities and facilitate the Ombudsman's preparations for accreditation review will continue in 2009.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

OHCHR has supported a national human rights adviser to the UN country team in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia since April 2007. The post was established following the closure of OHCHR's technical cooperation programme at the end of 2006. The adviser works with UN and national partners to improve interaction with the UN human rights system, increase compliance with international human rights standards, and incorporate human rights into UN programming.

Activities

- ▶ Conducted information sessions on the Universal Periodic Review for relevant State officials, the Office of the Ombudsman, civil society and UN staff in anticipation of the review of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in May 2009. OHCHR also helped civil society to prepare a contribution to the review and facilitated Government consultations with civil society on the State report.
- ▶ Facilitated a training workshop with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to share methodology and assess follow-up to recent recommendations by UN human rights treaty bodies and special procedures in which a range of stakeholders assessed progress and drafted a plan of action for further implementation.
- ▶ Promoted a transparent and inclusive process for designing a national preventive mechanism and

provided technical assistance to facilitate ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

- ▶ In collaboration with the European Union office, organized events to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including a panel discussion, an essay competition, and the screening of a series of sub-titled short films commissioned by OHCHR for the anniversary.
- ▶ Provided input into the UN Development Assistance Framework for 2010-2015.
- ▶ Provided guidance to the Minister of Justice on best practices relating to the legal definition of rape.

Results


- ▶ Civil society was able to participate in the first part of the human rights review process under the Universal Periodic Review mechanism.
- ▶ By participating in the sessions of the Parliamentary Permanent Survey Committee on

Human Rights, which are broadcast by the national media, the human rights adviser helped to raise awareness of the UN human rights system among members of the Parliamentary Committee and among the general public.

- ▶ Relevant Government authorities, the Ombudsman and civil society became more familiar with the features and the requirements for designing national preventive mechanisms under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Delays and changes in Government priorities following parliamentary elections created some disruption in implementation of planned activities.
- ▶ The application of a human rights-based approach to the assessment, design and implementation of development programmes remained a challenge and will be a focus for further work in 2009.



A migrant prays after arriving at the Canary Islands, July 2008.

OHCHR in the Field: Latin America and the Caribbean



Type of presence	Location
Country offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bolivia Colombia Guatemala Mexico
Regional offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latin America (Panama City, Panama, with a liaison office in Santiago, Chile)
Human rights components in UN peace missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Haiti
Human rights advisers in UN country teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecuador Guyana** Nicaragua

** Closed during 2008

The legal framework for human rights protection in Latin America and the Caribbean is relatively strong, with long-established and effective protection mechanisms such as the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Most countries have well developed legal systems and national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, and civil society organizations are active throughout the region. Presidential elections were held in the Dominican Republic, Paraguay and Trinidad and Tobago during 2008. Ecuador approved a new constitution by referendum while the Parliament in Bolivia approved a new constitutional text to be put to referendum in 2009. The rate of ratification of human rights treaties is relatively high in Latin America, although not in the Caribbean.

Common human rights concerns include impunity, shortcomings in the administration of justice, weak institutions, soaring levels of crime, violence against women, poverty, inequality and corruption. The global economic crisis has led to a reduction in remittances that migrants from the region send to their countries of origin, and may lead to a massive return of migrants, raising concerns of increased unemployment. At the same time, the prioritization of biofuel production over food products has resulted in higher prices for staple foods and led to social tensions in some countries. While internal conflict is generally absent, on-going armed conflict in Colombia continued to be a source of human rights violations during 2008.

Women are increasingly better represented in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of

government. However, serious efforts are required to reduce high rates of violence against women in Mexico, Nicaragua and Guatemala. Indigenous women face multiple forms of discrimination, and domestic violence remains a serious challenge.

In 2008, OHCHR had country offices in Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico, a regional office for Latin America in Panama City, and a small liaison office in Santiago. OHCHR continued to support human rights advisers working with UN country teams in Ecuador and Nicaragua, and the human rights section of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). OHCHR also supported the work of the Independent Expert on the human rights situation in Haiti, whose mandate was renewed by the Human Rights Council in June 2007. The human rights adviser in Guyana ended her work in April 2008.

OHCHR in Latin America and the Caribbean: Examples of impact in 2008

Promoting legislative and policy change:

- ▶ In **Bolivia**, ten out of 27 OHCHR recommendations were incorporated in the final draft of the new constitution and technical advice of the Office contributed to the adoption of a national human rights action plan.
- ▶ In **Colombia**, a human rights approach and a number of activities were incorporated in 22 piloted municipal development plans, part of an OHCHR project co-financed by the European Commission.
- ▶ In **Guatemala**, a law was adopted on femicide and other forms violence against women.

Supporting human rights education and training:

- ▶ In **Chile**, OHCHR co-sponsored a Diploma on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and staff gave lectures at the University of Chile on women rights, indigenous peoples' rights and due process.
- ▶ In **Colombia**, OHCHR trained more than 1,500 mayors, local government workers, municipal ombudsmen and staff of national institutions and more than 600 representatives of local NGOs.
- ▶ In **Ecuador**, the Plan of Action for the first phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education was successfully implemented.
- ▶ OHCHR worked with universities in **Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay** to integrate human rights into their curricula.

Promoting ratification of international human rights instruments:

- ▶ **Paraguay** ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.
- ▶ **Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Paraguay and Peru** ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- ▶ **Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru** ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- ▶ **Argentina, Bolivia, Honduras and Mexico** ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
- ▶ **Chile and Honduras** ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- ▶ **Cuba** signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Supporting mechanisms to monitor, investigate and redress human rights violations:

- ▶ In **Chile**, a proposal to create a national human rights institution, incorporating OHCHR recommendations, was under discussion in Congress.
- ▶ In **Colombia**, OHCHR's work with military authorities to follow-up cases of extrajudicial executions contributed to the adoption of measures aimed at preventing, investigating and sanctioning these crimes.
- ▶ In **Uruguay**, OHCHR technical advice was taken into account in a law establishing a national human rights institution.

Country Offices

Bolivia

Date established	July 2007
Staff as at 31 December 2008	8
Expenditure in 2008	\$1,124,041

The attempts by the Government of Bolivia to secure approval of a new constitutional text and the quest for greater autonomy by certain departments polarized the country in 2008. Some advances were made in economic, social and cultural rights, yet ongoing political instability and violent clashes between pro-Government and opposition groups had a negative impact on human rights. There was an increase in racist and discriminatory attitudes, attacks against human rights defenders, indigenous populations forced to work in conditions analogous to slavery, curtailment of political rights, arbitrary detentions, excessive use of force by security forces and concerns about due process.

In response to these developments, OHCHR-Bolivia prioritized human rights monitoring and reporting. The office also provided technical assistance to public institutions and civil society organizations in formulating and implementing policies and programmes to promote and protect human rights.

Activities

- ▶ Conducted 41 monitoring missions, including during the various elections and ballots held during 2008, and prepared a report on a massacre in the Department of Pando that took place in September 2008.



- ▶ Prepared an analysis of the human rights-related clauses in the proposed draft Constitution and discussed it with the Government and other stakeholders.
- ▶ Provided technical advice to the Government on the design and formulation of the national human rights action plan for 2009-2013.
- ▶ Closely monitored the situation of the Guarani people held in bondage in the Chaco region and shared a report on this issue with the Government and other stakeholders.
- ▶ Reviewed and provided advice to relevant authorities on the elaboration of five draft laws: on mandatory military service; on reparation to the victims of the violence that accompanied widespread protests in September and October 2003; on State policy against torture and the establishment of a national preventive mechanism; on indigenous justice; and on public policy and criminal sanctions against discrimination.
- ▶ Promoted ratification of five international human rights instruments and provided information to government officials regarding reporting to treaty bodies.
- ▶ Conducted four training sessions for human rights defenders on human rights protection mechanisms, monitoring techniques and preparation of incident reports.
- ▶ In commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, organized an event at which more than 450 people belonging to different sectors of society read the Universal Declaration in more than 18 different languages during 24 hours.

Results

- ▶ Ten out of 27 recommendations made by OHCHR were incorporated into the final draft of the new constitution, which will be put to a referendum on 25 January 2009.
- ▶ OHCHR's technical advice was reflected in Law 3955, ensuring reparation for the victims of human rights abuses that took place in 2003, and an anti-discrimination bill.
- ▶ Following advocacy by OHCHR and other organizations, Bolivia adopted Law 3935, which approved the Convention for the Protection of All People against Enforced Disappearances.
- ▶ With OHCHR's assistance, the Government complied with its reporting obligations under international treaties by submitting written contributions requested by the Committee on Migrant Workers and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and by complying with its obligations under Article 4 of

the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, notifying of the adoption of an exceptional measure by Bolivia when it declared a state of siege in the Department of Pando on 12 September 2008.

- ▶ Adoption of several recommendations made by OHCHR in the national human rights action plan.

Bolivia: Expenditure in 2008

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	721,164
Consultants	-	16,362
Official travel	-	77,523
Contractual services	-	29,741
General operating expenses	-	67,583
Supplies & materials	-	37,100
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	45,254
Subtotal	-	994,727
Programme support costs	-	129,314
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,124,041

Colombia

Date established	1996
Staff as at 31 December 2008	80
Expenditure in 2008	\$7,656,672

Colombia continued to be affected by an internal armed conflict, which represents a persistent human rights challenge for the State and for its population. Guerrilla groups, the Colombian Armed Forces, illegal armed groups and drug traffickers continued to commit human rights violations while underlying structural problems, such as inequitable distribution of wealth, discrimination and the stigmatization of vulnerable groups, impunity, and difficulties in accessing justice persisted.

Through its offices in Bogotá, Medellín, Bucaramanga and Cali, and a temporary presence in the Department of Arauca, OHCHR observed and reported on the human rights and international humanitarian law situation throughout the country, provided advice and technical assistance to the Government, and worked with civil society organizations and the authorities to promote human rights. OHCHR's mandate in Colombia has been renewed until 30 October 2010.

Activities

- ▶ Conducted 259 monitoring missions, received 1,356 complaints and followed-up on 1,351 of these complaints.
- ▶ Undertook an in-depth examination of extrajudicial execution cases in all military divisions and held high-level meetings with the Ministry of National Defence to discuss the root causes and provide an adequate response to prevent, investigate and sanction this phenomenon.
- ▶ Monitored and followed up, together with relevant civil society organizations, the 2008 decision by the Constitutional Court requiring the Government to draw up plans to prevent sexual violence and provide assistance to displaced women who are victims of such violations.
- ▶ Designed and began implementing a strategy to support the independence of the Supreme Court of Justice and its efforts to fight impunity in the context of investigations of alleged links between members of Congress and paramilitary groups.
- ▶ Conducted several activities to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including the elaboration and distribution of 20,000 copies of the Declaration, 1,500 child-friendly versions of the Declaration, 5,000 posters and 3,000 copies of *Human Rights ABC*.
- ▶ In collaboration with the human rights Ombudsman in Colombia, held a workshop on human rights for participants from nine Latin American countries.
- ▶ Supported the elaboration of a draft national plan on human rights education by holding human rights workshops to advise municipal ombudsmen, public officials and community leaders in conflict-resolution centres, mayors and municipal councils.
- ▶ Undertook activities to enhance the capacity of public institutions to address human rights violations, including the preparation of a guide for investigating enforced disappearances; a publication on the right of indigenous peoples to prior, free and informed consultation on decisions affecting their communities; and the compilation of international jurisprudence on extrajudicial executions.
- ▶ With the aim of integrating human rights into municipal development plans, provided technical assistance on 24 municipal development plans and two departmental plans in Arauca and Santander.
- ▶ In close coordination with the Resident Coordinator's office, continued to support human rights mainstreaming in the work of the UN agencies.



A girl looks on during a march against kidnapping in Bogota, July 2008.

- ▶ Provided technical assistance on the draft law on reparations to victims of the armed conflict to ensure its consistency with relevant international standards.

The High Commissioner's first mission

The High Commissioner for Human Rights visited Colombia and Haiti in October and November. Her first mission after assuming the post included meeting the Presidents of both countries, Government representatives, and members of the business sector and civil society. The High Commissioner also observed OHCHR field activities in the Colombian Department of Arauca. In Haiti, she visited *Kay Jistis* ("House of Justice"), a community-focused project in Cité Soleil, a poverty-stricken neighbourhood in Port-au-Prince.

Results

- ▶ As a result of following up cases of extrajudicial executions and raising awareness of how to prevent these crimes, the Government took a decision to dismiss three generals, four colonels and 20 officers from service due to their involvement in extrajudicial executions.
- ▶ More than 5,000 victims participated in the legislative debate on the draft law to provide reparations to victims, during which international

standards were discussed and most were accepted by all parties. Adoption of the law is scheduled for 2009.

- ▶ The draft national plan of human rights education was finalized and presented to the Vice President's office for approval. The draft plan proposes a firm foundation for the integration of human rights into education.
- ▶ Following work on municipal development plans and human rights, 12 out of the 22 piloted municipal plans integrated the human rights-based approach. Two pilot plans—the department of Santander and the municipality of Ocaña (Santander)—were assessed as outstanding by the National Planning Department.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The expansion of the office's observation and monitoring activities throughout the country has been essential in ensuring access to accurate information on human rights, particularly in regions where the effects of the internal armed conflict are most serious. Following the positive results achieved through the non-permanent presence in Arauca, the Office is considering another non-permanent presence in Barranquilla to cover the complex human rights situation on the Atlantic Coast.

Colombia: Expenditure in 2008

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	5,423,186
Consultants	-	-
Official travel	-	353,328
Contractual services	-	55,770
General operating expenses	-	739,339
Supplies & materials	-	184,666
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	-
Subtotal	-	6,756,289
Programme support costs	-	900,383
GRAND TOTAL	-	7,656,672

Guatemala

Date established	2005
Staff as at 31 December 2008	27
Expenditure in 2008	\$3,879,737

Guatemala rates low on the human development scale, with a highly unequal distribution of income and an increasing level of violence and personal insecurity. Drug-related crime presents a growing threat to political stability. The new President Alvaro Colom, who took office on 14 January 2008, stated that citizens' personal and social security, guaranteed by a democratic rule of law, will be priorities during his four-year term. The UN-sponsored International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) formally initiated its work in January 2008.

Originally established for three years in 2005, OHCHR's mandate in Guatemala was extended for three additional years in September 2008. The mandate includes monitoring the human rights situation in the country and providing advisory and technical assistance services to State institutions, geared toward implementing the recommendations made by the High Commissioner and the human rights mechanisms.

Activities

- ▶ Compiled and published a summary of treaty-body recommendations concerning Guatemala that was presented to over 1,000 people from 30 government institutions, including the Congress, the judiciary, the Human Rights Ombudsman, the UN country team and civil society organizations.

- ▶ Conducted eight training sessions for 40 members of the Presidential Commission for Human Rights on the Universal Periodic Review mechanism, the international human rights treaties and the drafting of reports and individual communications to human rights treaty bodies.
- ▶ Trained 350 national civilian police officers on human rights matters relevant to police work, including use of force and firearms, torture, police investigations, non-discrimination and women's rights; trained 30 members of the Department of Civilian Intelligence on issues such as information-gathering and arbitrary interference with privacy, codes of ethics and human rights issues relevant to intelligence in public and private spheres; trained 18 justice-sector officials as trainers and assisted the training units of justice sector institutions to adopt a common format for human rights training.
- ▶ Within the framework of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, organized a series of public events, including a media-based initiative aimed at promoting knowledge of human rights shown on national television, radio, outdoor media and through social Internet networks for 12 weeks; launched the website www.declare.org containing the Universal Declaration and interactive tools to create graphic designs, publish micro-videos, photographs and blogs based on the Declaration; and supported the Central American Institute of Studies for Social Democracy in organizing a human rights art festival in which 1,800 young people from 70 municipalities participated.

Results

- ▶ Following advocacy by OHCHR, the Congress ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in September 2008. Subsequently, OHCHR's work led to the adoption of a strategy by the National Council for the Attention to Persons with Disabilities and the Human Rights Ombudsman to publicize the Convention and to raise awareness of its importance within the Congress.
- ▶ Following technical advice provided by OHCHR in collaboration with the UN Population Fund and the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Congress approved the law against femicide and other forms of violence against the women on 9 April 2008. It entered into force on 15 May 2008.
- ▶ A technical training and institution-strengthening programme for the legal empowerment of civil society, especially indigenous peoples, will begin at the Rafael Landivar University in 2009.



Young students from Guatemala perform a play during the commemoration of the Human Rights Day, December 2008.

following an international seminar, organized by OHCHR and held in Guatemala City in April 2008, on strategic litigation and legal clinics.

- ▶ The human rights-based approach was integrated into the Common Country Assessment and UN Development Assistance Framework exercise.
- ▶ The office facilitated opportunities for dialogue among the private company Cementos Progreso, indigenous communities from San Juan Sacatepequez and the Government aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the conflict generated by the installation of a cement factory and agreeing strategies for managing future development.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The persistently high levels of physical insecurity and impunity, and the low rate of human development, remain alarming challenges in Guatemala. Progress is possible only through effective coordination between OHCHR and the UN country team in Guatemala and with the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala.

Guatemala: Expenditure in 2008

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	2,164,980
Consultants	-	243,998
Official travel	-	109,849
Contractual services	-	298,699
General operating expenses	-	321,700
Supplies & materials	-	62,287
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	231,883
Subtotal	-	3,433,396
Programme support costs	-	446,341
GRAND TOTAL	-	3,879,737

Mexico

Date established	2002
Staff as at 31 December 2008	21
Expenditure in 2008	\$1,586,913

During 2008, Mexico experienced high levels of violence and public insecurity, with 5,376 violent murders related to organized crime, compared to 2,621 in 2007. The Government continued to deploy the military to deal with public-security operations. Women, indigenous peoples, migrants and people with disabilities were among the most vulnerable to human rights violations, particularly social and economic inequalities and discrimination. Human rights challenges included attacks against journalists and human rights defenders, violence against women, and extortion and kidnapping of migrant people. Impunity continued to be one of the main obstacles to improving the human rights situation in the country.

In February 2008, the High Commissioner signed a new agreement with the Government extending the presence and activities of OHCHR in Mexico until 2012. The mandate includes providing advice and technical cooperation to federal and local authorities and civil society organizations, and observing the human rights situation in the country. Based on its impartial role, the office frequently encourages dialogue between authorities and civil society organizations.

Activities

- ▶ Provided advice and support to the Federal Government in formulating and following-up on its national human rights programme 2008-2012.
- ▶ Engaged in highly participatory processes with authorities, civil society organizations, scholars, and human rights institutions at the local level to jointly develop human rights assessments and a corresponding plan of action.
- ▶ Began systematic documentation of experiences, best practices and lessons-learned from the elaboration of human rights action plans at both state and federal levels.
- ▶ Conducted activities to advance women's rights, including workshops on documenting cases of human rights violations with a gender perspective; a workshop on international mechanisms for promoting and defending women's rights in Mexico City; a workshop with law professors on teaching law with a gender perspective; and the formation of a diploma course on women's rights for lawyers.

- ▶ Held consultations with representatives of the Federal Government, the National Human Rights Commission, the National Statistics Institute, academic institutions and civil society organizations to promote the conceptual framework on human rights indicators adopted by the human rights treaty bodies.
- ▶ In a joint effort with human rights organizations and human rights experts, the office published, disseminated and followed up in the Federal Congress a proposal to reform and improve the human rights framework established by the Mexican Constitution.
- ▶ Conducted preparatory workshops and discussions with civil society organizations, human rights institutions and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support the preparation of documents for the Universal Periodic Review of Mexico in February 2009.
- ▶ Provided substantive support to the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants and to the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, including providing background information and data, and organizing meetings with key stakeholders.
- ▶ Provided regular advice to the Supreme Court on key human rights issues.
- ▶ Commemorated the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including organizing a short-film contest, an international film festival on human rights, and a travelling exhibition of posters illustrating the 30 articles of the Declaration.

Results

- ▶ With OHCHR's support, the 2009 short-term plan of action on human rights for Mexico City was adopted. OHCHR continues to support development of the medium and long-term human rights programme. Although the process in the conflict-affected state of Guerrero was not completed by the end of 2008, a good basis for dialogue among the various parties was established, which is as important as the programme itself.
- ▶ The Supreme Court of Justice issued decisions that had a significant impact on human rights, reflecting some of the technical assistance that the office had provided on human rights and jurisprudential issues.
- ▶ As a result of advice given by OHCHR to individuals and human rights organizations concerning the use of international human rights mechanisms, 14 individual communications were sent to a number of special procedures mandate-holders concerning human rights violations.

- ▶ An important outcome of OHCHR's work on human rights indicators has been a commitment by the National Statistics Institute to use indicators in accordance with the conceptual framework on human rights indicators developed by OHCHR to monitor the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Despite ratifying treaties and the important role that Mexico plays at the international and multilateral level, a human rights perspective is still insufficiently incorporated into the Government's work. Civil society needs to play a greater role in this endeavour.
- ▶ In certain sectors of the Federal and State governments, human rights are seen as an obstacle for tackling the problem of insecurity and organized crime. Assisting the Government in adopting an integrated human rights approach to public security, including in the fight against organized crime, will be a major challenge for OHCHR in 2009.

Mexico: Expenditure in 2008

	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	837,126
Consultants	-	324,842
Official travel	-	19,965
Contractual services	-	28,629
General operating expenses	-	119,813
Supplies & materials	-	45,601
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	28,372
Subtotal	-	1,404,348
Programme support costs	-	182,565
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,586,913



A man participates in a demonstration in Panama City

Regional Office

Regional Office for Latin America (Panama City, Panama, with a liaison office in Santiago, Chile)

Date established	August 2007
Staff as at 31 December 2008	4 in Panama City and 3 in Santiago de Chile
Expenditure in 2008	\$989,432

The Latin American region includes a large number of countries with relatively stable democracies and strong legal and institutional frameworks. However, many people live in poverty and are victims of discrimination and social violence. In particular, discrimination against indigenous populations and Afro-descendants continues to be a significant human rights concern, including lack of recognition, demarcation and titling of their lands and territories.

OHCHR's regional office for Latin America works with countries in the region to strengthen the capacity of national governments, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations to promote and protect human rights in four priority areas: impunity; discrimination against indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants; poverty and inequality; and insecurity and violence. The office also provides support to UN country teams in incorporating a human rights-based approach to programming.

Activities

- ▶ In collaboration with six other regional UN agencies, held a regional seminar on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Lima. The workshop was attended by representatives of governments, national institutions and indigenous peoples from ten South American countries.

- ▶ Together with the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) regional office, co-sponsored a sub-regional consultation convened by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on citizen security and human rights, with the aim of making recommendations to Member States on how to enhance citizen security through effective, rights-based policies.
- ▶ Organized a regional judicial colloquium where judges from Argentina, Colombia, Guatemala, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru and the Dominican Republic met to discuss ways to apply international human rights standards and jurisprudence at the national level.
- ▶ Provided advice to the Governments of Chile and Uruguay in relation to the establishment of a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, and provided technical support to the Defensoría del Pueblo (Office of the Ombudsman) in Panama.
- ▶ Provided technical advice to the Government of Argentina concerning the development of a witness-protection scheme and to the Government of Panama in relation to migration issues.
- ▶ Undertook activities to support governments in meeting their obligations to treaty bodies, including technical advice to the Governments of Haiti, Panama and Suriname; support to civil society in Peru and Panama to prepare alternative reports to treaty bodies; and a regional workshop on the follow-up to treaty-body recommendations for national and international stakeholders.
- ▶ Supported the preparation of regional consultations on implementation of the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples.
- ▶ Conducted workshops and provided technical advice to UN country teams in Brazil, Ecuador, Panama, and Uruguay on integrating a human rights-based approach to development.
- ▶ Encouraged the integration of human rights into university curricula through a training-of-trainers for the Universities of the Association of the Montevideo Group (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay); and delivered lectures on human rights issues to various programmes at the University of Chile.
- ▶ Launched a quarterly electronic bulletin to provide information on international human rights mechanisms to relevant actors in the region.

Results

- ▶ The law establishing a national human rights institution in Uruguay was promulgated by the President of Uruguay on 24 December.

- ▶ The proposal for the creation of a national human rights institution in Chile incorporated the recommendations made by OHCHR to ensure its compliance with the Paris Principles.
- ▶ Following advocacy by OHCHR, the National Assembly of Panama passed Law 298 to establish the requirements for refugees and asylum-seekers applying for permanent residence.
- ▶ Haiti and Panama submitted their reports under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ With the consolidation of the UN regional hub and OHCHR's regional presence in Panama, working with the UN regional directors team in Latin America has proved to be an effective strategy for multiplying OHCHR's impact.

Regional Office for Latin America: Expenditure in 2008		
	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	505,422	182,156
Consultants	6,289	-
Official travel	20,698	32,989
Contractual services	-	1,566
General operating expenses	65,120	47,467
Supplies & materials	13,710	3,325
Seminars, grants & contributions	26,100	44,084
Subtotal	637,339	311,586
Programme support costs	-	40,506
GRAND TOTAL	637,339	352,093

Includes expenditure relating to the liaison office in Santiago, Chile

Support for United Nations Peace Missions

United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

While relative improvements in the security situation were observed towards the end of 2008, continued commitment by national and international partners is needed to curb kidnapping, armed robbery and civil unrest. Following a series of riots protesting the high cost of living and a vote of no confidence in the Senate, the multiparty Government was ousted in April

2008 and Haiti remained without a government for more than four months. During this time, efforts to establish a national poverty-reduction plan and to reform rule of law institutions were stalled.

The Human Rights Section of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) is deployed in eight departments throughout the country and engages in monitoring, public reporting and training activities. OHCHR supports the section's work by assisting with recruitment, and providing advice and substantive support on human rights-related issues.

Activities

- ▶ Carried out regular monitoring and investigations to document violations of civil and political rights, with particular focus on rule of law institutions.
- ▶ Organized training sessions for over 1,000 police officers on the rights and protection of minors in conflict with the law, human rights in law enforcement, the rights of detainees and the use of detention registers, and participated in training for 90 magistrates at the national School of Magistrates.
- ▶ Launched a legal aid programme through the Bar Association in Mirebalais, employing 15 lawyers to work on cases of unlawful detention and other human rights abuses. The purpose of the programme is to offer clients legal representation and exert pressure on the criminal justice system and the Bar Association for increased transparency, expedited administrative and procedural steps, and respect for human rights standards. The programme was extended to Jacmel at the end of 2008.
- ▶ Participated in the advocacy efforts of the UN rule of law working group on pre-trial detention and prison overcrowding, targeting the Government of Haiti and the international community.
- ▶ Supported finalization of draft enabling legislation for the National Ombudsman Office (Office de la Protection du Citoyen), which was submitted to the Government in late 2008.
- ▶ Organized training activities for 516 members of human rights NGOs on international and regional human rights protection mechanisms and general human rights issues.
- ▶ Provided technical input and training to support the finalization of the National Data Collection Form by the National Platform on Violence against Women, which lays the groundwork for a national, harmonized data-collection system to report violence against women.
- ▶ Following the September hurricanes, worked with UN and other international agencies to help verify information to protect internally displaced persons and reduce the incidence of sexual violence.
- ▶ Conducted a two-month campaign on the right to safe drinking water in partnership with the National Water and Sanitation Cell of the Ministry of Public Works, UNICEF and the UN Development Programme. The campaign culminated in the production of a promotional film on the right to water in Haiti.
- ▶ Launched an advocacy campaign to encourage Haiti to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Results

- ▶ Following the joint sensitization programme conducted by the Human Rights Section and the Haitian National Police General Inspectorate, there was a reduction in the number of complaints of misconduct and abuse by police in the Motorized Intervention Brigade.
- ▶ A decrease in the pre-trial detention rate in Mirebalais was observed after 68 detainees in unlawful and/or pre-trial detention were provided free legal representation through the legal aid programme implemented by the Human Rights Section.
- ▶ The National Platform on Violence against Women, comprising representatives of Government, civil society and international institutions, agreed an information-sharing arrangement between women's NGOs and the Government after four years of debate on ownership and confidentiality, as a result of the technical assistance and confidence-building conducted jointly by the Human Rights Section and the MINUSTAH Gender Unit.
- ▶ The Right to Water Campaign raised awareness of the need for a modern legislative framework on safe drinking water and sanitation. Parliament adopted the draft law presented by the Campaign in January 2009 and the Section was invited to participate in the 2009 UN Water Conference in Istanbul.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ With 78 per cent of the population living on the equivalent of less than US\$2 per day, poverty remains the most far-reaching and complex challenge facing Haiti. Poverty is both a cause and a result of insecurity, political and social instability, lack of food security, poor levels of education and environmental degradation. To maximize impact, advocacy efforts are best carried out in coordination with broader development-aid initiatives.

Human Rights Advisers in United Nations Country Teams

Ecuador

A significant development during 2008 was the approval of a new Constitution that contains some of the strongest human rights guarantees in the region. The new Constitution provides for important institutional reforms, including the establishment of a National Court of Justice, a Constitutional Court and a Transparency and Citizen Monitoring Branch, a new government body that will be led by the Council for Citizen Participation and Government Monitoring and will include the Ombudsman, the General Comptroller and superintendents. Through the human rights adviser, OHCHR promotes greater Government compliance with its human rights obligations; supports civil society participation in decision making that affects human rights; and works with the UN country team to incorporate a human rights-based approach to its programming.

Activities

- ▶ Provided technical advice to the Constituent Assembly on indigenous rights, the human rights-based approach, the development of a human rights-compliant system of justice, and justice of the peace.
- ▶ Advised the Government, civil society organizations and the UN country team on the Universal Periodic Review process, and worked with a range of actors to follow up and implement the recommendations made in the review of Ecuador.
- ▶ At the request of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, advised on the development of a methodology to assess the National Human Rights Plan and the development of new laws related to the justice sector.
- ▶ Trained 100 police, 100 military personnel and 150 journalists in human rights.
- ▶ Took the leading role within the UN country team to ensure the incorporation of a human rights-based approach in the UN Development Assistance Framework.
- ▶ Provided technical assistance, through a specialized consultant to the Ministry of Education, to develop the methodology for a national baseline on human rights education, in compliance with the Plan of Action for the first phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education.
- ▶ Commemorated the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with a national journalism contest, the production of a

commemorative video, participation in four youth music festivals and several international human rights seminars, the publication of a book on human rights and the administration of justice, sponsorship of a human rights movie festival, and the translation of the Universal Declaration into all twelve indigenous languages used in Ecuador.

Results

- ▶ Broad participation both within Government and in non-governmental circles in the Universal Periodic Review process.
- ▶ Enhanced awareness of human rights obligations within the military and the police through training activities carried out by the adviser. As a result, a reduction in the number of complaints of violations is expected over the next biennium.
- ▶ Increased understanding of the human rights-based approach within the UN country team and the Government's National Planning Secretariat, following the adviser's advocacy, training and technical advice activities, resulted in commitments by both to adopt this approach in all relevant planning processes.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Ensuring effective citizen participation in decision making on human rights issues continues to be a challenge. It is hoped that the creation of the Transparency and Citizen Monitoring Branch will help to meet this challenge.

Nicaragua

Pressing human rights concerns in Nicaragua include access to economic and social rights, especially for the indigenous and Afro-descendant population in the Atlantic Autonomous Regions, and ongoing discrimination against women in political, social and economic spheres, with impunity for gender-based violence extremely high. Deployed in November 2007, the adviser concentrates on promoting compliance with human rights standards, encouraging dialogue between State actors and civil society on human rights; and the adoption of a human rights-based approach by UN partners.

Activities

- ▶ Organized several activities in collaboration with UN, international and national actors to mark Women's Rights Week (3-7 March), including video exhibitions, theatre pieces, workshops, press conferences and a workshop to promote a wide dialogue between Government and civil society.

- ▶ Organized a series of research activities on human rights education in universities called “Human Rights in Nicaragua 60 years after the Universal Declaration: A University Perspective”.
- ▶ Conducted ten human rights workshops and public seminars for educators, including a forum on discrimination and indigenous rights organized with the Bluefield and Indian Caribbean University on the Caribbean Coast. In addition, 12 workshops on international human rights instruments were held for Government bodies, the national human rights institution, other public institutions and several grassroots organizations.
- ▶ In collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Association for the Prevention of Torture, organized an international seminar, with the participation of a member of the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture, on ratification and implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.
- ▶ In collaboration with the National Ombudsman’s Office for Human Rights and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, organized a regional event to promote implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and ratification of its Optional Protocol. Delegates of national institutions and NGOs from Central American countries shared their experiences.
- ▶ Conducted three internal training workshops for UN staff on the rights of migrants, the rights of indigenous peoples and children’s rights.

Results

- ▶ Following advocacy and awareness-raising activities, the Government of Nicaragua completed most of its overdue reports to the treaty bodies, ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and formally announced the intention to ratify the Optional Protocol on the Convention of Rights of People with Disabilities.
- ▶ As a result of the adviser’s work to integrate a human rights-based approach into the work of the UN country team, UN agencies have strengthened the human rights perspective in their programming. For example, a UN Development Programme (UNDP) project on prison conditions will start in 2009, and work relating to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples will be included in the UNDP programme for the Caribbean Coast.



A child runs by a mural that reads in Spanish "Eradicate hunger and poverty" during a march to mark the International Human Rights Day in Managua, December 2008.

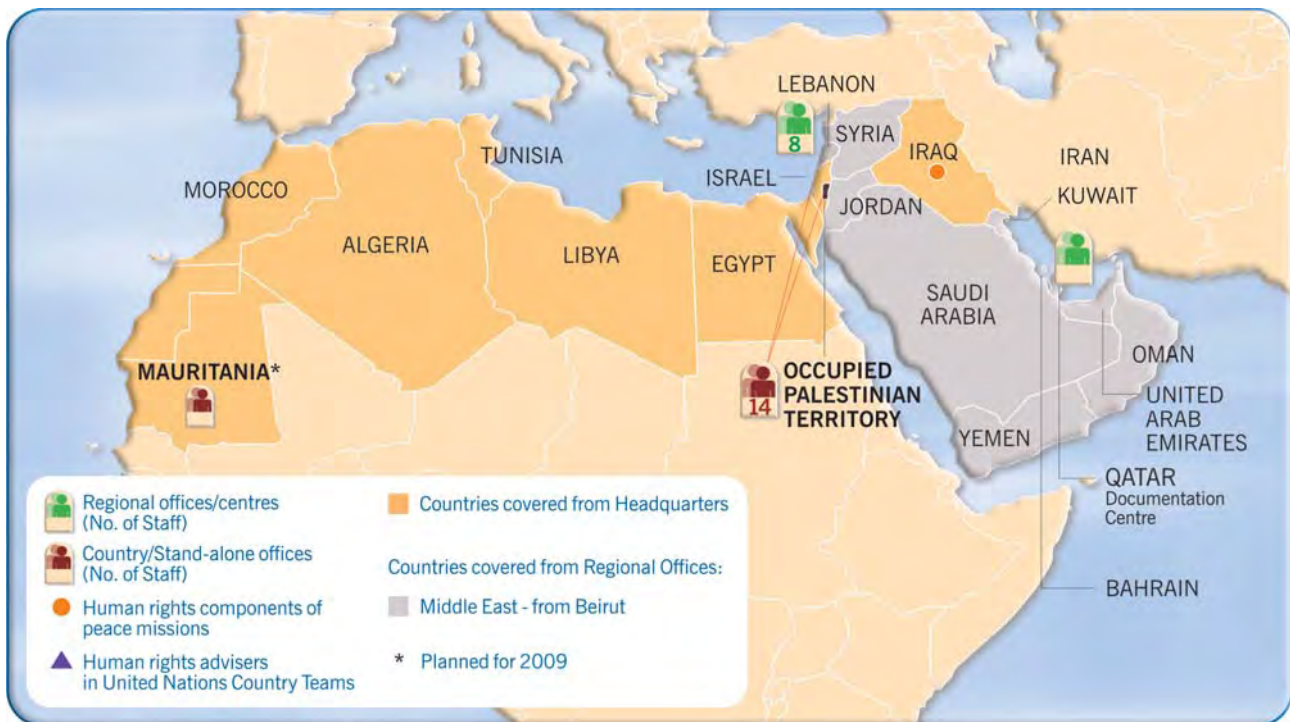
Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Now that Nicaragua has submitted most of its overdue reports to the treaty bodies and has started receiving its first concluding observations, OHCHR’s next major challenge will be to incorporate a human rights approach into the public policies and national development plans to ensure systematic implementation of the treaty obligations and the concluding observations.

Overcoming barriers

During the Human Rights Fair organized to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the main public mall of Managua, thousands of people received information about human rights and programmes carried out by the UN system in Nicaragua. During the Fair, a 16-year old girl from the rural interior of the country, who had never been registered nor had any personal documents, was informed of the right to personal documents and the possibility to register through a project promoted by the United Nations. She immediately enrolled in the programme and has begun the process of registration. This incident shows the importance of promoting human rights in a country like Nicaragua, where the lack of access to information on rights and duties is often a barrier to the realization of human rights.

OHCHR in the Field: the Middle East and North Africa



Type of presence	Location
Country offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occupied Palestinian territory Mauritania*
Regional offices and centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Middle East (Beirut, Lebanon) Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for Southwest Asia and the Arab Region (Qatar)
Human rights components in UN peace missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iraq

* Planned for 2009

Human rights are poorly protected in many parts of the Middle East and North Africa. Conflict and political instability have had serious implications for the human rights and humanitarian situation in Iraq, Lebanon, Israel and occupied Palestinian territory, as well as in Lebanon and Yemen, where tension and clashes persisted for part of the year. Weak institutions and the absence, in some countries, of the rule of law contributes to violations of civil and political rights, including arbitrary detention, torture, restrictions on freedoms of expression, association and assembly, and occasional clampdowns on human rights defenders. Among the groups most vulnerable to human rights abuses are refugees, children, stateless persons and

migrant workers, especially domestic workers, while women also continued to suffer discrimination and violence.

Some improvements were noted in 2008 in the political participation by women and minorities, registration of stateless persons, and adoption of legislation in compliance with international human rights standards. A number of countries underwent the Universal Periodic Review process, the success of which will be measured by their commitment to integrate recommendations in the coming years.

OHCHR has a stand-alone office in the occupied Palestinian territory and a regional office for the Middle East in Beirut. It has also been engaged in discussions with the Government of Mauritania on opening a country office and with the Government of Qatar on establishing a UN Human Rights Documentation and Training Centre, both of which are expected to be inaugurated in 2009. The Office also plans to establish a new regional office for North Africa. A unit of ten professional and three administrative staff covers the region from headquarters, monitoring areas of concern, preparing briefing materials and providing substantive and administrative support to field presences.

OHCHR in the Middle East and North Africa: Examples of impact in 2008

Promoting legislative and policy change:

- ▶ In **Iraq**, following technical advice from OHCHR, a law was promulgated to establish a national human rights institution, to be called the High Commission for Human Rights of Iraq.
- ▶ In **Lebanon**, seven out of ten OHCHR recommendations were incorporated into the final unified contract for domestic migrant workers adopted by the Steering Committee for Migrant Domestic Workers.

Supporting human rights education and training:

- ▶ In the **occupied Palestinian territory**, OHCHR worked closely with the Ministry of Education and the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to organize training for teachers and principals from across the West Bank and help establish a local Human Rights Education Committee. Training in human rights education was also provided to staff of the Independent Commission for Human Rights, strengthening the Commission's capacity to design and deliver human rights education programmes.

Promoting ratifications and reporting:

- ▶ **Iraq** ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
- ▶ **Algeria** initiated the process of ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and lifted the reservation to article 9.2 of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Mainstreaming human rights into UN system policies and programmes:

- ▶ In **Lebanon**, OHCHR worked with UN partners to develop human rights outcomes in Lebanon's 2009-2014 UN Development Assistance Framework.
- ▶ UN Resident Coordinators in **Bahrain** and **Yemen** responded favourably to OHCHR proposals regarding human rights mainstreaming.
- ▶ In northern **Lebanon**, OHCHR's leadership of the Protection Working Group supported human rights mainstreaming efforts. The Working Group's intervention in a number of cases of human rights violations helped clarify the situation of detainees and contributed to an easing of tensions at checkpoints.

Stand-alone Office

Occupied Palestinian Territory

Date established	Gaza: 1996; Ramallah: 2000
Staff as at 31 December 2008	14
Expenditure in 2008	\$1,832,164

The human rights crisis in the occupied Palestinian territory worsened during 2008 with a wave of arbitrary arrests, detention and extra-judicial killings arising from disagreements between members of Hamas and Fatah, the two dominant Palestinian political factions. There were two major military operations in Gaza by the Israel Defence Forces, Operation Warm Winter in February 2008 and Operation Cast Lead in December 2008, both of which resulted in hundreds of civilian casualties. On 15 June 2008, a six-month cease-fire was announced

between Hamas and other Palestinian militant groups on one side, and the Government of Israel on the other side. While the cease-fire generally held during the first four months of the period, it appeared to unravel during November and December, with a resumption of Israeli military operations in Gaza and Palestinian militants' rocket attacks on Israeli towns. The tension culminated in Operation Cast Lead with the start of intensive Israeli air bombardments of the Gaza strip on 27 December 2008, developing into a full-scale air and ground war with hundreds of casualties and thousands wounded, largely on the Palestinian but also on the Israeli side, with the majority of dead and wounded being civilians.

Due to the highly volatile environment, especially in the Gaza Strip, OHCHR had to adopt a flexible approach to implementing its work plan, shifting its focus as new needs and priorities emerged and making adjustments as necessary to maintain staff security. Limited interaction with Hamas authorities in Gaza meant that the main focus was on capacity-building

projects implemented with NGOs and UN partners. OHCHR's priorities in the West Bank included strengthening the human rights protection capacity of Palestinian institutions and civil society, coordinating the activities of the inter-agency Protection Cluster and working with the UN country team to ensure that a human rights dimension is included in the work of UN partners. The Office now chairs the cluster in both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Activities

- ▶ Organized seven one-day workshops on the Universal Periodic Review targeting the national human rights institution, civil society organizations and the UN country team.
- ▶ Conducted a number of joint activities with the Independent Commission for Human Rights, the only national human rights institution in the occupied Palestinian territory, including training for 144 students of the Palestinian Academy for Security Sciences and 62 students of the Police Academy on juvenile justice and prisoner's rights, and contributed to 38 training courses and workshops organized by the Commission and Palestinian NGOs on various human rights issues.
- ▶ Undertook activities to increase awareness and understanding of women's rights, including training 35 women from grassroots organizations, holding an information day for 30 human rights defenders to mark International Women's Day, providing a training-of-trainers course for 24 Palestinians working on women's rights, and creating an educational DVD entitled "Women Capable of Making a Difference" to show the situation of women in the Gaza Strip in relation to their rights under the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
- ▶ Worked to improve the administration of justice by: training 15 Palestinian prosecutors on crime prevention and criminal justice in relation to women and juveniles; offering information sessions on detainees' rights; training 16 human rights defenders from the United against Torture Coalition, based in Ramallah, on UN mechanisms for preventing torture; presenting a paper at the first Palestinian Conference against the Death Penalty; and training 22 women lawyers and prosecutors on international human rights law, detainees' rights, gender and CEDAW, in partnership with the Centre for Women's Legal Consultation and Research.
- ▶ Conducted activities to improve awareness of the rights of disabled persons, including: training 35 representatives of organizations working with the disabled and women in partnership with the Palestinian medical relief society; public awareness events; a one-day conference in partnership with the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights and the Palestinian Network of NGOs, attracting representatives of organizations working with the disabled, human rights representatives and public sector staff.
- ▶ Commemorated the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by producing a number of human rights publications and holding seminars in the West Bank and Gaza that provided a platform for exchanging experiences and information among OHCHR,

Children playing at the scene of an air raid in the northern Gaza Strip.





Damage caused by a rocket attack on the Israeli city of Sderot.

Palestinian universities, and international and national NGOs.

- ▶ Chaired the inter-agency Protection Cluster Working Group, comprised of UN humanitarian, human rights and development agencies, NGOs and other international organizations, which discussed coordination of the protection response under the Consolidated Appeal for the occupied Palestinian territory and the Flash Appeal for the Gaza emergency.
- ▶ Supported visits by special procedures mandate-holders and the high-level fact-finding mission to Beit Hanoun, dispatched by the Human Rights Council, and provided training on the use of special procedures and submitting human rights complaints.
- ▶ Trained 66 school teachers and principals from the West Bank in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, and assisted the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in establishing a local Human Rights Education Committee.
- ▶ Produced a series of reports for the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly on the general human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory and on thematic issues such as religious and cultural rights and settlements.

Results

- ▶ The focus on training a nucleus of skilled human rights defenders and creating professional trainers helped to empower civil society actors to engage with the UN human rights system and to continue building the capacity of local human rights organizations. This was demonstrated by the large number of reports submitted to the Human Rights Council for the Universal Periodic Review of Israel in 2008.
- ▶ The public is more aware of human rights in general and the rights of women and persons with disabilities in particular as a result of numerous training and awareness-raising activities.
- ▶ Ensured a coordinated response by concerned UN agencies and NGOs to human rights issues in the occupied Palestinian territory.
- ▶ Increased use of the human rights-based approach by the UN country team.
- ▶ Enhanced capacity of the Ministry of Education to implement human rights education at primary and secondary levels.
- ▶ Availability of accurate documentation of the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The absence of an internationally recognized authority in Gaza presented a challenge, depriving OHCHR of an essential partner with which to carry out technical assistance activities. Restrictions on freedom of movement for national staff also hampered the work.
- ▶ One of the lessons learned in 2008 was the need to allow for flexibility in work planning, given the prevailing instability. In response to the pervasive political and security obstacles, OHCHR focused its work in the occupied Palestinian territory mainly on civil society, rather than on government institutions.

Occupied Palestinian Territory: Expenditure in 2008		
Expenditure breakdown	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	1,183,868
Consultants	-	79,975
Official travel	-	18,111
Contractual services	-	29,616
General operating expenses	-	91,050
Supplies & materials	-	184,423
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	34,340
Subtotal	-	1,621,384
Programme support costs	-	210,780
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,832,164

Regional Office

Regional Office for the Middle East (Beirut)

Date established	2002
Staff as at 31 December 2008	8
Expenditure in 2008	\$1,378,297

In 2008, political dynamics in the region presented multiple challenges. The long-running political crisis in Lebanon and violent conflicts in Iraq, Israel, the occupied Palestinian territory and Yemen had implications for the entire region and complicated efforts to protect and promote human rights. While elections were held in some countries, democracy is still undermined by the non-representative character

of political and public institutions. Gender equality remains an area of particular concern, as does the situation of journalists, human rights defenders, refugees, stateless persons and migrant workers.

OHCHR's regional office in Beirut covers Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. During 2008, the regional office focused on Lebanon in response to developments in that country.

Activities

- ▶ Cooperated with the Government of Lebanon and the UN Development Programme in preparing a national plan of action for human rights in Lebanon.
- ▶ Worked with UN agencies to mainstream human rights into their programming and development work.
- ▶ In collaboration with the Resident Coordinator's office in Lebanon, led the Human Rights Working Group to develop a human rights outcome in Lebanon's 2009-2014 UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).
- ▶ Provided advice to the Office of the Special Coordinator for Lebanon to ensure integration of human rights into the Office's work.
- ▶ Continued to chair the Protection Working Group in northern Lebanon, established to respond to human rights concerns following the 2007 armed conflict in Nahr El-Bared refugee camp.
- ▶ In coordination with the International Labour Organization and civil society, advised the Government of Lebanon on legislation to regulate the status and protect the rights of migrant domestic workers in Lebanon.
- ▶ Initiated discussions with the Human Rights Department of the Internal Security Forces Office in Lebanon to support their newly established human rights department.
- ▶ In collaboration with the International Labour Organization, conducted a seminar on freedom of expression, association and assembly in the Middle East and North Africa, gathering 30 experts representing the human rights, media and trade union communities from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Tunisia and Yemen.
- ▶ Conducted a training programme with the Beirut Bar Association for 50 Lebanese lawyers, focused on Lebanon's treaty-reporting obligations.
- ▶ In collaboration with the Special Rapporteur on Torture, provided training on the UN human rights system to a regional training programme



Children in Lebanon.

organized by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute and the Jordanian organization Adalah, in Amman.

- ▶ In collaboration with the UN Development Programme, conducted two training sessions for NGOs and political societies in Bahrain on the human rights-based approach and human rights protection mechanisms.

Judicial training

A group of law graduates from Abu Dhabi completed an intensive course on human rights norms and mechanisms at OHCHR in Geneva in July prior to joining their country's judicial system. Participants were briefed by OHCHR staff on a wide range of subjects, including international human rights treaties, the work of the Human Rights Council, and ways to uphold human rights while countering terrorism. The purpose of this course was to strengthen the capacity of the judiciary in the United Arab Emirates. OHCHR has offered to assist the Emirates to mainstream human rights into the curriculum of the Judiciary Institute and provide continuous learning opportunities for practicing magistrates.

Results

- ▶ Favourable responses from the Yemen and Bahrain Resident Coordinators to OHCHR's proposal to mainstream human rights into their programming and development work.
- ▶ OHCHR's efforts in response to the Nahr El-Bared crisis, including leading the Protection Working Group, led to interventions in a number of cases of human rights violations that helped to ease tensions at checkpoints and clarified the situation of detained persons.
- ▶ Seven out of nine suggestions made by OHCHR were incorporated into the final unified contract for domestic migrant workers adopted by Lebanon's Steering Committee for Migrant Domestic Workers and discussions began on a new draft law.
- ▶ A series of recommendations and a platform for their implementation were adopted at the seminar on Freedom of Expression, Association and Assembly held jointly by OHCHR and the International Labour Organization.
- ▶ Two out of five agreed outcomes in the Lebanon UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) are rights-related, with specific outcomes on human rights and gender.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ The unstable political environment in Lebanon and in the region in general delayed the implementation of planned activities in the first half of 2008. In particular, the conflict between rival political groups and violence in Lebanon during May 2008 severely affected the work of the regional office by limiting the staff's ability to move freely around the country.

Regional Office for Middle East: Expenditure in 2008		
Expenditure breakdown	Regular budget expenditure in US\$	Extrabudgetary expenditure in US\$
Personnel and related costs	-	813,615
Consultants	-	795
Official travel	-	126,300
Contractual services	-	2,400
General operating expenses	-	121,215
Supplies & materials	-	23,861
Seminars, grants & contributions	-	131,545
Subtotal	-	1,219,731
Programme support costs	-	158,565
GRAND TOTAL	-	1,378,297

Support for United Nations Peace Missions

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

OHCHR supports the work of the Human Rights Office of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) by assisting in the implementation of activities and providing guidance and expert advice on specific human rights questions. UNAMI human rights officers, based in Baghdad and Erbil, Iraq, and in Amman, Jordan, monitor and investigate human rights violations committed by all parties to the conflict and undertake capacity-building activities with Iraqi institutions and civil society. While the general level of violence decreased markedly in 2008 compared to the two previous years, indiscriminate large-scale attacks targeting civilians and Government forces continued to occur in northwest and central parts of the country. While some refugees returned to their homes in Iraq, around 4.7 million Iraqis remain displaced. In the Kurdistan region and in the south, there continued to be serious concerns regarding the protection of women's rights, with incidents of killings and reported self-immolations.



Children playing in Baghdad.

Activities

- ▶ In collaboration with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the UN Office for Project Services, the human rights office held a workshop for the Kurdistan Regional Government, the judiciary and prosecutors on the role of the judiciary in protecting human rights in criminal justice, including counter-terrorism. A seminar on human rights and counter-terrorism held in Baghdad was attended by 80 senior and middle-ranking officials of the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministries of Interior, Justice and Defence, including members of the Multi-national Force in Iraq.
- ▶ Implemented a number of capacity-building activities on transitional justice in partnership with the New York-based International Centre for Transitional Justice and the UN Office for Project Services, including two trainings on reparations targeting NGOs, media professionals, government officials and others, and an additional training on issues pertaining to transitional justice for journalists and national NGOs.
- ▶ Trained officials of the human rights departments of the Ministries of Interior and Defence on international human rights law and international humanitarian law.
- ▶ Facilitated the participation of 22 human rights activists representing NGOs active in the area of women's rights, journalists and Government officials working on the protection and promotion of women's rights in a conference on protecting women from honour crimes.
- ▶ Organized a series of activities to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of

Human Rights, including the production of materials such as posters in Arabic and Kurdish and a calendar containing the articles of the Declaration.

Results

- ▶ The two public human rights reports issued by UNAMI in 2008 provided the only comprehensive assessments of the human rights situation in Iraq.
- ▶ Iraq ratified the Convention against Torture in August 2008, following advocacy and support from UNAMI and OHCHR.
- ▶ After several years of engagement by UNAMI and OHCHR, the law to establish a national human rights institution, to be called the High Commission for Human Rights of Iraq, was promulgated at the end of 2008. Establishing the Commission will be a priority focus for the Office in 2009.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ In spite of recent improvements in the security situation, security concerns continued to impede the work of UNAMI human rights officers, limiting their movement and ability to access information or engage in advocacy and effective human rights promotion across the country. The mission's Human Rights Office continued to operate from two locations inside Iraq, Baghdad and Erbil, with few visits possible to other parts of the country and limited ability to bring in necessary experts, liaise with counterparts on a more regular basis or conduct in-country training.

Rapid Response and Support for Peace Missions

In view of the volatile environment in which it operates, OHCHR needs to be ready to react quickly and effectively as necessary to deteriorating human rights situations and other unforeseen demands, ensuring timely planning, standardized procedures and adequate human and material resources for rapid deployment. For this, it maintains a pool of trained, experienced human rights experts available to be deployed at short notice to carry out fact-finding or investigative missions, and ensures that the necessary equipment and logistical assistance is in place to support such missions. Rapid response missions may be initiated by the High Commissioner directly, in support of a mandate given to OHCHR by the Human Rights Council or special procedures, or in response to requests made by UN country teams or peace missions.

Within the Office, rapid response-related activities are coordinated by the Peace Mission Support and Rapid Response Unit, which also provides assistance to the human rights components of peace missions, assisting with mission assessment and planning, recruitment and training as well as the development of policies designed to help integrate human rights in their work. The unit serves as the focal point for OHCHR's engagement in humanitarian emergencies, providing operational and technical support for humanitarian response activities. In addition, the unit engages the broader humanitarian community in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and other fora to inform inter-agency discussions on humanitarian response.

Activities

- ▶ Fielded 16 rapid response missions, including eight in Africa, three in the Caucasus, two in Asia, one in the Middle East and one in Latin America (see box overleaf), and organized post-mission lessons learned exercises in relation to several of these missions.
- ▶ Advised the heads of human rights components of peace missions on human rights issues, and participated in mission planning and design to ensure that human rights are duly integrated into mission objectives and structures.

- ▶ Assisted human rights components of peace missions in respect of recruitment, induction and training, including selecting 11 heads of human rights components, identifying candidates for 70 human rights posts in peace operations, reviewing 130 candidates for human rights volunteers in peace operations, and instituting new filtering mechanisms to improve the quality of candidates for human rights posts in peace operations prior to adding them to the roster.
- ▶ Worked with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs to develop policies, joint assessment missions and coordinated approaches to human rights-related work.
- ▶ Finalized the testing phase of the pilot human rights case database, essential for registering human rights violations systematically and consistently and for generating analytical reports and statistics.
- ▶ Provided substantive guidance to OHCHR field presences on mainstreaming human rights into humanitarian processes as OHCHR assumed a leading role in field protection clusters in Afghanistan, Chad, Iraq, the occupied Palestinian territory, Georgia, Indonesia, Nepal, northern Lebanon, and Timor-Leste.
- ▶ Managed the OHCHR Contingency Fund, a trust fund that supports emergency response activities, to ensure adequate financial support for deployments to Kenya, Bangkok (for the Myanmar crisis), Somalia and Bolivia. The fund was also used to upgrade a stock of equipment reserved for rapid response missions, including the procurement of two stand-by vehicles.

Results

- ▶ Following the recommendations of the Kenya fact-finding mission, a national Commission of Inquiry into Post-Election Violence was established and issued a report on 16 October 2008. Subsequently, the Government agreed to establish a special tribunal with an international component to prosecute crimes committed during the violence.



A woman and a child receive emergency rations in the aftermath of a hurricane in Haiti.

- ▶ The report of the High-level Fact-finding Mission to Beit Hanoun served as basis for Human Rights Council resolution S-3/1, which recommended that members of the mission address the General Assembly on the findings of the report and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council on implementation of the report's recommendations.
- ▶ The recommendations made following the mission to Bolivia, to strengthen the domestic

system for human rights protection, have been taken up by the OHCHR country office for implementation with national authorities.

- ▶ Several recommendations made by the mission to Somalia have been integrated into the work plan of the human rights unit of the UN Office for Project Services in Somalia.
- ▶ The report of the South Ossetia inter-agency humanitarian assessment mission contributed to the revision of the Flash Appeal, which now includes a specific project on human rights protection.
- ▶ The results-based budgeting framework developed for the UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) has helped to ensure that human rights officers are deployed with adequate logistical support in all MINURCAT field offices and that human rights are adhered to with respect to persons arrested or detained by the UN-trained Chadian Police.
- ▶ Human rights mainstreamed into the work of justice and correction, and the police components of MINURCAT as a result of OHCHR's cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on mission planning.
- ▶ OHCHR has been able to make a more effective contribution to the work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and other UN humanitarian reform processes, ensuring that practitioners better understand the relevance of human rights principles to humanitarian operations.

Rapid Response Missions in 2008

- **Bangkok**, 1 January to 25 March 2008, in support of the Special Rapporteur on Myanmar.
- **Chad**, 7 to 10 January, to assist the UN Mission in Chad and the Central African Republic (MINURCAT) to draft its results-based budgeting framework.
- **Georgia**, 8 to 16 January 2008, to support the UN country team during national elections.
- **Kenya**, 6 to 27 February 2008, to inquire on post-electoral violence.
- **Armenia**, 14 to 19 March 2008, to support the UN country team in the context of post-electoral violence.
- **Chad**, 15 to 23 April, on an inter-agency technical mission to provide operational advice to MINURCAT.
- The High-level Fact-finding Mission to Beit Hanoun, **Gaza strip**, 26 to 30 May 2008, further to the 2006 Human Rights Council resolution S-3/1.
- **Bolivia**, 26 May to 30 June 2008, to support OHCHR Bolivia during local elections and referenda.
- **Somalia**, 19 July to 2 August 2008, to conduct a preliminary human rights assessment.
- **Georgia**, 18 August to 2 September 2008, to support the senior human rights adviser following the crisis in the region.
- **Russian Federation and Georgia** (South Ossetia), 17 to 20 September 2008, on an inter-agency joint assessment mission to South Ossetia following the conflict.
- **Guinea-Bissau**, 14 to 23 October, on an inter-agency joint assessment mission on Security Sector Reform.
- **Central African Republic**, 25 to 31 October, on an inter-agency peace-building mission to determine an integrated UN approach to peace-building in the Central African Republic.
- **South Africa**, 19 to 31 October 2008, to take part in an inspection mission led by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- **Nepal**, 1 to 16 December, to assist the OHCHR country office on an internal restructuring exercise.
- **South Africa**, 18 December 2008 to 20 March 2009, to support the Regional Office in South Africa on human rights issues in Zimbabwe.

- ▶ Vacancy rates reduced in certain peace missions as a result of support provided in the areas of recruitment and training. In the human rights component of the peace mission in Afghanistan, for example, there were no vacancies in 2008.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Given the amount of valuable information gained from lessons-learned exercises conducted in 2008, such exercises will now be conducted as a matter of normal procedure following each rapid response deployment in future. A challenge for 2009 will be to ensure systematic implementation of the main lessons learned in new operations.
- ▶ Mainstreaming human rights into peacekeeping is a critical entry point for OHCHR's work in conflict and post-conflict situations. With the majority of human rights officers in the field working in peace missions, the Office needs to establish priorities, within its limited resources, to ensure that there is an adequate system of support for human rights components. Meanwhile, given OHCHR's physical distance to its main partners, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs, strategic engagement will be essential in the coming years to preserve a human rights-informed approach to peacekeeping.
- ▶ If OHCHR is to play its part in humanitarian preparedness and response activities, including potentially leading protection clusters in the field, there is a need to reinforce in-house expertise and skills in this area.

Financing Rapid Response Activities

With the aim of creating a readily available funding pool for rapid response activities, OHCHR established a Contingency Fund in 2006. The Fund operates on a "revolving" basis, that is, it may be used at short notice to pay for deployment of personnel and other expenses associated with rapid response activities, and replenished as and when donors who are willing to cover the cost are identified. In 2008, Luxemburg, the MacArthur Foundation, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Saudi Arabia contributed to the fund, which now stands at \$1.1 million.

In 2008, the Contingency Fund was used to finance the following rapid response activities:

- The crisis support mission of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, October 2007 to March 2008.
- The fact-finding mission to Kenya, February 2008.
- The election and referenda monitoring mission to Bolivia, May to July 2008.
- The human rights assessment mission to Somalia, July to August 2008.

Supporting National Human Rights Institutions

A priority goal of OHCHR is establishing and strengthening national human rights institutions in accordance with the Principles Relating to the Status of National Institutions (the Paris Principles). National human rights institutions that comply with the Paris Principles are widely regarded as fundamental elements of a strong national human rights protection system and are crucial partners in implementing international human rights norms. Initiatives in this area are undertaken by the National Institutions Unit located within the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division.

Activities

- ▶ Provided advice on draft or existing laws concerning national human rights institutions in Liberia, Lesotho, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Palau, Tajikistan, Lithuania, Bahrain, and Iraq.
 - ▶ Provided technical assistance to strengthen national human rights institutions in Uganda, Mauritius, Ethiopia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Timor-Leste, Kyrgyzstan, and Mauritania. In most cases, this assistance was provided in close cooperation with the UN Development Programme and regional networks of national institutions, such as the Asia-Pacific Forum.
 - ▶ Served as the secretariat of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, organizing sessions in Geneva in April and in Nairobi in November.
 - ▶ Supported the work of the International Coordinating Committee's subcommittee on accreditation, which reviewed 30 applications from national human rights institutions. The subcommittee issued recommendations, including warnings of a future downgrading of accreditation status to five national institutions unless the recommendations are implemented within a specific time-frame.
 - ▶ Co-organized the ninth international conference of national human rights institutions in Nairobi in October 2008 on the theme of national human rights institutions and the administration of justice.
- ▶ Supported an enhanced role for national human rights institutions in Human Rights Council sessions, human rights treaty-monitoring bodies and special procedures of the Human Rights Council, by disseminating information, facilitating their participation in these proceedings, processing submitted documentation for distribution in session, and supporting the Geneva representative of the International Coordinating Committee who is able to speak on behalf of A-status national human rights institutions.
 - ▶ In collaboration with the UN Development Programme and national institutions of Denmark, South Africa and Uganda, developed a toolkit on national human rights institutions for UN country teams, due to be launched by June 2009.
 - ▶ In collaboration with the Association for the Prevention of Torture and the Asia-Pacific Forum, developed an operational guide for national human rights institutions on preventing torture.
 - ▶ Together with the NGO Rights and Democracy, the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie and the Commonwealth Secretariat, organized workshops in Geneva, Kuala Lumpur, and Nairobi for national human rights institutions on the Universal Periodic Review.

Results

- ▶ In Liberia, Lesotho, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Palau, Tajikistan, Lithuania, Bahrain, and Iraq, technical assistance provided by the Office contributed to laws or legislative proposals relating to national human rights institutions that improve compliance with the Paris Principles.
- ▶ In Uganda, Mauritius, Ethiopia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Timor-Leste, Kyrgyzstan, and Mauritania, OHCHR strengthened the capacity of national human rights institutions in the areas of treaty-body reporting, police oversight, handling of complaints, reporting, engaging civil society, and investigation and monitoring.
- ▶ Through the deployment of two staff of national human rights institutions to the National Institutions Unit, as part of its fellowship

programme, OHCHR benefited from the fellows' substantive expertise and experience while the fellows will take strengthened capacity back to their own institutions.

- ▶ The 2008 independent evaluation of the multi-year project that ended in 2007, "Actors for Change: Strengthening the Capacity of National Human Rights Institutions through Distance and Regional Training", concluded that the project had exceeded its targets. A key component of the project, a distance-learning programme, was overwhelmingly considered a success by participants.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ Co-operation among national human rights institutions, OHCHR field presences, NGOs and the wider UN system is vital for advancing the rule of law and promoting and protecting human rights at the country level.
- ▶ National human rights institutions face capacity and credibility gaps if they are not seen to address core human rights concerns or if they lack a working relationship with NGOs. This weakens their credibility at home and at the regional and international levels.

The International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

International Coordinating Committee

At an international conference in Tunis in 1993, national human rights institutions established the International Coordinating Committee with the aim of better coordinating the activities of national institutions and facilitating greater exchange of information and best practice. In 2008, the Committee was incorporated under Swiss law, with a Bureau of 16 voting members representing the four regions of the world, namely Africa, the Americas, Asia Pacific, and Europe. The Committee is chaired by the Canadian Human Rights Commission, with the National Human Rights Commission of the Republic of Korea acting as Vice-Chair.

Subcommittee on Accreditation

The Subcommittee on Accreditation has the mandate to review and analyze accreditation applications and make recommendations to International Coordinating Committee Bureau members on applicants' compliance with the

Paris Principles. The Subcommittee is composed of one A-status accredited national human rights institution for each of the four regional groups. Members of the Subcommittee are appointed by the regional groups for a renewable term of three years. OHCHR participates in the work of the Subcommittee as a permanent observer and in its capacity as secretariat of the Coordinating Committee. As of December 2008, 64 national human rights institutions were accredited "A-Status", meaning that they were certified as being in compliance with the Paris Principles.

The Accreditation Process

1. National human rights institutions seeking accreditation under the Paris Principles should apply to the International Coordinating Committee with the following documentation: a copy of the founding legislation, an outline of its organizational structure, including staff complement and annual budget, a copy of its most recent annual report, and a detailed statement showing how it complies with the Paris Principles.

2. The International Coordinating Committee Subcommittee on Accreditation, assisted by OHCHR, considers the application and issues a recommendation. The applying national human rights institution has 28 days to contest this recommendation, after which the International Coordinating Committee proceeds with its official adoption.

3. All national human rights institutions that hold A-status are subject to re-accreditation on a cyclical basis, not longer than every five years.

The benefits of A-status

National human rights institutions with A-status accreditation have the right to speak at the Human Rights Council sessions and sessions of human rights treaty-monitoring bodies. At these sessions, they are entitled to seating separate to their government, may submit documentation for processing with a separate symbol, and speak on any agenda item.



Humanitarian Funds



Humanitarian Funds

OHCHR acts as the secretariat to three humanitarian trust funds: the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, and the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations. Each fund was established by a resolution of the General Assembly with the purpose of making funds available to support individuals, organizations and activities to advance specific human rights issues. Each fund is governed by a Board of Trustees that distributes monies through grants, in accordance with its mandate. In 2008, 48 Member States and a handful of private donors made contributions to these three funds totalling \$12.7 million, an increase of 10 per cent on 2007.

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

The Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, established in 1981 by General Assembly resolution 36/151, helps to ease the physical and psychological effects of torture on victims and their families. The Fund gives grants to organizations that offer psychological, medical and social assistance and legal aid and financial support. It also finances training programmes, seminars and conferences, allowing health professionals, social workers and lawyers to exchange experiences and develop new strategies to address the needs of torture victims. The Fund's Board of Trustees is composed of five experts and its mandate is to advise the Secretary-General on the use of funds. The Board meets twice a year to determine priorities, review workings of the Fund and make decisions on grants. In 2008, the Fund received approximately \$11.5 million in contributions from 42 donors (including 41 Member States).

Activities

- ▶ Examined and evaluated more than 250 grant applications seeking over \$14 million in support.
- ▶ Pre-screened new applications to verify the background, mission and track record of applicant organizations and evaluated the admissibility of projects.

- ▶ Awarded grants to 234 projects amounting to approximately \$8.5 million for activities providing direct assistance to victims of torture and their families.
- ▶ Monitored funded projects, including by undertaking field visits to assess implementation in Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico, occupied Palestinian territories, Serbia, South Africa, Sudan, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Results

- ▶ Grants awarded by the Board in 2008 directly assisted victims of torture in more than 70 countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe.
- ▶ OHCHR completed the first phase of the transition from a paper-based grant application system to an electronic one, which will make processing of applications more efficient and make generating statistics and other information faster and easier. For the first time, applications for 2009 were sought and received online.
- ▶ The Board of Trustees approved the principle of multi-year funding for selected organizations that have fully complied with previous grant requirements, are relatively small and depend on and have an established relationship with the Fund. This will be tested over three years beginning in 2009.

Challenges and lessons learned

- ▶ A number of organizations based in less technically developed countries faced difficulties in accessing and using the new online application system. A limited number of paper applications had to be accepted to accommodate these organizations.



Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery was established in 1991 by General Assembly resolution 46/122. The Fund provides financial assistance to grassroots NGOs assisting victims of contemporary forms of slavery. Forms of slavery frequently targeted are serfdom and bonded labour, trafficking of women and children, child labour and forced marriage. The distinctive value of the Fund is its ability to provide concrete assistance to the victims of contemporary forms of slavery, including housing, psycho-social support, food, medical care and sustainable sources of incomes. The Fund is administered by the Secretary-General, acting on the advice of a five-member Board of Trustees. In 2008, the Fund received \$882,017 from 22 donors (including 19 Member States).

Activities

- ▶ Identified potential grantees in countries that had previously received little support from the Fund.
- ▶ Examined and evaluated 181 applications for grants from 48 countries seeking approximately \$2.5 million in support.
- ▶ Approved 71 project grants totalling \$733,109 to projects providing assistance to victims of contemporary forms of slavery.
- ▶ Liaised with OHCHR field presences and the UN Development Programme to ensure effective project implementation.
- ▶ Undertook a field visit to India to pre-screen and monitor 13 grant recipients and potential grant recipients.
- ▶ Implemented a number of recommendations made by the Office of Internal Oversight Services in their 2006/2007 evaluation of the Fund, including strengthening fundraising efforts; taking a more active approach to identifying potential grantees by compiling a directory of NGOs working on contemporary forms of slavery and providing them with information about the Fund's work; developing a grant-management system; revising the grant cycle for projects; elaborating new guidelines and policies, and new tools for assessing the performance of grantees; establishing a more comprehensive pre-screening policy; and improving coordination with other OHCHR activities and UN Development Programme field presences.

Results

- ▶ Grants awarded directly assisted victims of contemporary forms of slavery in 45 countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe. The fund achieved a 40 per cent increase in the number of grant requests made in 2008 compared to 2007, and the projects supported were spread more widely around the world than before.
- ▶ The number of grants awarded between 2007 and 2008 increased by 120 per cent.
- ▶ The Fund supported projects addressing the root causes of slavery and focused on activities that helped rehabilitate victims.

The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

In April, more than 1,000 indigenous representatives from all regions of the world met at the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at UN Headquarters to discuss the impact of climate change on indigenous communities, among other issues. It was the first session since world leaders adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in September 2007 after two decades of negotiations between Member States and indigenous communities. The Permanent Forum has become a meeting place to discuss human rights challenges facing indigenous peoples.

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

The Fund for Indigenous Populations was established in 1985 by General Assembly resolution 40/131 with the aim of giving indigenous peoples the opportunity to raise issues faced by their communities at the international level and to contribute to the development of international standards and national legislation for the protection of their rights. The Fund is formally administered by the UN Secretary-General acting on the advice of the five-member Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees meets annually to determine priorities, review the work of the Fund, and approve grants in the form of travel grants for representatives of indigenous peoples around the world. In 2008, the Fund received \$233,268 from 13 Member States.

Activities

- ▶ Solicited grant requests from applicants in regions that had previously received little support from the Fund.



- ▶ Examined 457 applications from countries amounting to approximately \$1.2 million.
- ▶ Awarded 156 travel grants, amounting to \$557,265, to allow representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to attend the seventh session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the first session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- ▶ Developed additional monitoring procedures for the attendance of grantees and follow-up mechanisms to ensure that their participation benefited their communities.

Results

- ▶ Following efforts to increase the geographic diversity of applicants, a greater number of applications were received from regions that had previously received less support from the Fund.
- ▶ After they participated in the session of the Permanent Forum and Expert Mechanism, indigenous peoples reported positive changes in their communities, including increased dialogue with government representatives, greater confidence to speak out on behalf of their communities, more visibility and recognition of

their concerns, strength through partnerships with other indigenous peoples, and contacts with donors.

- ▶ Past beneficiaries informed OHCHR of a wide range of follow-up activities carried out upon their return to their own communities, including human rights training activities, a

workshop on the operationalization of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, a consultation on the follow-up to the recommendations made by the special procedures mandate-holders, and awareness-raising radio and television campaigns.

Examples of support provided by the Humanitarian Funds

- A representative of the Ma'ohi people from French Polynesia received support to attend the seventh session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Ms Mareva Neti de Montluc was the first Ma'ohi person from Tahiti to attend a session of the Permanent Forum and presented a statement to express the concerns of her community on the impact of nuclear testing on the environment and health of indigenous communities in the region. (Travel and associated costs funded by the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations.)
- A project in the province of South Kivu (Democratic Republic of the Congo) provided holistic assistance to victims of torture and members of their families and facilitated their reintegration into society. Special funding is provided to cover the transportation costs for lawyers and victims since access to justice is limited in this region. (Project funded by the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.)
- In Aceh, Jakarta and Papua (Indonesia), a project provided psycho-social services to victims of torture in the conflict areas of Aceh and Papua, including awareness-raising and psycho-education counselling. (Project funded by the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.)
- A project, jointly implemented with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, provided psychological support to hundreds of Colombian refugees in Venezuela and Ecuador with the aim of promoting their integration into local communities. Beneficiaries are victims of torture by both guerrilla and paramilitary groups, and their families, who are seeking refuge in neighbouring countries. (Project funded by the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.)
- A new shelter in Iran provided accommodation, medical care, food, education, psychological assistance, counselling, protection for children and women victims of forced prostitution and forced marriage. Among those who benefitted is Leila, a young girl who, at the age of nine, was forcibly married and sold into prostitution by her parents and husband, and, at the age of 18, was condemned to death by an Iranian judge after she was raped by her step-brothers and found guilty of incest (Project funded by the Voluntary Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery.)



Financial Statements

for year ending 31 December 2008



Statement of income and expenditure

Activities of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

This statement indicates total funds available for activities in 2008, inclusive of new contributions carry-over, overall expenditure incurred during 2008 and total balance as at 31 December 2008

	Extrabudgetary	Regular Budget	Total
SUMMARY *			
Opening balance ¹	81,060,151	-	81,060,151
Adjustment ²	4,586,175	-	4,586,175
Income from contributions / Allotments ³	119,894,253	54,485,800	174,380,053
Other income available ⁴	4,873,639	-	4,873,639
Total funds available ⁵	210,414,218	54,485,800	264,900,018
Expenditure ⁶	103,044,194	55,233,963	158,278,157
Closing balance ⁷	107,370,024	(748,163)	106,621,861

Notes:

- 1) The amount corresponds to the closing balance reported for the activity in the 2007 Report on Activities and Results.
 - 2) Includes adjustments to prior period expenditure, savings, transfers and refunds.
 - 3) For extrabudgetary, includes all contributions received at UNOG for 2008. For Regular Budget, corresponds to the amount allotted to OHCHR for 2008.
 - 4) Includes interest and miscellaneous income.
 - 5) = (1) + (2) + (3) + (4).
 - 6) Includes disbursements and unliquidated obligations as at 31 December 2008.
 - 7) The extrabudgetary amount corresponds to all funds held by UNOG as at 31 December 2008 including operating cash reserves of US\$ 13.7 million and reserves for allocations of US\$ 1.4 million which were not available for activities in 2008.
- * All figures are subject to audit.

Statement of extrabudgetary income and expenditure in 2008

Activities of the High Commissioner for Human Rights by trust fund

This statement indicates total funds available for activities in 2008, inclusive of new contributions carry-over, overall expenditure incurred during 2008 and total balance as at 31 December 2008

	VF for victims of torture	TF for contemporary forms of slavery	VF for indigenous populations	VF for participation in the universal periodic review	TF for action to combat racism and racial discrimination	VF for advisory services and technical assistance in human rights (VFTC)	TF for human rights education in Cambodia	TF for support activities of OHCHR	Total OHCHR trust funds
SUMMARY *									
Opening balance ¹	15,859,165	534,006	1,407,891	0	759,067	8,729,209	2,131,730	51,639,083	81,060,151
Adjustment ²	10,076	15,870	72,941	375,359	250,000	2,187,482	302,726	1,371,721	4,586,175
Income from contributions ³	11,552,536	882,017	233,268	899,206	393,728	13,844,212	150,000	91,939,286	119,894,253
Other income available ⁴	460,606	35,915	53,295	21,628	30,189	920,529	120,496	3,230,981	4,873,639
Total funds available ⁵	27,882,383	1,467,808	1,767,395	1,296,193	1,432,984	25,681,432	2,704,952	148,181,071	210,414,218
Expenditure ⁶	9,938,516	51,929	696,190	5,013	492,888	13,573,336	975,930	77,310,392	103,044,194
Closing balance ⁷	17,943,867	1,415,879	1,071,205	1,291,180	940,096	12,108,096	1,729,022	70,870,679	107,370,024

Notes:

- 1) Corresponds to the closing balance reported for the activity in the 2007 Report on Activities and Results.
 - 2) Includes adjustments to prior period expenditure, savings, transfers and refunds.
 - 3) Includes all contributions received in the UNOG accounts during 2008.
 - 4) Includes interest and miscellaneous income.
 - 5) = (1) + (2) + (3) + (4).
 - 6) Includes disbursements and unliquidated obligations as at 31 December 2008.
 - 7) Corresponds to all funds held by UNOG as at 31 December 2008 including operating cash reserves of US\$ 13.7 million and reserves for allocations of US\$ 1.4 million which were not available for activities in 2008.
- * All figures are subject to audit.

OHCHR regular budget expenditure in 2008 by programme

	Allotment 2008 in thousands of US\$	Expenditure 2008 in thousands of US\$
Headquarters		
Executive Direction and Management	6,219.6	6,287.7
Policy-making Organs	5,415.2	5,518.8
Programme of Work		
Subprogramme 1: Research and Right to Development Division	8,653.9	8,820.7
Subprogramme 2: Human Rights Treaties Division	8,991.3	10,897.4
Subprogramme 3: Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division	8,601.2	9,031.4
Subprogramme 4: Special Procedures Division	5,456.8	5,008.6
Total Programme of Work - Headquarters	31,703.2	33,758.1
Programme Support and Management Services	5,037.9	5,095.9
Sub-total Headquarters	48,375.9	50,660.5
Support to field presences		
Subprogramme 3: Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division */	4,538.8	3,461.8
Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (sec.22) Advisory Services, Technical Cooperation and Field Activities	1,571.1	1,111.7
Sub-total Support to field presences	6,109.9	4,573.5
GRAND TOTAL	54,485.80	55,234.0

*/ Includes Cambodia, Cameroon, Panama, Dakar, Bishkek

Extrabudgetary income and expenditure in 2008

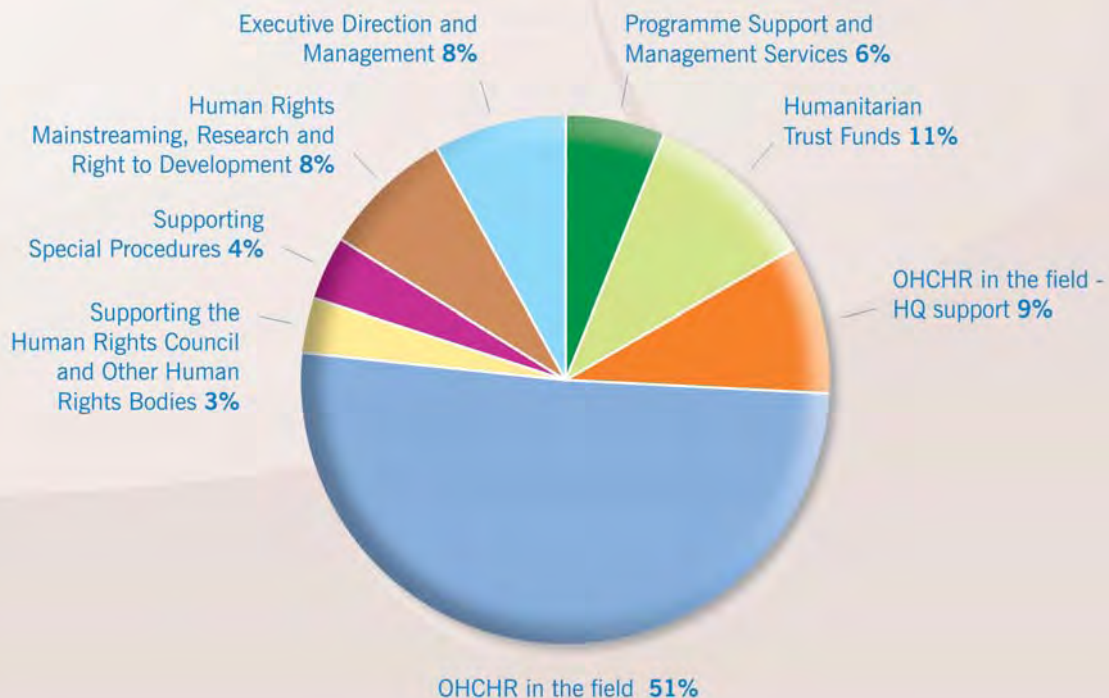
Overall summary *(in thousands of US\$)*

OHCHR's Programmes	Revised requirements 2008-2009	Income 2008	Expenditure 2008	Projected requirements 2009
HEADQUARTERS				
Executive Direction and Management (EDM)				
EDM New York and Geneva	14,553.4	6,789.6	7,654.5	6,898.9
Sub-total	14,553.4	6,789.6	7,654.5	6,898.9
Programme of Work (subprogramme 1 to 4)				
Subprogramme 1 - Human Rights Mainstreaming, Research and Right to Development (RRDD)				
Rule of Law, Equality and Non-discrimination	7,577.9	3,594.6	3,242.0	4,335.9
<i>Anti-discrimination</i>	1,533.8	407.8	725.6	808.2
<i>Indigenous Populations and Minorities</i>	1,987.8	755.2	896.0	1,091.8
<i>Women's Human Rights and Gender Unit</i>	1,235.0	1,709.2	394.2	840.8
<i>Rule of Law and Democracy</i>	2,821.2	722.5	1,226.2	1,595.1
Durban Review Conference Trust Fund	2,492.9	673.9	492.9	2,000.0
Development, Economic, Social and Cultural Issues	9,808.0	4,153.6	4,124.5	5,683.5
<i>MDGs and HR-based Approach</i>	1,512.5	722.3	724.5	788.0
<i>HIV and Aids</i>	653.1	245.4	328.3	324.8
<i>Economic and Social Issues</i>	1,031.9	496.2	284.0	747.9
<i>Rights to Development</i>	1,011.7	293.3	401.8	609.8
<i>Methodology, Education and Training</i>	4,620.7	1,877.4	2,016.9	2,603.8
<i>Trafficking</i>	477.3	186.5	187.1	290.2
<i>Disabilities</i>	500.9	332.5	181.9	319.0
Coordination and Management	1,527.1	(165.6)	722.8	804.3
Sub-total	21,405.9	8,256.5	8,582.2	12,823.7
Subprogramme 2 - Supporting Human Rights Bodies and Organs (HRCTD)				
Human Rights Treaties Branch	7,558.7	2,879.7	2,914.8	4,643.9
Human Rights Council Branch	1,110.4	109.0	235.9	874.5
Human Rights Council and UPR Webcasting	513.5	376.9	287.0	226.6
Trust Fund for Participation in the UPR	255.0	1,296.2	5.0	250.0
Sub-total	9,437.6	4,661.8	3,442.7	5,994.9
Subprogramme 3 - Advisory Services, Technical Cooperation and Field Operations (FOTCD)				
Office of Director FOTCD	4,424.6	886.3	1,653.4	2,771.3
<i>Rapid Response and Peace Mission Support Unit</i>	3,132.8	1,281.7	1,392.3	1,740.5
<i>Coordination and Management</i>	1,291.8	(395.4)	261.0	1,030.8
AAPME Branch	8,044.7	2,708.1	3,806.8	4,238.0
<i>Africa</i>	3,147.3	1,141.4	1,474.6	1,672.7
<i>Asia and the Pacific</i>	3,071.0	902.6	1,491.1	1,579.8
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>	1,826.4	664.1	841.0	985.4
LACENACANI Branch	6,262.5	2,822.5	3,072.1	3,190.4
<i>Latin America and the Caribbean</i>	1,106.8	480.3	588.6	518.3
<i>Europe, North America and Central Asia</i>	2,651.6	897.6	1,246.9	1,404.7
<i>National Institutions</i>	2,504.1	1,444.5	1,236.6	1,267.5
ACTION 2 Global Joint Programme	1,342.6	432.0	790.5	552.2
Sub-total	20,074.5	6,848.8	9,322.7	10,751.8
Subprogramme 4 - Support for Human Rights Thematic Fact-Finding Procedures (SPD)				
Special Procedures Branch	8,452.5	3,426.8	4,074.3	4,378.2
Sub-total	8,452.5	3,426.8	4,074.3	4,378.2
Total Programme of Work (subprogramme 1 to 4)	59,370.6	23,193.9	25,421.9	33,948.7
Support to the Programmes				
Programme Support and Management Services	9,851.6	5,612.1	6,304.2	3,547.4
Sub-total	9,851.6	5,612.1	6,304.2	3,547.4
TOTAL HEADQUARTERS	83,775.6	35,595.7	39,380.7	44,395.0

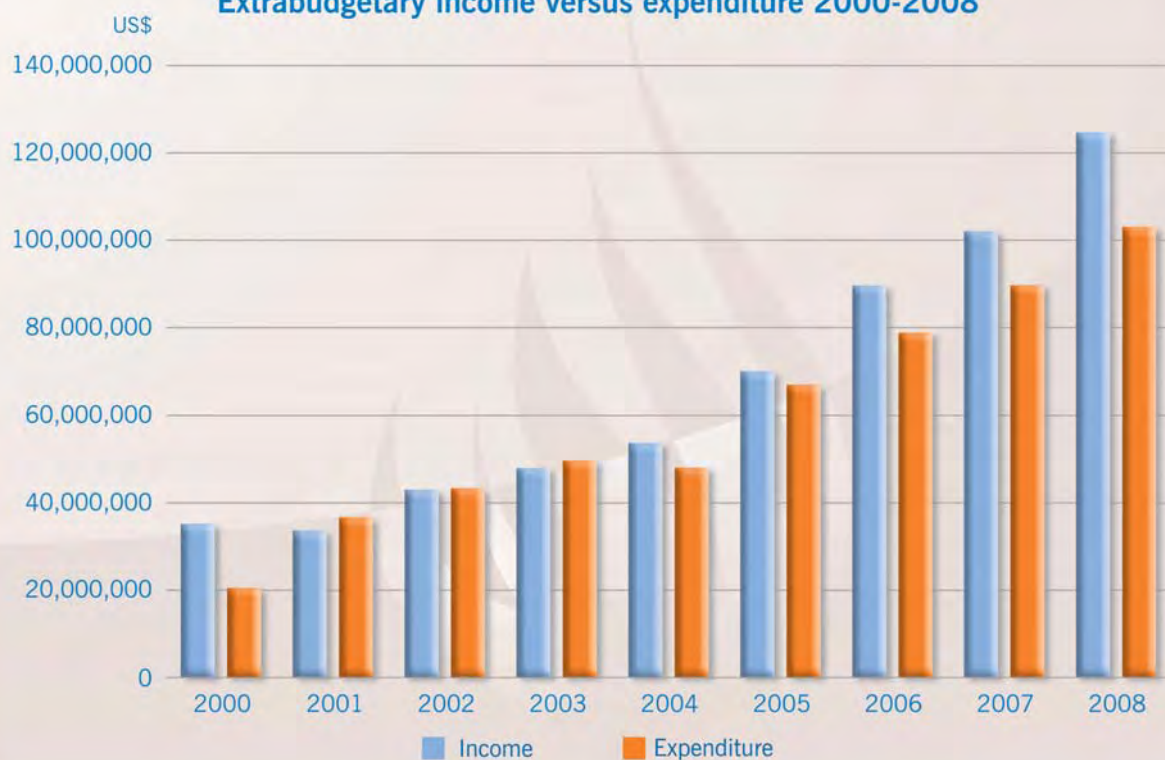
OHCHR's Programmes	Revised requirements 2008-2009	Income 2008	Expenditure 2008	Projected requirements 2009
FIELD PRESENCES				
AFRICA				
Angola - Country Office (closed)	1,356.7	2,141.9	1,356.7	0.0
Burundi - Peace Mission Support	2,787.2	927.5	1,399.8	1,387.4
Central Africa Centre - Yaoundé	734.4	298.7	358.0	376.4
Côte d'Ivoire - Peace Mission Support	299.2	301.9	130.5	168.7
Democratic Republic of the Congo - Peace Mission Support	2,929.5	1,694.7	1,892.3	1,037.2
East Africa Regional Office - Addis Ababa	2,081.9	833.2	1,010.2	1,071.7
Eritrea/Ethiopia - Peace Mission Support	75.9	302.7	75.9	0.0
Guinea - Human Rights Adviser	829.6	441.0	408.4	421.2
Kenya - Human Rights Adviser (new)	837.0	394.5	359.2	477.9
Liberia - Peace Mission Support	124.4	106.5	54.3	70.1
Niger - Human Rights Adviser (new)	183.5	0.0	0.0	183.5
Rwanda - Human Rights Adviser	368.5	94.8	98.2	270.2
Sierra Leone - Peace Mission Support	790.4	633.7	364.4	426.0
Somalia - Peace Mission Support	378.0	209.3	142.8	235.2
Southern Africa Regional Office - Pretoria	1,390.5	621.2	568.6	821.9
Sudan - Peace Mission Support	2,072.8	1,769.5	1,646.1	426.7
Togo - Country Office	2,658.2	1,793.0	1,267.7	1,390.5
Uganda - Country Office	6,782.3	1,907.2	3,407.3	3,374.9
West Africa Regional Office - Dakar	447.6	157.5	217.3	230.3
Sub-total Africa	27,127.4	14,628.6	14,757.5	12,369.9
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC				
Afghanistan - Peace Mission Support	1,526.1	1,269.4	764.6	761.5
Cambodia - Country Office	2,149.0	270.5	975.9	1,173.0
Indonesia - Human Rights Adviser	430.0	179.6	114.7	315.3
Nepal - Country Office	18,931.6	6,194.1	10,931.8	7,999.8
Pacific Regional Office - Suva	1,615.5	519.9	772.2	843.3
Pakistan - Human Rights Adviser	534.6	267.5	233.4	301.2
Papua New Guinea - Human Rights Adviser (new)	469.3	0.0	0.0	469.3
Southeast Asia Regional Office - Bangkok	2,267.6	1,041.4	1,147.1	1,120.5
Sri Lanka - Human Rights Adviser	569.2	774.1	113.4	455.8
Timor-Leste - Peace Mission Support	1,098.0	751.3	418.8	679.2
Sub-total Asia and the Pacific	29,590.8	11,267.8	15,472.0	14,118.8
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN				
Bolivia - Country Office	2,796.4	1,180.0	1,124.0	1,672.4
Central America Regional Office - Panama	80.3	20.0	12.6	67.7
Colombia - Country Office	15,958.4	9,563.2	7,656.7	8,301.7
Ecuador - Human Rights Adviser	857.5	428.2	401.6	455.9
Guatemala - Country Office	8,562.0	3,713.3	3,879.7	4,682.2
Guyana - Human Rights Adviser	147.3	164.7	147.3	0.0
Haiti - Peace Mission Support	531.5	391.1	318.0	213.5
Latin America Regional Office - Chile	836.2	548.8	339.5	496.7
Mexico - Country Office	3,351.4	1,733.4	1,586.9	1,764.5
Nicaragua - Human Rights Adviser (new)	358.3	159.0	129.2	229.2
Sub-total Latin America and the Caribbean	33,479.5	17,901.6	15,595.7	17,883.8
EUROPE, NORTH AMERICA AND CENTRAL ASIA				
Central Asia Regional Office - Bishkek	909.7	56.7	245.7	664.0
Europe Regional Office - Brussels (new)	641.5	0.0	0.0	641.5
Georgia - Human Rights Adviser	1,573.4	719.5	751.0	822.4
Kosovo - Country Office	1,687.1	1,245.4	826.1	861.0
Moldova - Human Rights Adviser (new)	107.9	0.0	0.0	107.9
Russian Federation - Human Rights Adviser	1,681.1	948.1	633.0	1,048.1
Sub-total Europe, North America and Central Asia	6,600.7	2,969.8	2,455.8	4,144.9

OHCHR's Programmes	Revised requirements 2008-2009	Income 2008	Expenditure 2008	Projected requirements 2009
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA				
Bahrain - Human Rights Adviser (new)	246.3	0.0	0.0	246.3
Mauritania - Country Office (new)	811.7	0.0	0.0	811.7
Middle East Regional Office - Beirut	2,693.7	1,445.4	1,378.3	1,315.4
OPT - Country Office	3,843.8	1,873.3	1,832.2	2,011.6
Southwest Asia and the Arab Region Centre - Qatar (new)	633.0	0.0	0.0	633.0
Sub-total Middle East and North Africa	8,228.6	3,318.6	3,210.5	5,018.1
TOTAL FIELD PRESENCES	105,027.0	50,086.4	51,491.4	53,535.6
TOTAL HEADQUARTERS AND FIELD PRESENCES	188,802.6	85,682.1	90,872.0	97,930.5
HUMANITARIAN TRUST FUNDS				
Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture	21,918.8	12,013.1	9,938.5	11,980.3
Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations	1,463.7	286.6	696.2	767.5
Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery	1,266.7	917.9	51.9	1,214.8
TOTAL HUMANITARIAN TRUST FUNDS	24,649.1	13,217.6	10,686.6	13,962.5
GRAND TOTAL OHCHR	214,937.2	124,767.9	103,044.2	111,893.0

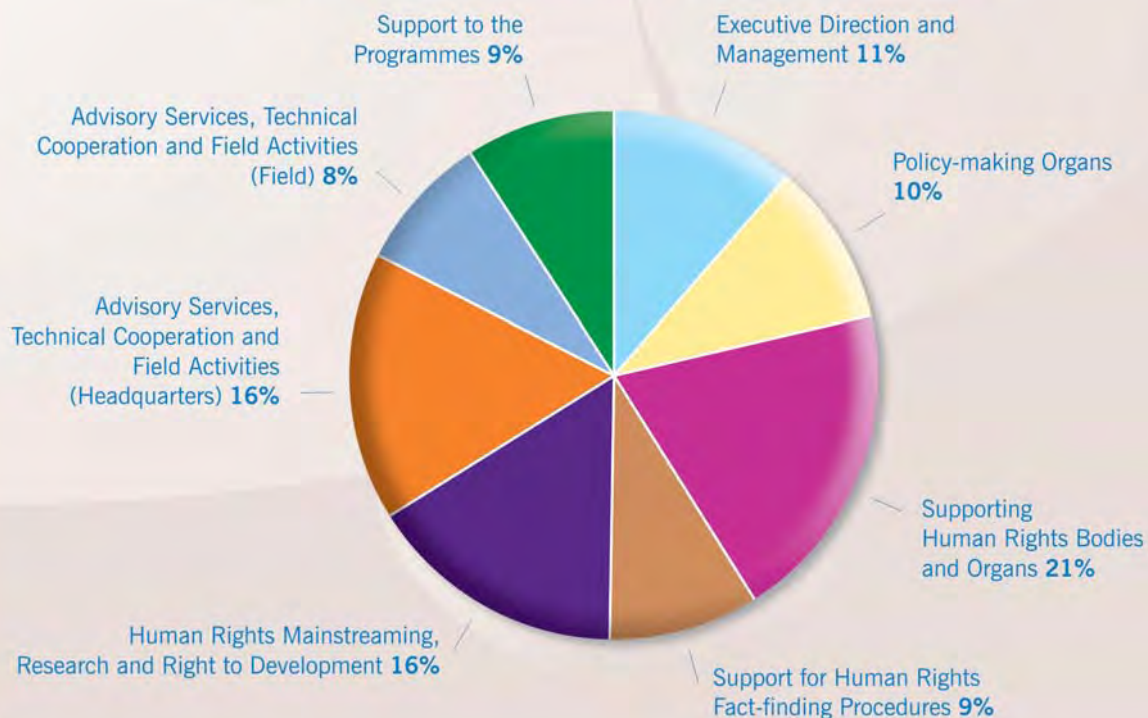
Extrabudgetary expenditure by main activity in 2008



Extrabudgetary income versus expenditure 2000-2008



Regular budget expenditure by main activity in 2008





Funding and Donor Profiles



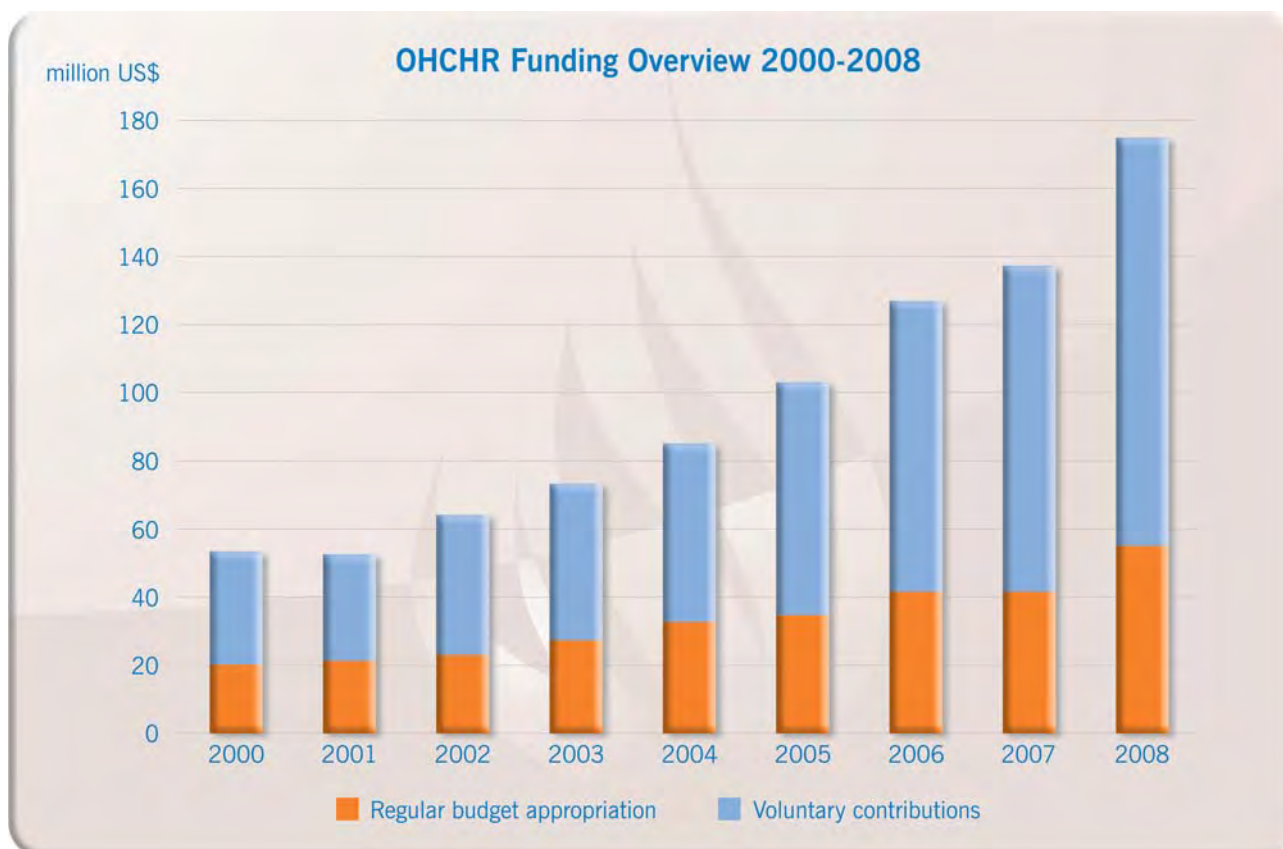
Funding

Context

Approximately one-third of OHCHR's global funding needs are met from the United Nations' regular budget. The regular budget, which is approved by the General Assembly every two years, is funded from 'assessed contributions' paid by each UN Member State according to a formula that takes into account their relative gross domestic product. The amount of regular budget funding appropriated for use by OHCHR has increased gradually since 2005, when leaders attending the World Summit supported a commitment to double funding for the Office over a period of five years. For the current biennium, 2008-2009, an amount of \$115.3 million has been allocated to OHCHR, compared with \$83.4 million in 2006-2007 and \$67.6 million in 2004-2005. While the upward trend in regular budgetary support for human rights work is welcome, the share of the overall UN regular budget devoted to human rights, even after the recent increases,

remains very small, at just 2.8 per cent of the total 2008-2009 budget.

The remaining two-thirds of OHCHR's funding needs are met from voluntary contributions made by Member States and other donors. In recent years, the Office has enjoyed a period of strong growth in the level of voluntary contributions, which have risen from \$52.5m in 2004 to \$119.9m in 2008—an increase of some 130 per cent over four years. This increase has been instrumental in funding the recent expansion and reform of the Office, with much of the additional resources being channeled into fieldwork, which is funded almost entirely from voluntary contributions. Moreover, in 2008 for the first time, more than half of all contributions the Office received were unearmarked, meaning that they were provided to support implementation of the Office's Strategic Management Plan without restrictions on specific activities to be funded. Progress was also made in recruiting new donors from outside the ranks of those who traditionally contribute to OHCHR.



Donor and External Relations

The Office's current donor and external relations strategy was developed in 2007, following an assessment of resource mobilization needs and challenges. The strategy emphasizes the need to strengthen OHCHR's external relations effort as a prerequisite to delivering on its resource-mobilization goals. It recognizes that close relationships with Member States, based on their full understanding of the Office's work and confidence in the leadership of the High Commissioner and capacity of the Office to achieve its expected accomplishments, is the basis for successful fundraising activities.

Lead responsibility for implementing the Office's strategy in this area lies with the Donor and External Relations Section (DEXREL), whose work includes an important external

liaison component: assisting and advising the High Commissioner and Deputy High Commissioner in their outreach to existing and potential donors; seeking out and engaging with Member States to build support for the Office's programme; disseminating information about recent activities and achievements; and responding to requests for information on all aspects of the Office's work.

The section organizes regular briefing sessions for Member States, arranges formal consultations with major donors, and sustains regular contacts with representatives of Member States in Geneva and New York, in capitals and in the field. Staff members solicit contributions, negotiate contribution agreements and report regularly on the results of OHCHR's work and use of funds.

The section is also responsible for producing this annual report on activities and results, which, in addition to being the Office's leading public information document, serves as the principal reporting instrument to donors.

In 2008, DEXREL focused on improving the way it services existing donors and encouraging them to increase their support and provide a greater proportion of their funding without earmarking. In the lead-up to the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a special effort was also made to expand OHCHR's donor base by establishing contact with a larger number of prospective donors, including Member States that had never or only rarely made a contribution to the Office in the past.

Who Funds OHCHR?

The table overleaf lists all donors that made a voluntary contribution in 2008. As in previous years, the overwhelming majority of voluntary contributions came from Member States, which provided \$106.7 million, or 89 per cent of all

contributions. International organizations, including the European Commission and UN partners, contributed a further \$12.5 million, or 10.4 per cent, with other donors (mainly private foundations) providing the remaining \$0.7 million or 0.6 per cent.



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR in 2008

This table refers to the total amount of voluntary contributions for 2008
(including contributions to the Humanitarian Funds)

Donor	US\$	Donor	US\$
1 United States of America	15,300,058	48 San Marino	40,431
2 Netherlands	11,646,972	49 Philippines	35,859
3 Spain	10,673,854	50 Monaco	34,927
4 European Commission	10,462,070	51 Andorra	32,039
5 Norway	9,002,541	52 Latvia	32,000
6 Sweden	8,687,174	53 Qatar	30,000
7 United Kingdom	7,087,518	54 United Arab Emirates	29,977
8 Canada	6,452,292	55 Croatia	28,000
9 Ireland	6,074,130	56 Thailand	27,752
10 Germany	4,367,405	57 Uruguay	25,000
11 Denmark	4,232,505	58 Kazakhstan	25,000
12 Finland	3,441,350	59 Iceland	24,588
13 France	2,836,865	60 Czech Republic	22,804
14 Switzerland	2,634,654	61 Indonesia	20,000
15 Italy	2,379,520	62 Bahrain	20,000
16 Russian Federation	2,000,000	63 China	19,985
17 New Zealand	1,926,051	64 Guatemala	17,811
18 Belgium	1,842,939	65 Argentina	17,000
19 Australia	1,089,305	66 Azerbaijan	15,000
20 Japan	890,200	67 Costa Rica	14,167
21 UNFPA ¹	815,333	68 Bulgaria	11,000
22 UNDP ²	679,091	69 Algeria	10,000
23 MacArthur Foundation	600,000	70 Israel	10,000
24 Austria	543,833	71 Maldives	10,000
25 Morocco	535,997	72 Oman	10,000
26 Luxembourg	371,940	73 Slovakia	9,569
27 Korea, Rep. of	350,000	74 Cameroon	9,483
28 OIF ³	306,907	75 Colombia	7,432
29 Brazil	260,000	76 Holy See	6,000
30 Greece	178,827	77 UNESCO ⁶	6,000
31 Turkey	171,000	78 Serbia	5,000
32 UNRWA ⁴	158,344	79 Vietnam	5,000
33 Saudi Arabia	150,000	80 Honduras	4,976
34 Mexico	141,500	81 Haiti	4,902
35 Rights & Democracy	129,757	82 Pakistan	4,815
36 Liechtenstein	110,048	83 Nicaragua	4,000
37 Uzbekistan	99,972	84 Cuba	2,294
38 Poland	99,379	85 Montenegro	2,187
39 Portugal	80,000	86 Macedonia, The Former Yugoslav Rep. of	2,000
40 Hungary	74,405	87 Mauritius	1,841
41 Slovenia	70,000	88 Palestinian Authority	1,745
42 South Africa	56,994	89 Panama	1,500
43 India	50,000	90 Armenia	1,096
44 Estonia	49,697	91 Moldova	1,000
45 UNIFEM ⁵	45,000	92 Malta	985
46 Chile	43,000	93 Afghanistan	982
47 Cyprus	40,707		
Other individual donors			8,971
Total			119,894,253

¹ UN Population Fund.

² UN Development Programme.

³ Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie.

⁴ UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

⁵ UN Development Fund for Women.

⁶ UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Source: Integrated Management Information System (IMIS).

Voluntary contributions from top 20 donors to OHCHR's work in 2008 (excluding contributions to the Humanitarian Funds)



Voluntary contributions from top 20 donors to OHCHR in 2008 (including contributions to the Humanitarian Funds)



Voluntary contributions from top 20 donors to OHCHR per capita in 2008* (including contributions to the Humanitarian Funds)



*Sources: based on 2008 voluntary contributions from OHCHR's donors (Member States) and 2007 population figures from the World Bank Data Profiles.

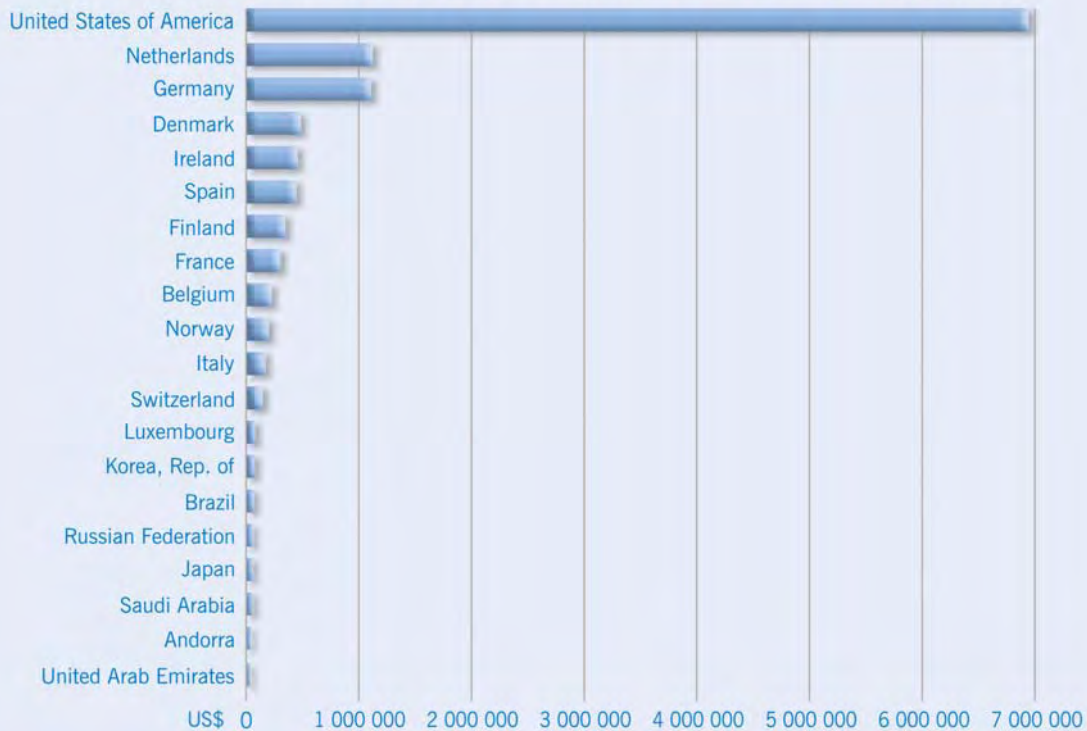
Contributions to the Humanitarian Funds

In 2008, donors provided \$12.7 million to the three Humanitarian Funds that OHCHR administers, a 10 per cent increase compared with the level of contributions in 2007. The three funds are: the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, and the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations. These three funds collect and distribute funding in the form of grants to individuals and NGOs. Contributions to the funds are not used to support OHCHR's wider work.

Of the three funds, the largest in terms of contributions and expenditure was the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, which received contributions of \$11.5 million and recorded expenditure of \$9.9 million. The Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery received contributions of \$880,000 and recorded expenditure of \$51,900. The Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations received contributions of \$233,000 and recorded expenditure of \$696,200.

Altogether, 48 Member States and a handful of private donors made contributions to the three funds in 2008 (compared with 44 Member States and a handful of private donors in 2007). The top five donors were the United States (which provided contributions of \$6.9 million), the Netherlands (\$1.1 million), Germany (\$1.1 million), Denmark (\$482,000), and Ireland (\$454,000).

Voluntary contributions from top 20 donors to the Humanitarian Funds in 2008



Funding Trends

Level of contributions

The level of donor contributions has risen for the past seven consecutive years, with 2008 seeing a record year-on-year increase of more than \$24 million to almost \$120 million—an increase of 25.3 per cent. While between one-third and one-half of the yearly increases in contributions recorded between the start of 2003 and mid-2008 were due to the steady decline of the U.S. dollar, there has also been a real and sustained increase in the underlying level of contributions in donors’ own currencies.

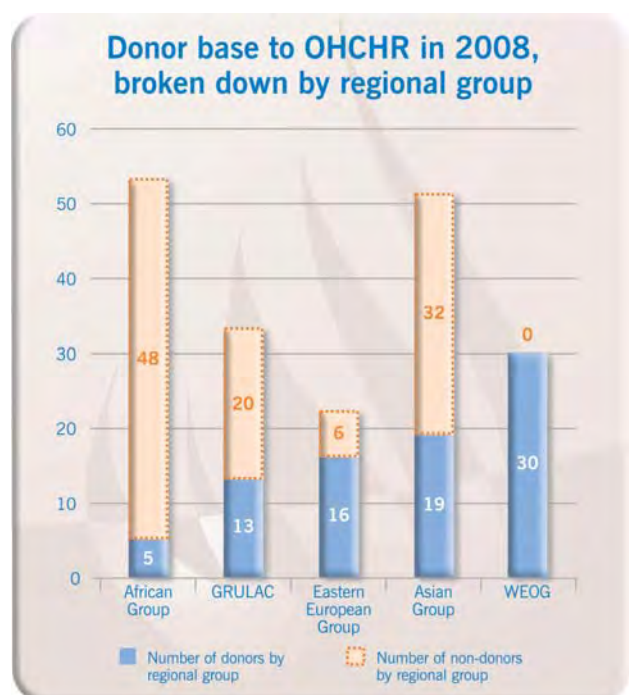


Number of donors

There was an encouraging expansion in the Office’s support base in 2008, with a notable increase in the number of Member States making a contribution. Altogether, the number of institutional donors (governments, international organizations and others) increased from 72 to 93. Eighty-three Member States provided funding (19 more than in 2007), along with seven international organizations (three more than in 2007). The increase in the number of Member States making a voluntary contribution followed a concerted year-long effort to appeal to all States that had never or only rarely contributed in the past to make a contribution in 2008 as a way of signaling their support for the ideals enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (see box, p. 183).



While Western countries continued to provide the lion’s share of contributions, the recruitment of new donors from outside the traditional international donor community helped create a more diverse funding base than in past years. In 2008, of the 83 Member States that made a contribution, 30 (about one-third) were members of the UN’s Western and Other Group (WEOG), 19 were members of the Asian Group, 16 were members of the Eastern European Group, 13 were members of the Latin America and Caribbean Group (GRULAC), and five were members of the African Group.



Earmarking

The trend towards donors providing a larger proportion of funding free of earmarking continued in 2008, with \$64.6 million in unearmarked funds contributed (compared with \$40.9 million in 2007). As a share of all contributions, unearmarked funding has risen steadily in recent years—from 20 per cent in 2004 to 26 per cent in 2005, 37 per cent in 2006, 43 per cent in 2007 and 54 per cent in 2008.

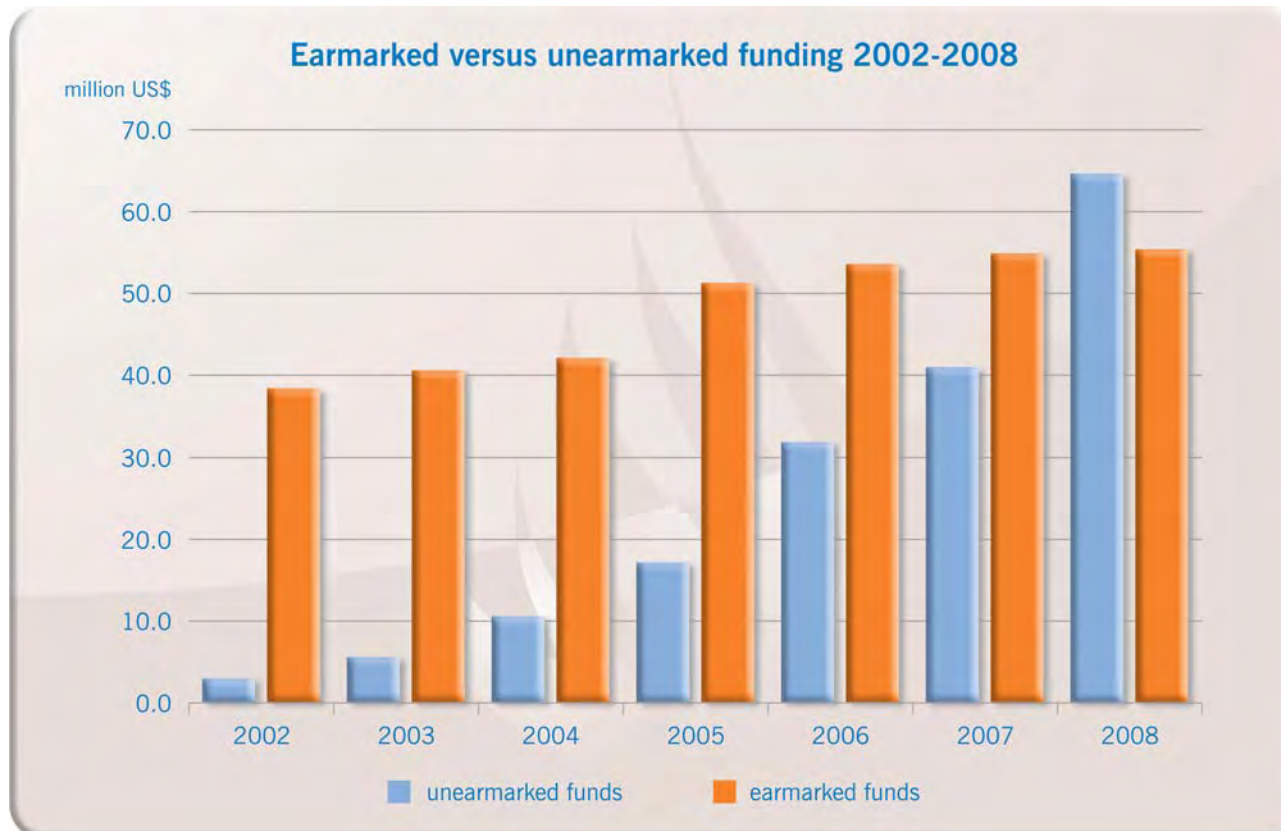
The growth in unearmarked funding follows repeated appeals by the High Commissioner for donors to provide more of their support without earmarking. Unearmarked funds give the Office more flexibility and autonomy in the way it allocates its resources. During 2008, OHCHR donor and external relations officers used every appropriate opportunity to make the case for more unearmarked funding, successfully persuading 65 donors (25 more donors than in 2007) to provide at least part of their support free of earmarking, and a number of major donors to increase the proportion of funds provided without earmarking (including Australia, Brazil, Finland, Ireland, Morocco, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the USA).

Timely payment

In 2008, half of all pledges were made and paid in the first half of the year in keeping with the pre-established target. Timely payment, the increased availability of unearmarked funding and a healthy opening balance carried over from the preceding year relieved the Office of cash-flow pressures in 2008, facilitating more timely allocation of resources to projects and field offices and increasing flexibility and scope for adjustments to planned activities.

Predictability

Predictability of funding was reinforced by the negotiation of new multi-year funding arrangements with Belgium, Canada, Germany and Sweden. OHCHR now has multi-year funding arrangements in place with 11 donors, including eight Member States (Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom), two international organizations (the European Commission and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie), and one private donor (the MacArthur Foundation).















Unearmarked voluntary contributions to OHCHR in 2008














Donor	unearmarked funding in US\$	percentage of donor's contribution
1 Netherlands	10,526,972	90.4%
2 Spain	8,180,593	76.6%
3 United States of America	6,943,300	45.4%
4 European Commission	5,247,813	50.2%
5 Canada	5,096,840	79.0%
6 United Kingdom	4,980,080	70.3%
7 Sweden	3,896,874	44.9%
8 Norway	3,353,057	37.2%
9 Denmark	2,752,319	65.0%
10 France	2,420,575	85.3%
11 Ireland	2,420,575	39.9%
12 New Zealand	1,923,077	99.8%
13 Finland	1,723,684	50.1%
14 Belgium	1,116,071	60.6%
15 Italy	737,463	31.0%
16 Australia	621,670	57.1%
17 Morocco	510,000	95.1%
18 Russian Federation	500,000	25.0%
19 Brazil	200,000	76.9%
20 Luxembourg	160,350	43.1%
21 Turkey	150,000	87.7%
22 Greece	143,062	80.0%
23 Mexico	100,000	70.7%
24 Uzbekistan	99,972	100.0%
25 Poland	99,379	100.0%
26 Portugal	80,000	100.0%
27 Saudi Arabia	50,000	33.3%
28 Liechtenstein	47,847	43.5%
29 Hungary	44,643	60.0%
30 Cyprus	32,808	80.6%
31 Latvia	32,000	100.0%
32 Qatar	30,000	100.0%
33 Philippines	29,982	83.6%
34 Chile	28,000	65.1%
35 Kazakhstan	25,000	100.0%
36 Thailand	25,000	90.1%
37 Uruguay	25,000	100.0%
38 Monaco	23,263	66.6%
39 Croatia	22,000	78.6%
40 South Africa	20,642	36.2%
41 Bahrain	20,000	100.0%
42 Indonesia	20,000	100.0%
43 Estonia	19,879	40.0%
44 Costa Rica	14,167	100.0%
45 Guatemala	11,811	66.3%
46 Azerbaijan	10,000	66.7%
47 Oman	10,000	100.0%
48 Slovakia	9,569	100.0%
49 Cameroon	9,483	100.0%
50 Bulgaria	8,000	72.7%
51 Argentina	7,000	41.2%
52 Czech Republic	6,516	28.6%
53 Maldives	5,000	50.0%
54 Vietnam	5,000	100.0%
55 Honduras	4,976	100.0%
56 Haiti	4,902	100.0%
57 Pakistan	4,815	100.0%
58 Nicaragua	4,000	100.0%
59 Holy See	2,500	41.7%
60 Serbia	2,500	50.0%
61 Cuba	2,294	100.0%
62 Montenegro	2,187	100.0%
63 Mauritius	1,841	100.0%
64 Armenia	1,096	100.0%
65 Afghanistan	982	100.0%
Other individual donors	49	0.6%
Total	64,608,478	53.9%

Source: Integrated Management Information System (IMIS).

Voluntary contributions to OHCHR from donors in excess of \$100,000 in 2008

The distribution of funds in this table reflects earmarking by donors (as per major headings of the Strategic Management Plan)












	United States of America 	Netherlands 	Spain 	European Commission 	Norway 	Sweden 	United Kingdom 	Canada 	Ireland 	Germany 	Denmark 	Finland 
Unearmarked	6,943,300	10,526,972	8,180,593	5,247,813	3,353,057	3,896,874	4,980,080	5,096,840	2,420,575	0	2,752,319	1,723,684
Executive Direction and Management New York and Geneva	0	0	0	1,698,113	0	0	0	245,005	226,929	0	0	0
<i>Subprogramme 1:</i> Human Rights mainstreaming, Research and Right to Development	0	0	336,927	985,336	225,420	0	99,010	0	605,144	473,186	0	0
<i>Subprogramme 2:</i> Supporting the Human Rights Bodies and Organs	0	0	195,418	0	394,477	0	19,960	0	529,501	157,729	0	0
<i>Subprogramme 3:</i> Advisory Services, Technical Cooperation and Field Operations	0	0	0	102,283	197,239	0	19,960	0	302,572	157,729	0	77,761
<i>Subprogramme 4:</i> Support for Human Rights Thematic Fact-Finding Procedures	0	0	168,464	559,272	197,239	0	0	0	453,858	157,729	0	0
Support to the Programmes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Field Presences	1,413,458	0	1,347,709	1,869,251	4,437,868	4,790,300	1,968,508	1,110,447	1,081,695	2,316,933	998,043	1,296,204
<i>All regions</i>	1,413,458	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,059,002	1,577,288	0	261,275
<i>Africa</i>	0	0	67,385	1,251,984	1,282,050	401,200	39,920	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Asia and the Pacific</i>	0	0	134,771	0	1,084,813	482,400	1,928,588	600,763	22,693	0	998,043	1,034,929
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>	0	0	269,542	0	197,238	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Europe and Central Asia</i>	0	0	0	0	690,335	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Latin America and the Caribbean</i>	0	0	876,011	617,267	1,183,432	3,906,700	0	509,684	0	739,645	0	0
Humanitarian Trust Funds	6,943,300	1,120,000	444,744	0	197,239	0	0	0	453,858	1,104,101	482,142	343,702
Total contributions	15,300,058	11,646,972	10,673,854	10,462,070	9,002,541	8,687,174	7,087,518	6,452,292	6,074,130	4,367,405	4,232,505	3,441,350

	France	Switzerland	Italy	Russian Federation	New Zealand	Belgium	Australia	Japan	UNFPA	UNDP	MacArthur Foundation	Austria	Morocco
													
	2,420,575	0	737,463	500,000	1,923,077	1,116,071	621,670	0	0	0	0	0	510,000
	77,882	0	0	50,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23,328	0
	0	179,908	221,239	600,000	2,974	0	0	90,200	0	0	0	0	21,997
	0	142,857	221,239	450,000	0	0	0	100,000	0	0	0	157,729	0
	0	0	221,239	0	0	57,225	177,620	0	0	679,091	500,000	0	0
	35,836	418	73,746	50,000	0	446,429	0	100,000	0	0	0	78,864	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100,000	0	0	0	0	0
	0	2,168,612	737,463	300,000	0	0	266,430	450,000	815,333	0	100,000	283,912	0
	0	1,315,789	737,463	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	138,787	0	0	0	0	0	0	815,333	0	0	283,912	0
	0	523,560	0	0	0	0	266,430	450,000	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	300,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	190,476	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100,000	0	0
	302,572	142,857	167,131	50,000	0	223,215	23,585	50,000	0	0	0	0	4,000
	2,836,865	2,634,654	2,379,520	2,000,000	1,926,051	1,842,939	1,089,305	890,200	815,333	679,091	600,000	543,833	535,997



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR from donors in excess of \$100,000 in 2008

The distribution of funds in this table reflects earmarking by donors (as per major headings of the Strategic Management Plan)

	Luxembourg 	Korea, Rep. of 	Organisation internationale de la Francophonie 	Brazil 	Greece 	Turkey 	UNRWA 	Saudi Arabia 	Mexico 	Rights and Democracy 	Liechtenstein 
Unearmarked	160,350	0	0	200,000	143,062	150,000	0	50,000	100,000	0	47,847
Executive Direction and Management New York and Geneva	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45,415	0
<i>Subprogramme 1:</i> Human Rights mainstreaming, Research and Right to Development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,785	0
<i>Subprogramme 2:</i> Supporting the Human Rights Bodies and Organs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25,000	0	0	19,139
<i>Subprogramme 3:</i> Advisory Services, Technical Cooperation and Field Operations	62,893	0	0	0	0	0	0	25,000	0	76,557	0
<i>Subprogramme 4:</i> Support for Human Rights Thematic Fact-Finding Procedures	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20,000	0	0
Support to the Programmes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Field Presences	72,886	280,000	306,907	0	7,153	0	158,344	0	0	0	19,139
<i>All regions</i>	0	280,000	0	0	7,153	0	0	0	0	0	19,139
<i>Africa</i>	72,886	0	295,838	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Asia and the Pacific</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	158,344	0	0	0	0
<i>Europe and Central Asia</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Latin America and the Caribbean</i>	0	0	11,069	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Humanitarian Trust Funds	75,811	70,000	0	60,000	28,612	21,000	0	50,000	21,500	0	23,923
Total contributions	371,940	350,000	306,907	260,000	178,827	171,000	158,344	150,000	141,500	129,757	110,048

Special appeal to mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

On 10 December 2007, International Human Rights Day, with the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights still a year away, then High Commissioner Louise Arbour launched a year-long fundraising drive to encourage as many Member States as possible to signal their support for Declaration by making a financial contribution to OHCHR commensurate with their means. Special attention was paid to Member States that had never before made a contribution, or had

done so only rarely in the past. However, regular donors were also invited to participate by providing an additional one-off contribution as an expression of support.

The initiative succeeded in attracting some \$1.2 million in additional contributions from both new and regular donors. More significantly, it contributed to the largest year-on-year expansion in the donor base, with the number of contributing Member States jumping from 64 to 83. For nine of these, it

was their first contribution to OHCHR. For a handful of States, it was their first voluntary contribution to the United Nations.

In 2009, OHCHR will be engaging with all those Member States that contributed for the first time in 2008, or who returned to the donor table after an absence of a year or more, to encourage them to renew their support in 2009 and become regular donors to the Office in future.

Voluntary contributions in response to OHCHR's 2008 universal donorship appeal

First time donors are indicated in bold

Donor	US\$	Donor	US\$
1 Afghanistan	1,000	19 Luxembourg	62,893
2 Argentina	7,000	20 Maldives	5,000
3 Australia	88,810	21 Mauritius	1,841
4 Bahrain	5,000	22 Montenegro	2,187
5 Brazil	200,000	23 Morocco	5,000
6 Bulgaria	2,000	24 Norway	197,239
7 Cameroon	9,964	25 Oman	10,000
8 Chile	8,000	26 Philippines	29,982
9 China	19,985	27 Qatar	30,000
10 Cuba	2,294	28 Saudi Arabia	100,000
11 Cyprus	32,808	29 Serbia	5,000
12 Finland	12,953	30 Slovakia	9,569
13 France	77,882	31 Spain	29,283
14 Haiti	4,902	32 Thailand	5,000
15 Holy See	2,500	33 Turkey	50,000
16 Honduras	4,976	34 Uzbekistan	99,972
17 Indonesia	20,000	35 Vietnam	5,000
18 Kazakhstan	25,000		
			Total 1,173,039

Regular budget versus voluntary contributions

The proportion of expenditure funded from the UN regular budget increased slightly from 33.5 per cent in 2007 to 34.9 per cent in 2008, while the proportion funded from voluntary contributions fell from 66.5 per cent to 65.1 per cent. The small shift in favour of regular budget funding reflected an increase in the regular budget appropriation for the 2008-2009 biennium compared with the preceding biennium.

Outlook for 2009 and Beyond

The dramatic deterioration in the economic climate and swings in exchange rates during the last quarter of 2008 and early months of 2009 created a far more difficult environment for fundraising. The global economic crisis has pushed all OHCHR's major donors into or close to recession and is generating growing pressures on Government budgets. The current downturn is expected to have a knock-on effect on the level of overseas aid and voluntary contributions to multilateral agencies in 2009 and beyond. Against this backdrop, it seems increasingly likely that the real level of contributions to

OHCHR—measured in donors' own currencies—will stop growing or perhaps even slip slightly in 2009, and possibly again in 2010, before growth resumes.

Exchange rates will also have a significant impact on the level of contributions in 2009. As of the end of March 2009, the currencies of OHCHR's main donors were worth, on average, some 32 per cent less against U.S. dollar compared with mid-2008. As a result, absent a sudden and immediate reversal in exchange rates, these donors' 2009 contributions, regardless of whether they are cut or not in real terms, will almost certainly be worth considerably less in dollar terms compared with 2008.

Either one of these factors is sufficient to dampen prospects for further funding growth. Together, they could result in a significant drop in funding. With the economic downturn endangering the livelihoods and rights of hundreds of millions of the world's poorest and most vulnerable, there could be no worse time for the United Nations to scale back its activities in the field of human rights. Against this backdrop, OHCHR will appeal to all Member States and the wider donor community to ensure that sufficient resources are made available to allow it to continue its work undiminished.

Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation

The Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights was established by the Secretary-General in 1987 in response to the former Commission on Human Rights resolution 1987/83. The Fund provides resources to support national efforts at building a strong rights framework. Support is provided to promote and establish strong legal frameworks, effective national human rights institutions, an independent judiciary, a vibrant civil society, and societies that seek to promote rights and responsibilities. Since 1993, a Board of Trustees has been providing administrative and operational advice to the Fund. The Board meets twice a year to review the programmes it supports, discuss thematic issues, methodologies and procedures,

examine financial, administrative and fundraising matters, and brief Member States on progress and achievements. The Board met for its 28th session from 19 to 22 May 2008 and 29th session from 17 to 20 November 2008. In 2008, the fund received \$13,844,212 in fresh contributions (including \$13,690,712 from Member States and US\$153,500 from private donors). Funding was used to implement OHCHR technical cooperation activities, including many of the activities listed in the preceding sections on OHCHR's work region by region, in 26 countries or territories: Bolivia, Ecuador, Guyana, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Palestine, Province of Kosovo, Georgia, Russian Federation, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste,

Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Uganda. Activities implemented through the Fund have resulted in efforts made at the country level to incorporate international human rights standards into national laws, policies and practices; the establishment of more sustainable national capacities to adhere to these standards; strengthened administration of justice; greater emphasis on the development of human rights education programmes; the establishment of responsive national human rights institutions; the deployment of human rights advisers to UN country teams; and the development of national plans of action for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Junior Professional Officers

In 2008, OHCHR had 39 associate experts (also known as Junior Professional Officers) supported by the following governments: Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland (see table below). Italy and The Netherlands also funded associate expert posts for non-nationals.

Sponsor	Number of associate experts	Number of non-nationals
Austria	1	
Denmark	2	
Finland	2	
France	5	
Germany	2	
Italy	3	1
Liechtenstein	1	
The Netherlands	1	1
Norway	2	
Korea, Rep. of	1	
Spain	7	
Sweden	3	
Switzerland	7	
	37	2
TOTAL	39	

How to Help

OHCHR accepts contributions from Member States, international organizations, foundations, voluntary associations, NGOs and individuals. If you, or the organization you represent, would like to make a contribution, please contact OHCHR's Donor and External Relations Section in Geneva.

Tel: +41 22 917 96 55. Fax +41 22 917 90 04.

Email: DexRel@ohchr.org.

Donor Profiles

Governments



Afghanistan

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 982

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 982

Donor ranking: 93/93

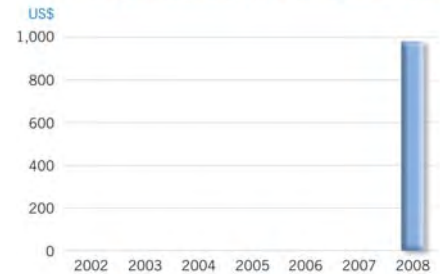
Donor ranking per capita: 81/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



■ unearmarked funds ■ earmarked funds

Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



■ unearmarked funds ■ earmarked funds



Algeria

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 10,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

Donor ranking: 69/93

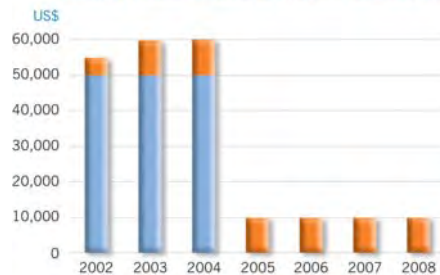
Donor ranking per capita: 73/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



■ unearmarked funds ■ earmarked funds

Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



■ unearmarked funds ■ earmarked funds



Andorra

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 32,039

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

Donor ranking: 51/93

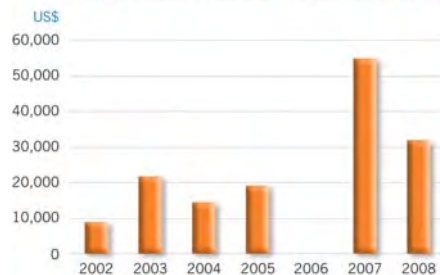
Donor ranking per capita: 11/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



■ unearmarked funds ■ earmarked funds

Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



■ unearmarked funds ■ earmarked funds



Argentina

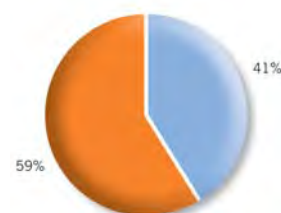
Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 17,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 7,000

Donor ranking: 65/93

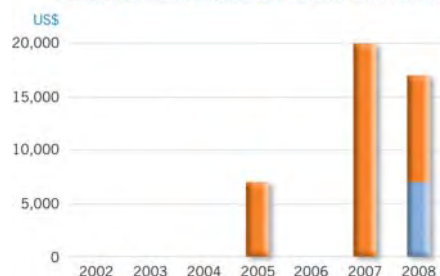
Donor ranking per capita: 70/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



■ unearmarked funds ■ earmarked funds

Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



■ unearmarked funds ■ earmarked funds



Armenia

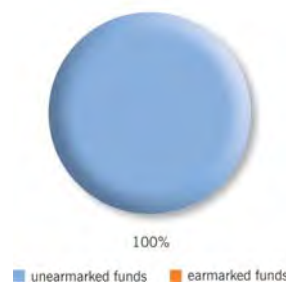
Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 1,096

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 1,096

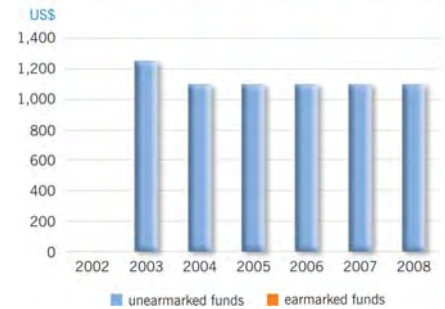
Donor ranking: 90/93

Donor ranking per capita: 72/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Australia

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 1,089,305

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 1,225,000 (AUD)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 621,670

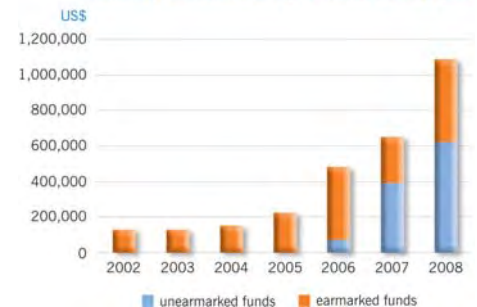
Donor ranking: 19/93

Donor ranking per capita: 21/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Austria

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 543,833

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 345,000 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

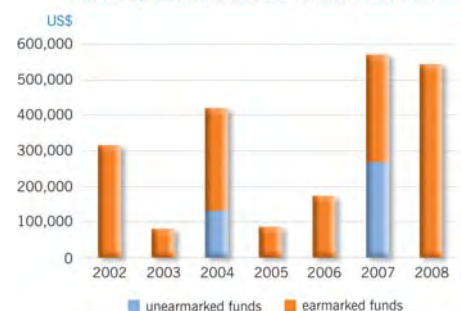
Donor ranking: 24/93

Donor ranking per capita: 19/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Azerbaijan

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 15,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 10,000

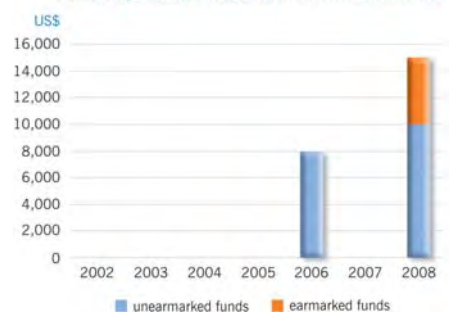
Donor ranking: 66/93

Donor ranking per capita: 53/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008





Bahrain

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 20,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 20,000

Donor ranking: 62/93

Donor ranking per capita: 30/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Belgium

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 1,842,939

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 1,240,000 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 1,116,071

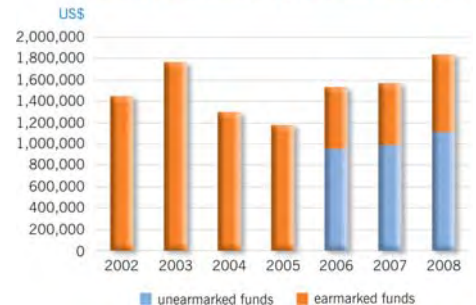
Donor ranking: 18/93

Donor ranking per capita: 16/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Brazil

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 260,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 200,000

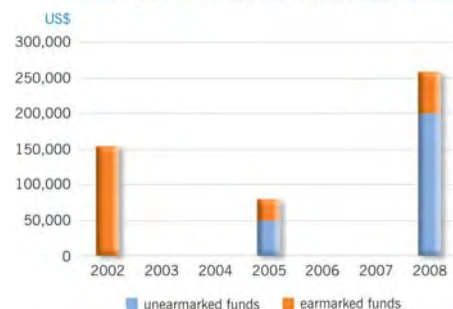
Donor ranking: 29/93

Donor ranking per capita: 58/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Bulgaria

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 11,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 8,000

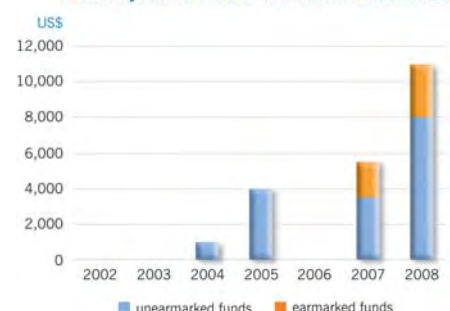
Donor ranking: 68/93

Donor ranking per capita: 56/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008





Cameroon

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 9,483

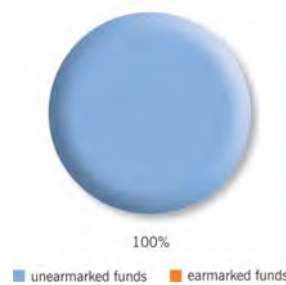
Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 10,810.80 (CHF)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 9,483

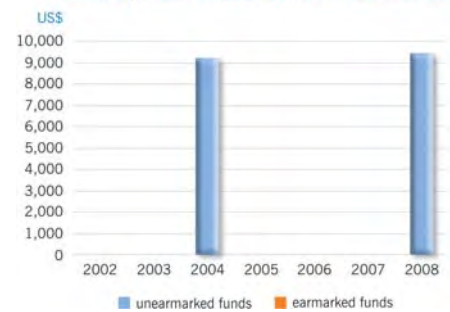
Donor ranking: 74/93

Donor ranking per capita: 66/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Canada

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 6,452,292

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 6,350,000 (CAD)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 5,096,840

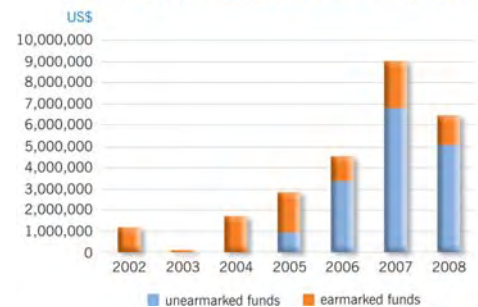
Donor ranking: 8/93

Donor ranking per capita: 15/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Chile

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 43,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 28,000

Donor ranking: 46/93

Donor ranking per capita: 48/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



China

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 19,985

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

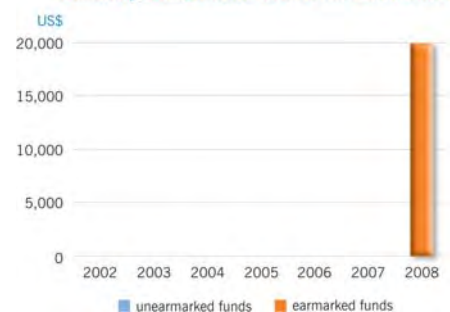
Donor ranking: 63/93

Donor ranking per capita: 82/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008





Colombia

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 7,432

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

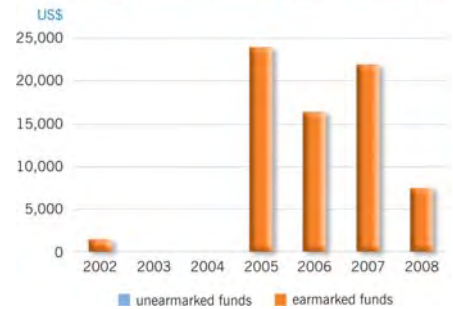
Donor ranking: 75/93

Donor ranking per capita: 76/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Costa Rica

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 14,167

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 14,167

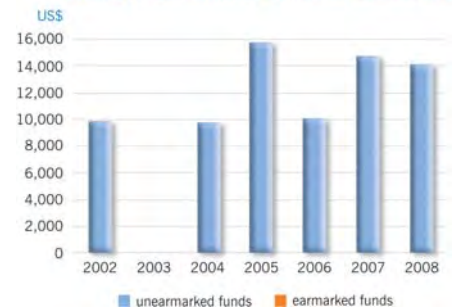
Donor ranking: 67/93

Donor ranking per capita: 46/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Croatia

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 28,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 22,000

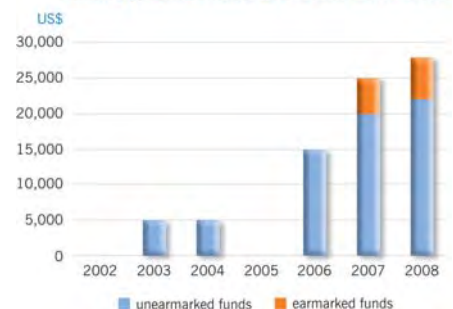
Donor ranking: 55/93

Donor ranking per capita: 41/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Cuba

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 2,294

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 2,500 (CHF)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 2,294

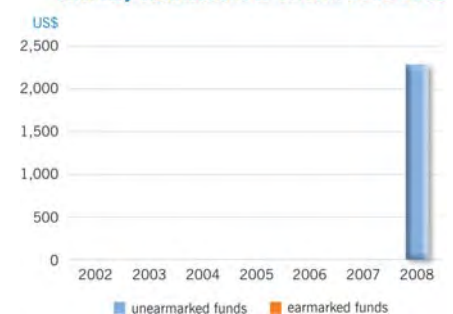
Donor ranking: 84/93

Donor ranking per capita: 75/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008





Cyprus

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 40,707

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 40,047 (CHF) + 3,600 (USD)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 32,808

Donor ranking: 47/93

Donor ranking per capita: 22/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Czech Republic

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 22,804

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 24,811.29 (CHF)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 6,516

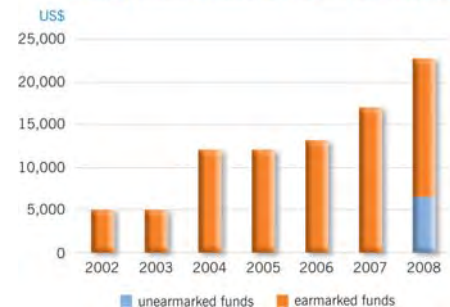
Donor ranking: 60/93

Donor ranking per capita: 51/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Denmark

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 4,232,505

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 20,400,000 (DKK)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 2,752,319

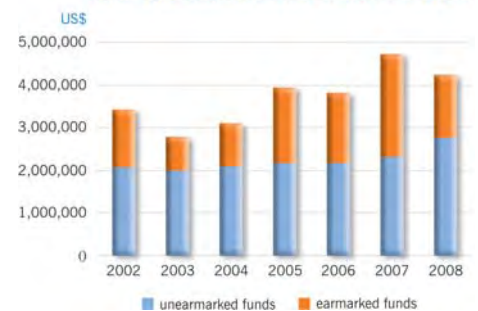
Donor ranking: 11/93

Donor ranking per capita: 7/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Estonia

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 49,697

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 500,000 (EEK)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 19,879

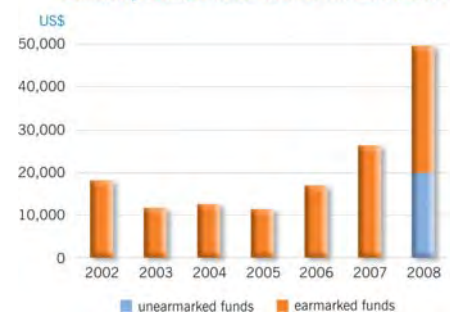
Donor ranking: 44/93

Donor ranking per capita: 26/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008





Finland

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 3,441,350

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 2,349,000 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 1,723,684

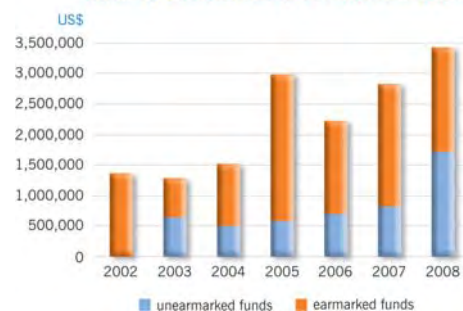
Donor ranking: 12/93

Donor ranking per capita: 10/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



France

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 2,836,865

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 1,850,000 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 2,420,575

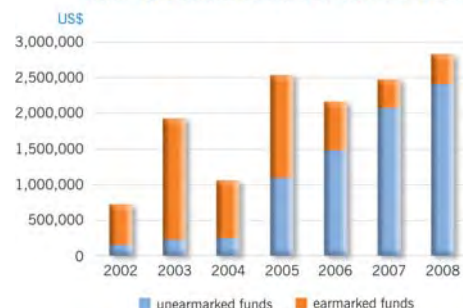
Donor ranking: 13/93

Donor ranking per capita: 24/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Germany

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 4,367,405

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 2,800,000 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

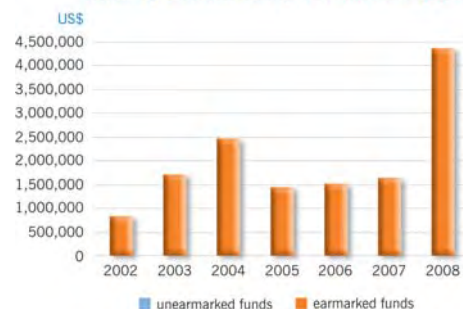
Donor ranking: 10/93

Donor ranking per capita: 20/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Greece

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 178,827

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 125,000 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 143,062

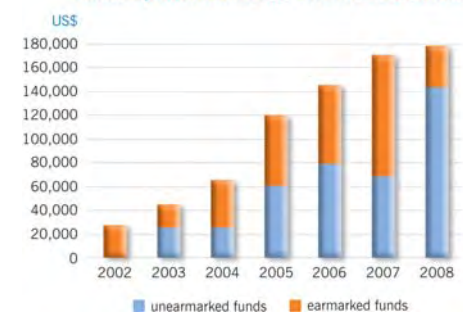
Donor ranking: 30/93

Donor ranking per capita: 32/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008





Guatemala

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 17,811

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 11,811

Donor ranking: 64/93

Donor ranking per capita: 60/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Haiti

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 4,902

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 5,000 (CHF)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 4,902

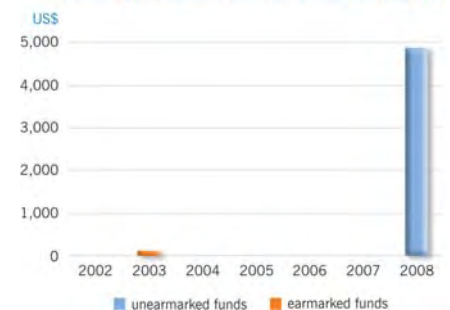
Donor ranking: 81/93

Donor ranking per capita: 67/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Holy See

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 6,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 2,500

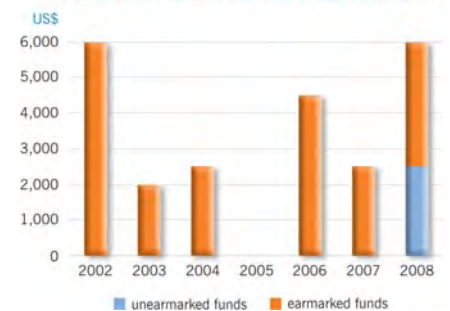
Donor ranking: 76/93

Donor ranking per capita: n/a

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Honduras

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 4,976

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 4,976

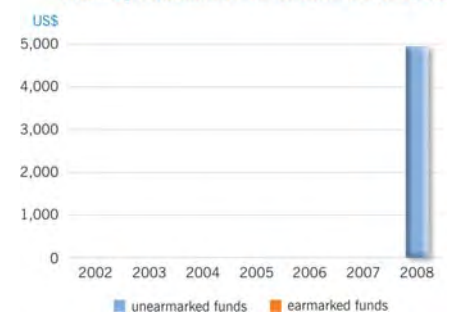
Donor ranking: 80/93

Donor ranking per capita: 64/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008





Hungary

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 74,405

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 50,000 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 44,643

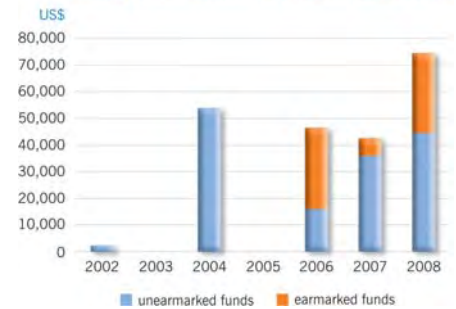
Donor ranking: 40/93

Donor ranking per capita: 37/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Iceland

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 24,588

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

0

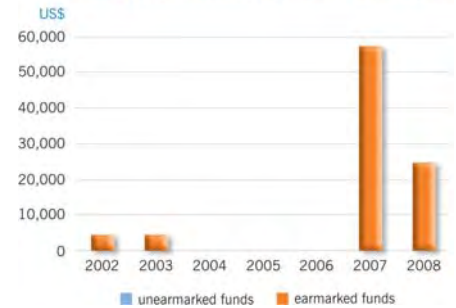
Donor ranking: 59/93

Donor ranking per capita: 18/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



India

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 50,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

0

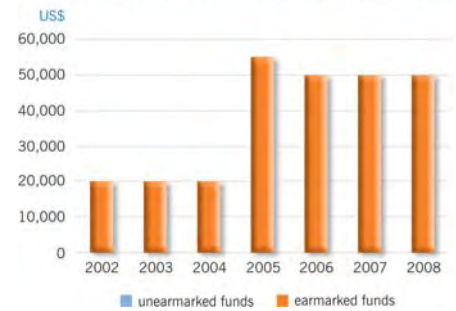
Donor ranking: 43/93

Donor ranking per capita: 79/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Indonesia

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 20,000

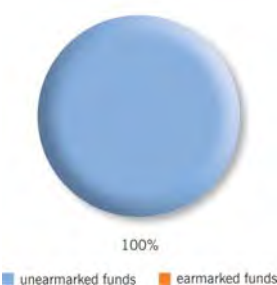
Unearmarked contribution in USD: 20,000

20,000

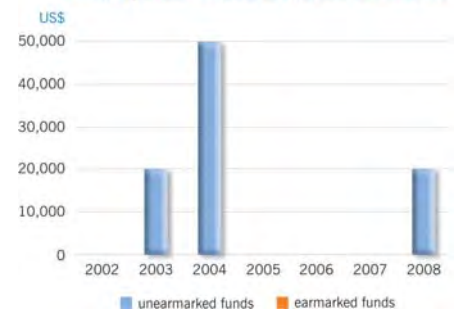
Donor ranking: 61/93

Donor ranking per capita: 77/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



 Ireland

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 6,074,130

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 4,015,000 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 2,420,575

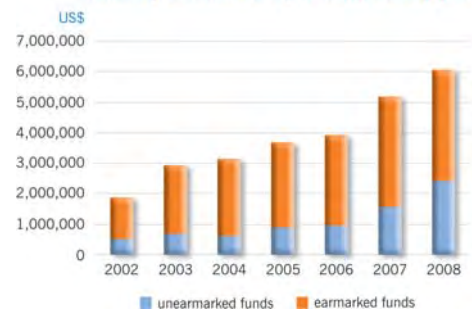
Donor ranking: 9/93

Donor ranking per capita: 3/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



 Israel

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 10,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

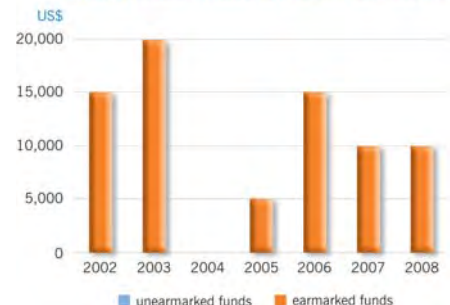
Donor ranking: 70/93

Donor ranking per capita: 57/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



 Italy

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 2,379,520

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 1,620,000 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 737,463

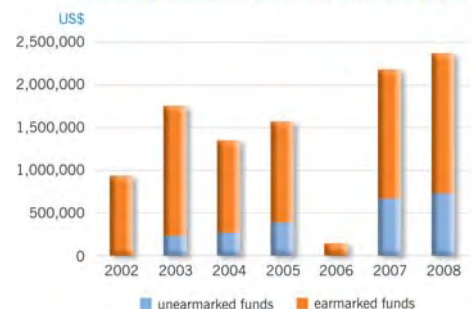
Donor ranking: 15/93

Donor ranking per capita: 25/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



 Japan

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 890,200

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

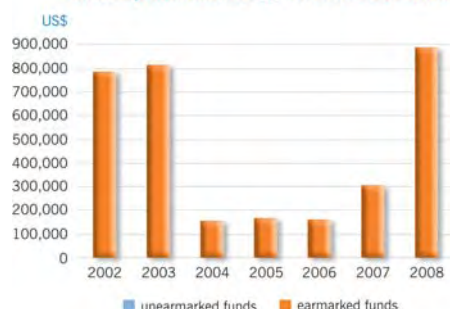
Donor ranking: 20/93

Donor ranking per capita: 39/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008





Kazakhstan

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 25,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 25,000

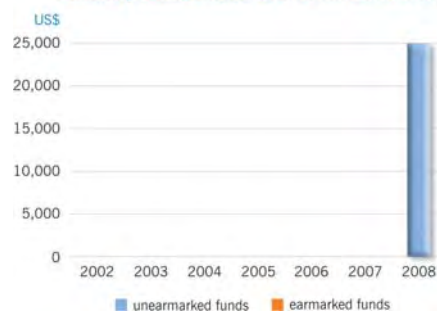
Donor ranking: 58/93

Donor ranking per capita: 54/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Republic of Korea

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 350,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

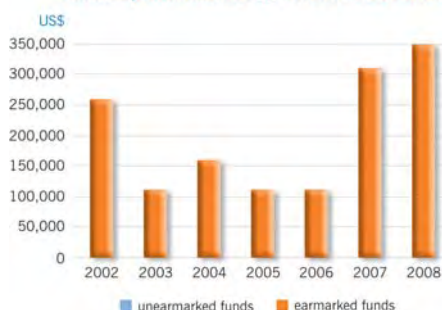
Donor ranking: 27/93

Donor ranking per capita: 38/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Latvia

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 32,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 32,000

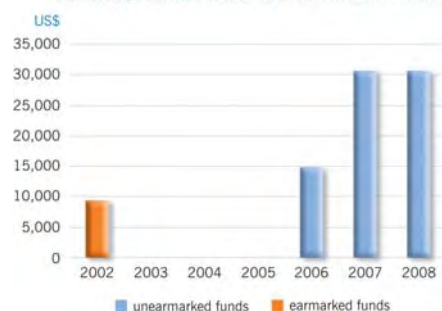
Donor ranking: 52/93

Donor ranking per capita: 34/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Liechtenstein

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 110,048

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 115,000 (CHF)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 47,847

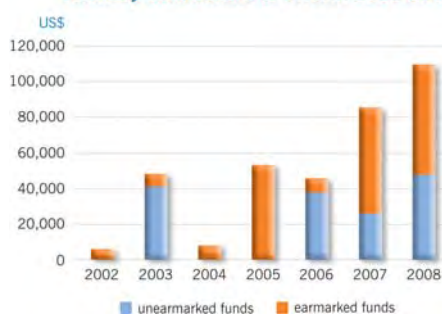
Donor ranking: 36/93

Donor ranking per capita: 1/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008





Luxembourg

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 371,940

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 250,000 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 160,350

Donor ranking: 26/93

Donor ranking per capita: 8/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 2,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

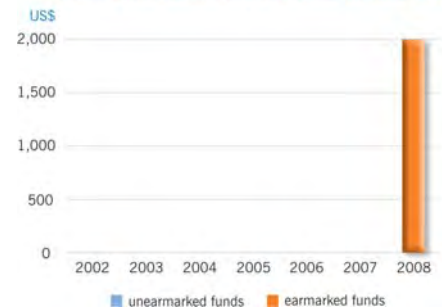
Donor ranking: 86/93

Donor ranking per capita: 62/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Maldives

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 10,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 5,000

Donor ranking: 71/93

Donor ranking per capita: 29/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Malta

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 985

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 675.68 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

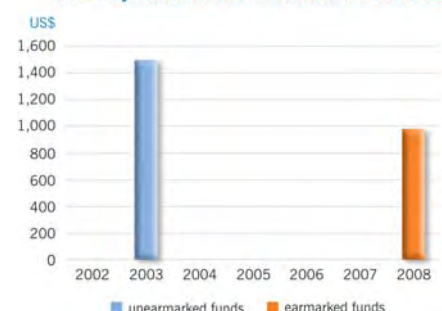
Donor ranking: 92/93

Donor ranking per capita: 49/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008





Mauritius

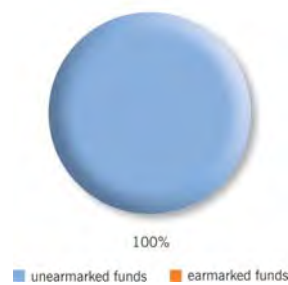
Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 1,841

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 1,841

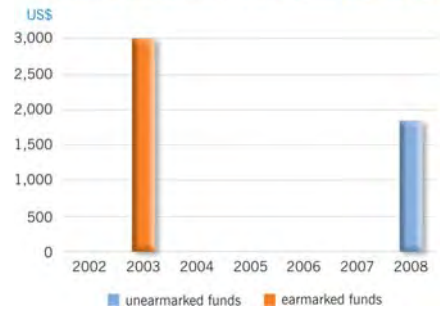
Donor ranking: 87/93

Donor ranking per capita: 55/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Mexico

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 141,500

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 100,000

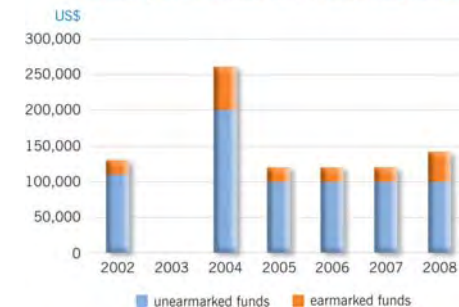
Donor ranking: 34/93

Donor ranking per capita: 59/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Moldova

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 1,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

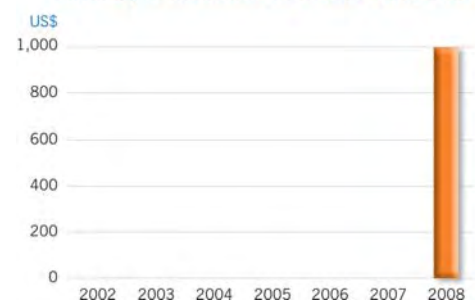
Donor ranking: 91/93

Donor ranking per capita: 74/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Monaco

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 34,927

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 7,500 (EUR) + 23,263 (USD)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 23,263

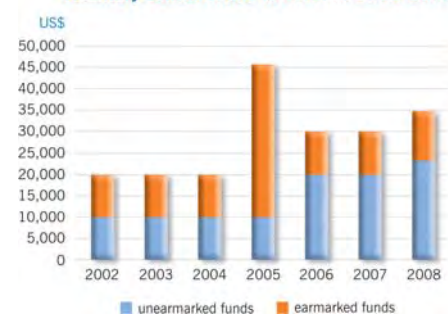
Donor ranking: 50/93

Donor ranking per capita: 5/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008





Montenegro

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 2,187

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 1,500 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 2,187

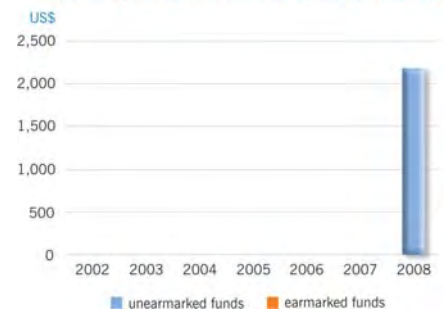
Donor ranking: 85/93

Donor ranking per capita: 45/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Morocco

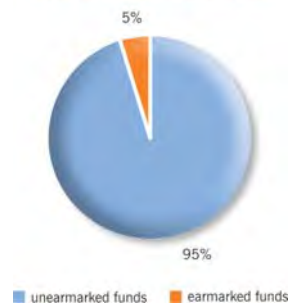
Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 535,997

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 510,000

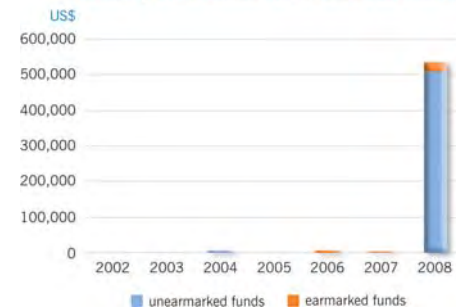
Donor ranking: 25/93

Donor ranking per capita: 31/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Netherlands

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 11,646,972

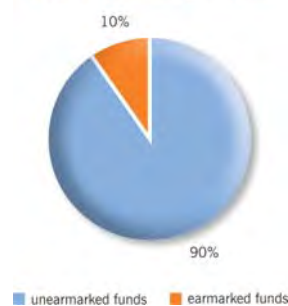
Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 7,500,000 (EUR) + 1,200,000 (USD)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 10,526,972

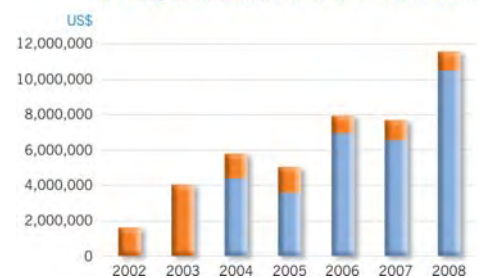
Donor ranking: 2/93

Donor ranking per capita: 9/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



New Zealand

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 1,926,051

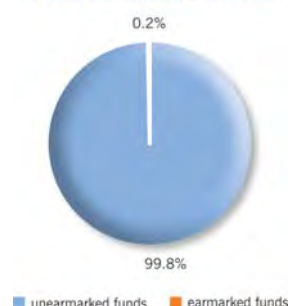
Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 2,504,000 (NZD)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 1,923,077

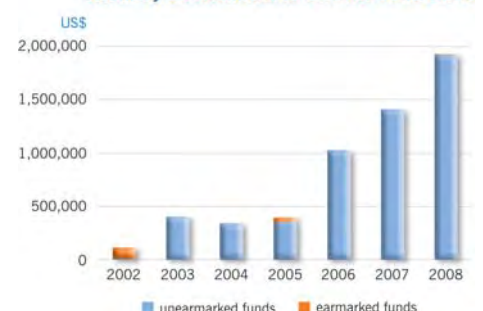
Donor ranking: 17/93

Donor ranking per capita: 12/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008





Nicaragua

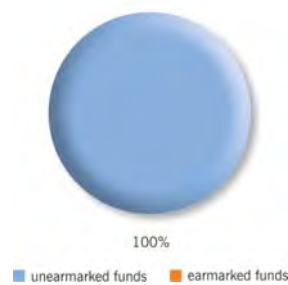
Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 4,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 4,000

Donor ranking: 83/93

Donor ranking per capita: 63/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Norway

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 9,002,541

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 45,700,000 (NOK)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 3,353,057

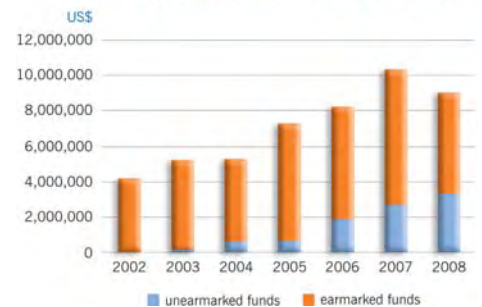
Donor ranking: 5/93

Donor ranking per capita: 2/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Oman

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 10,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 10,000

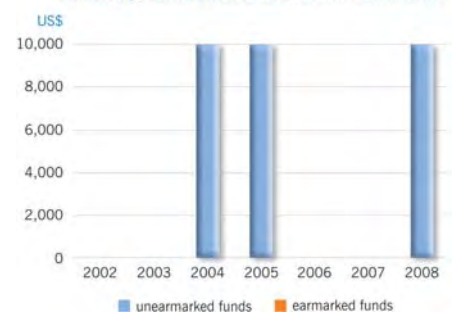
Donor ranking: 72/93

Donor ranking per capita: 43/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Pakistan

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 4,815

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 4,815

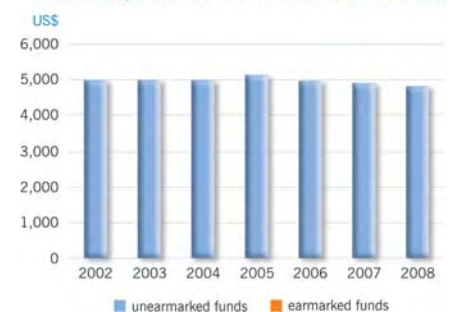
Donor ranking: 82/93

Donor ranking per capita: 80/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008





Palestinian Authority

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 1,745

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 2,000 (CHF)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

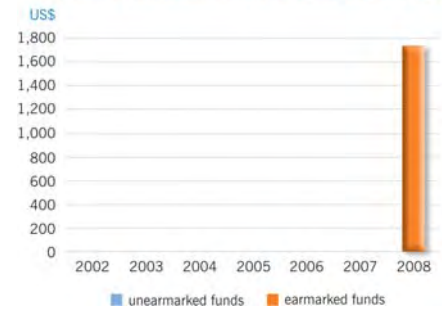
Donor ranking: 88/93

Donor ranking per capita: n/a

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Panama

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 1,500

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

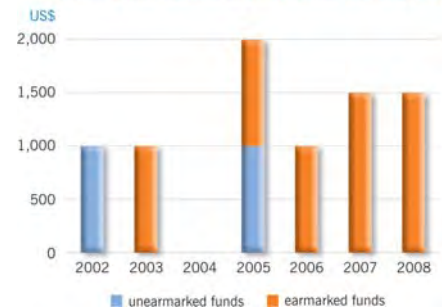
Donor ranking: 89/93

Donor ranking per capita: 68/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Philippines

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 35,859

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 29,982

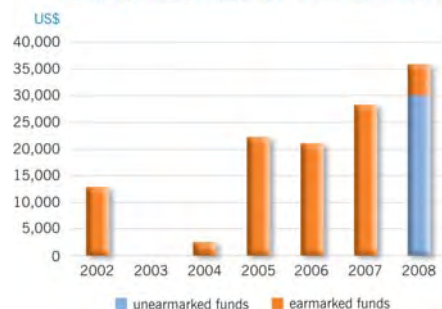
Donor ranking: 49/93

Donor ranking per capita: 71/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Poland

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 99,379

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 113,888 (CHF)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 99,379

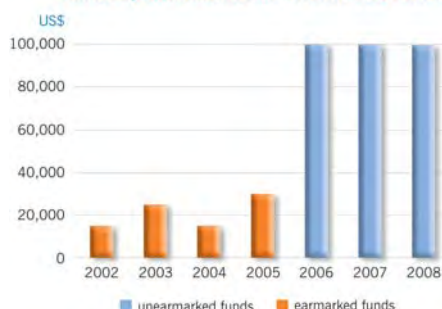
Donor ranking: 38/93

Donor ranking per capita: 47/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008





Portugal

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 80,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 80,000

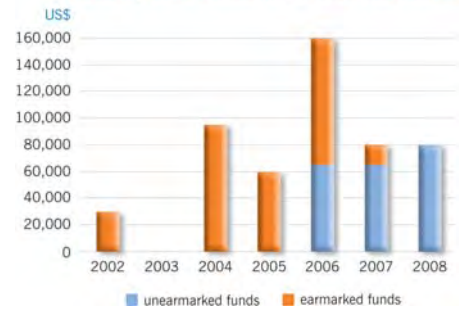
Donor ranking: 39/93

Donor ranking per capita: 35/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Qatar

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 30,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 30,000

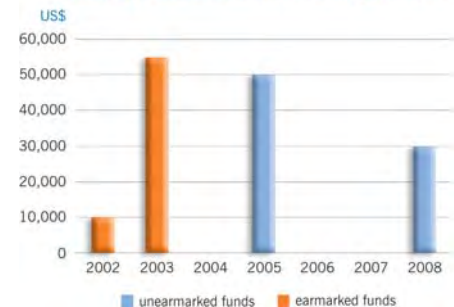
Donor ranking: 53/93

Donor ranking per capita: 27/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Russian Federation

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 2,000,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 500,000

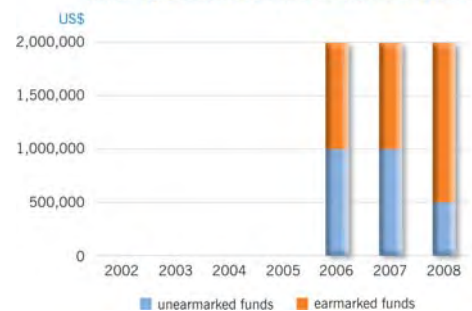
Donor ranking: 16/93

Donor ranking per capita: 33/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



San Marino

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 40,431

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 30,000 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

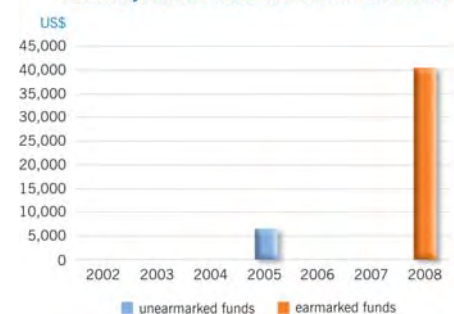
Donor ranking: 48/93

Donor ranking per capita: 4/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008





Saudi Arabia

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 150,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 50,000

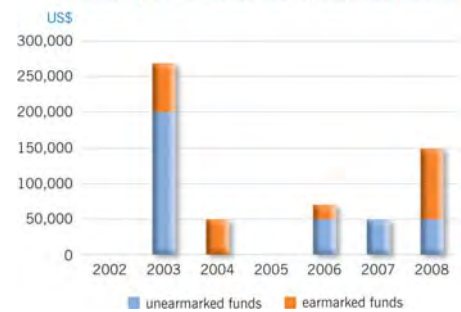
Donor ranking: 33/93

Donor ranking per capita: 42/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Serbia

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 5,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 2,500

Donor ranking: 78/93

Donor ranking per capita: 65/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Slovakia

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 9,569

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 10,000 (CHF)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 9,569

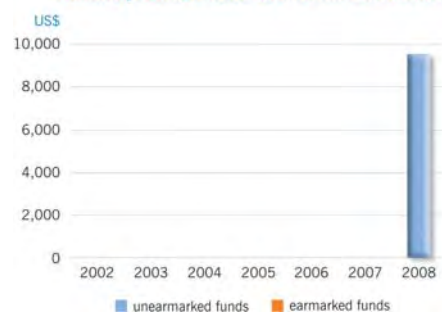
Donor ranking: 73/93

Donor ranking per capita: 52/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Slovenia

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 70,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

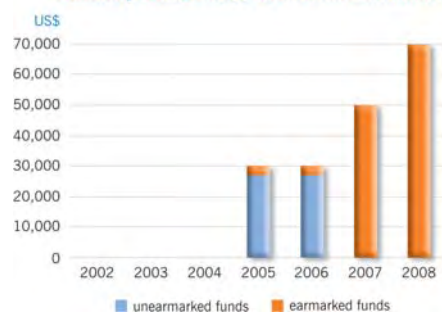
Donor ranking: 41/93

Donor ranking per capita: 28/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008





South Africa

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 56,994

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 57,105 (CHF)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 20,642

Donor ranking: 42/93

Donor ranking per capita: 61/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Spain

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 10,673,854

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 7,920,000 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 8,180,593

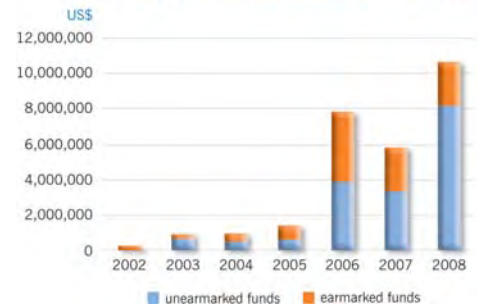
Donor ranking: 3/93

Donor ranking per capita: 14/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Sweden

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 8,687,174

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 52,500,000 (SEK)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 3,896,874

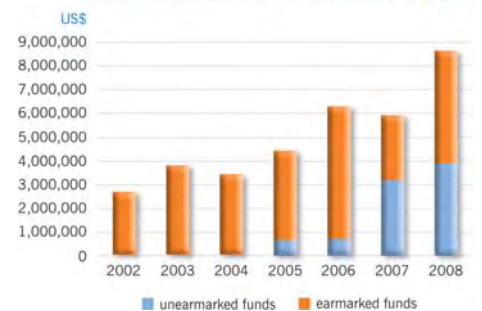
Donor ranking: 6/93

Donor ranking per capita: 6/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Switzerland

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 2,634,654

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 2,882,900 (CHF) + 65,000 (USD)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

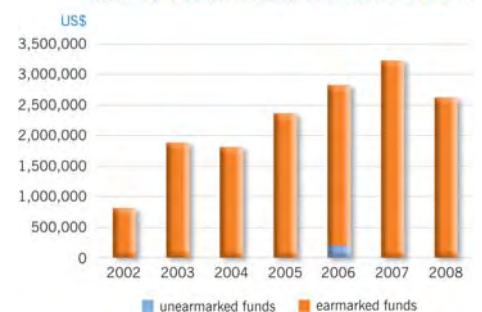
Donor ranking: 14/93

Donor ranking per capita: 13/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008





Thailand

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 27,752

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 3,000 (CHF) + 25,000 (USD)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 25,000

Donor ranking: 56/93

Donor ranking per capita: 69/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Turkey

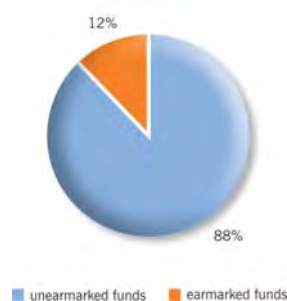
Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 171,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 150,000

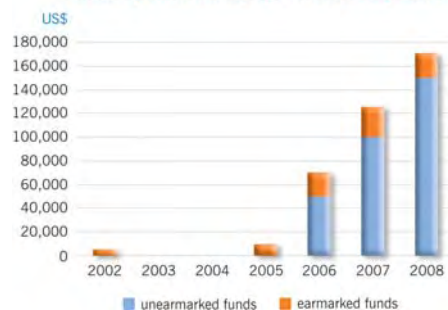
Donor ranking: 31/93

Donor ranking per capita: 50/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



United Arab Emirates

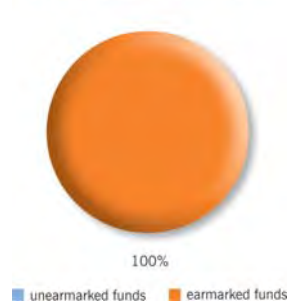
Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 29,977

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

Donor ranking: 54/93

Donor ranking per capita: 40/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



United Kingdom

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 7,087,518

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 3,560,000 (GBP)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 4,980,080

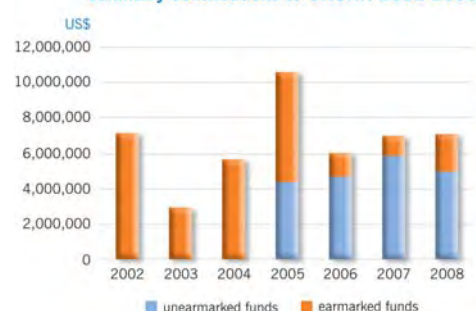
Donor ranking: 7/93

Donor ranking per capita: 17/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008





United States of America

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 15,300,058

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 6,943,300

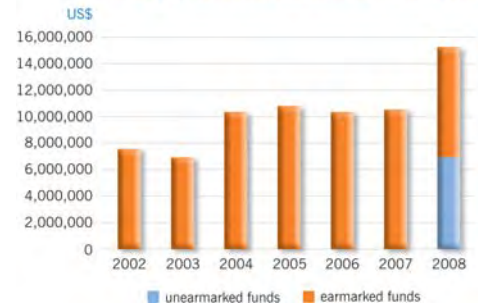
Donor ranking: 1/93

Donor ranking per capita: 23/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Uruguay

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 25,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 25,000

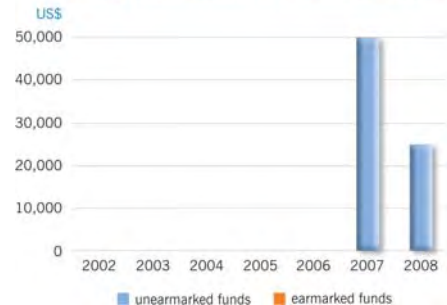
Donor ranking: 57/93

Donor ranking per capita: 36/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Uzbekistan

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 99,972

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 99,972

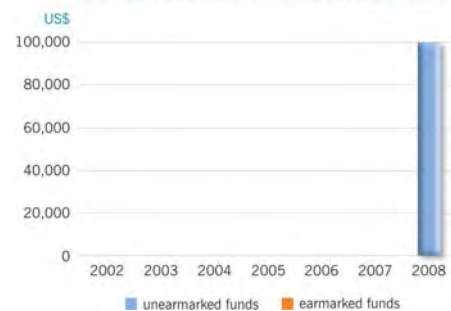
Donor ranking: 37/93

Donor ranking per capita: 44/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Vietnam

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 5,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 5,000

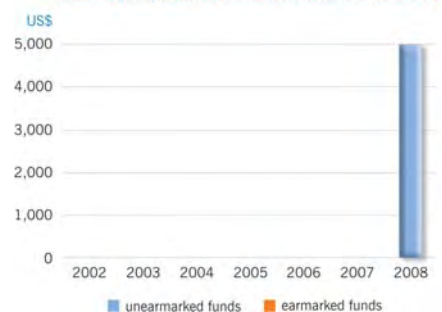
Donor ranking: 79/93

Donor ranking per capita: 78/82

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Intergovernmental Organizations



European Commission

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 10,462,070

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 6,911,967.92 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 5,247,813

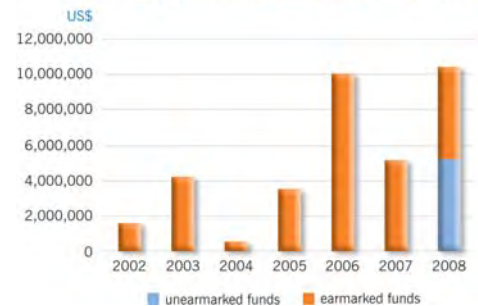
Donor ranking: 4/93

Donor ranking per capita: n/a

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 306,907

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 248,254.15 (EUR)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

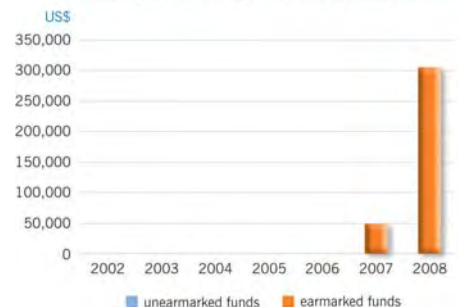
Donor ranking: 28/93

Donor ranking per capita: n/a

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



United Nations Development Programme

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 679,091

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

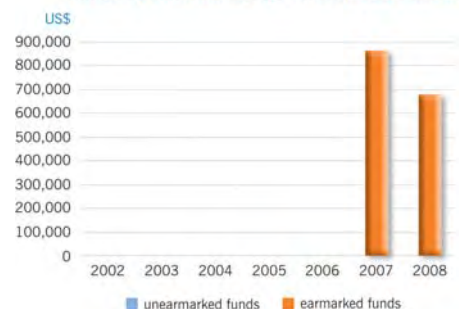
Donor ranking: 22/93

Donor ranking per capita: n/a

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 6,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

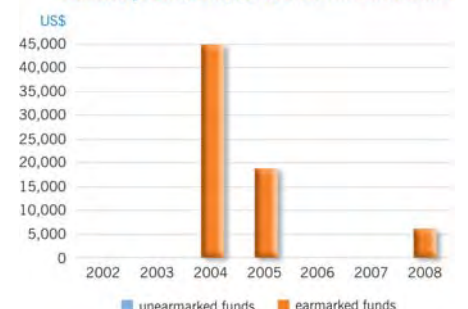
Donor ranking: 77/93

Donor ranking per capita: n/a

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008





United Nations Populations Fund

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 815,333

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

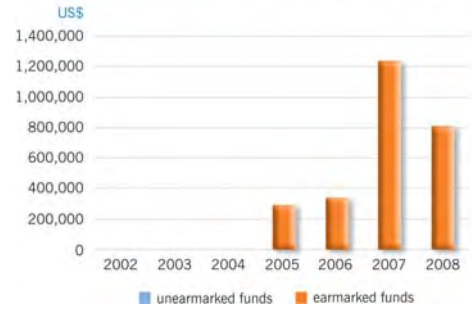
Donor ranking: 21/93

Donor ranking per capita: n/a

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



United Nations Development Fund for Women

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 45,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

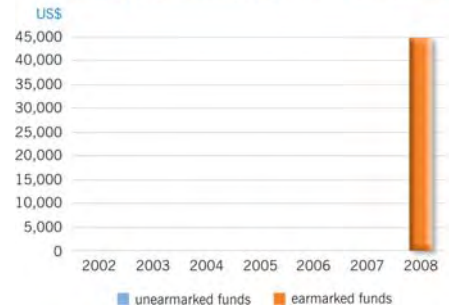
Donor ranking: 45/93

Donor ranking per capita: n/a

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 158,344

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

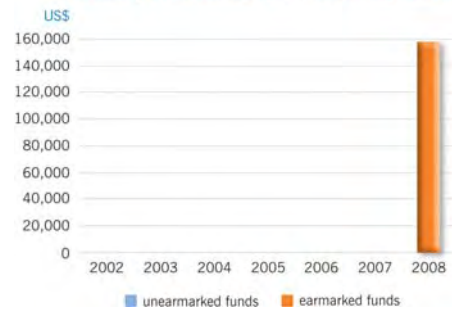
Donor ranking: 32/93

Donor ranking per capita: n/a

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Private Donors



MacArthur Foundation

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 600,000

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

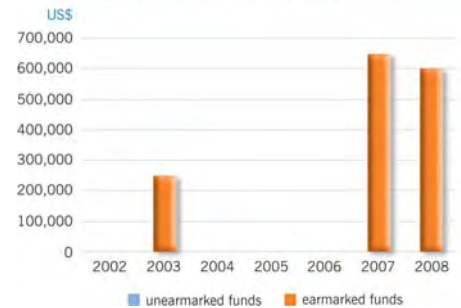
Donor ranking: 23/93

Donor ranking per capita: n/a

Level of earmarking in 2008



Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



Rights and Democracy

Total voluntary contribution in 2008, in USD: 129,757

Total voluntary contribution in currency of donation: 144,000 (CAD)

Unearmarked contribution in USD: 0

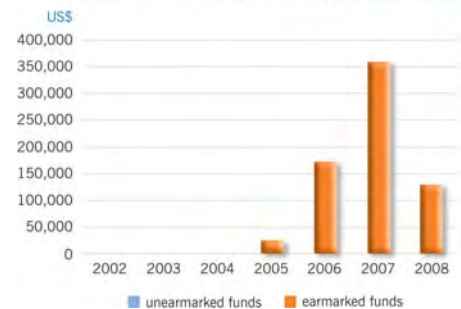
Donor ranking: 35/93

Donor ranking per capita: n/a

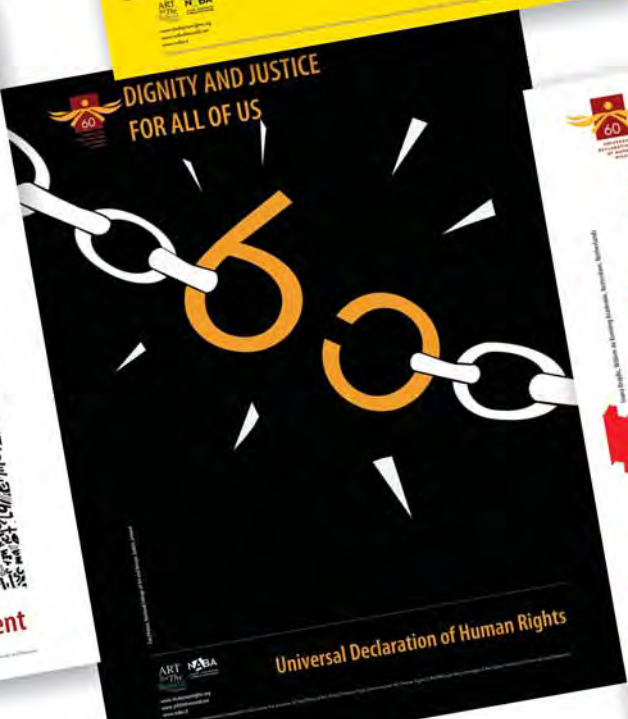
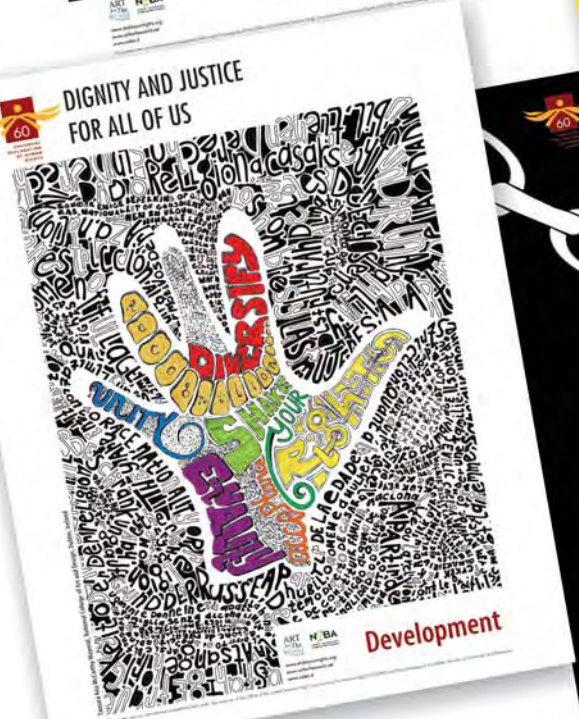
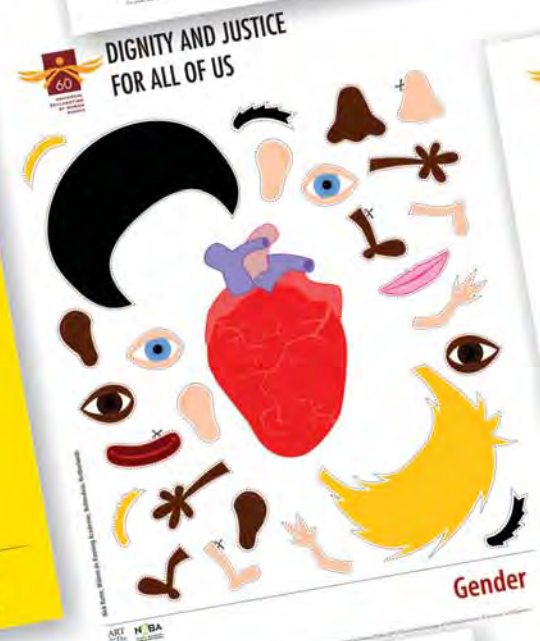
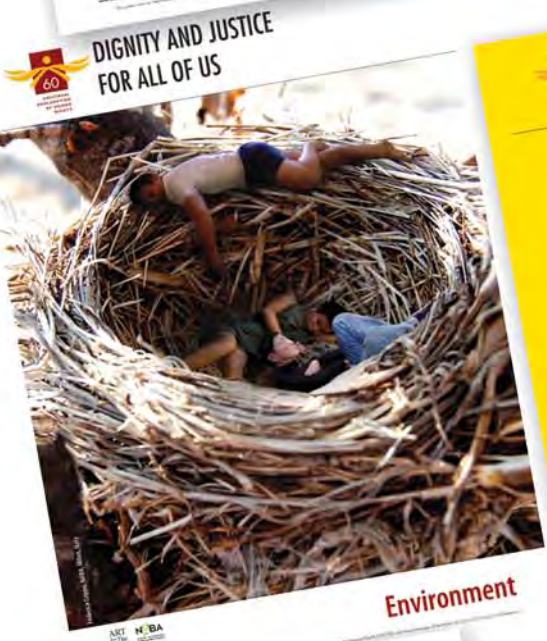
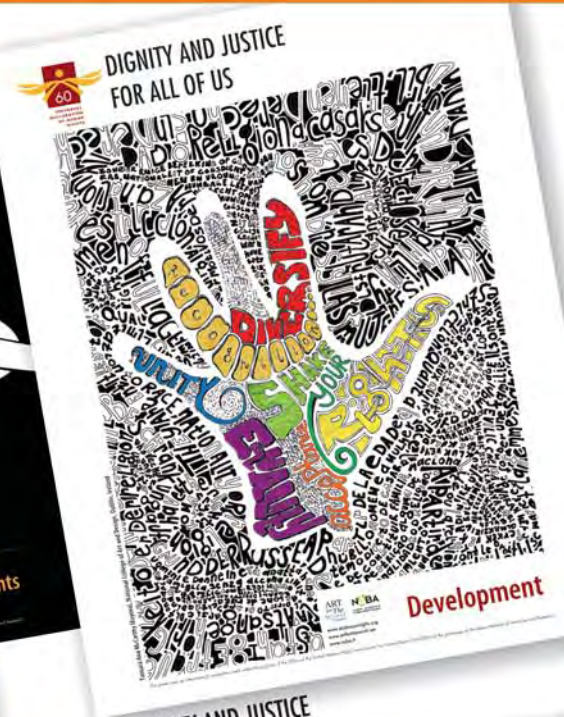
Level of earmarking in 2008



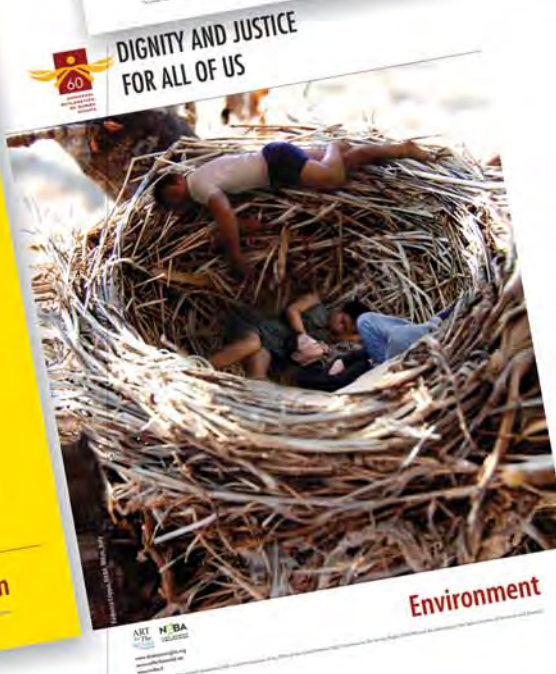
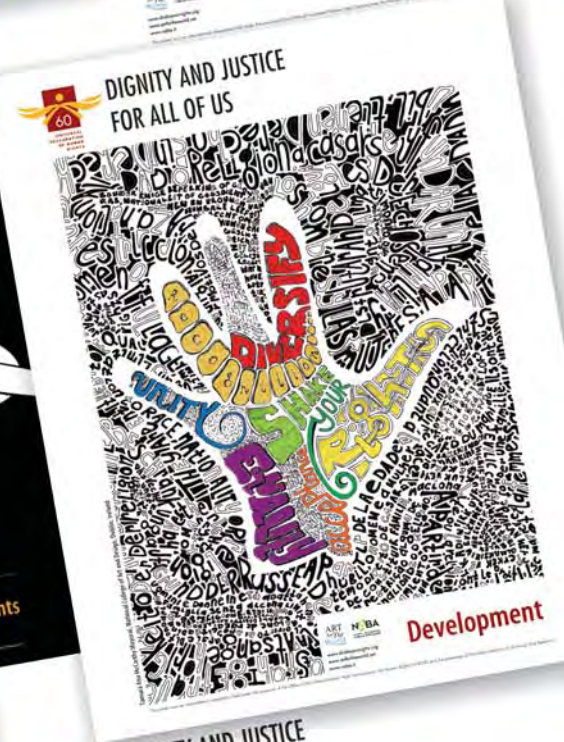
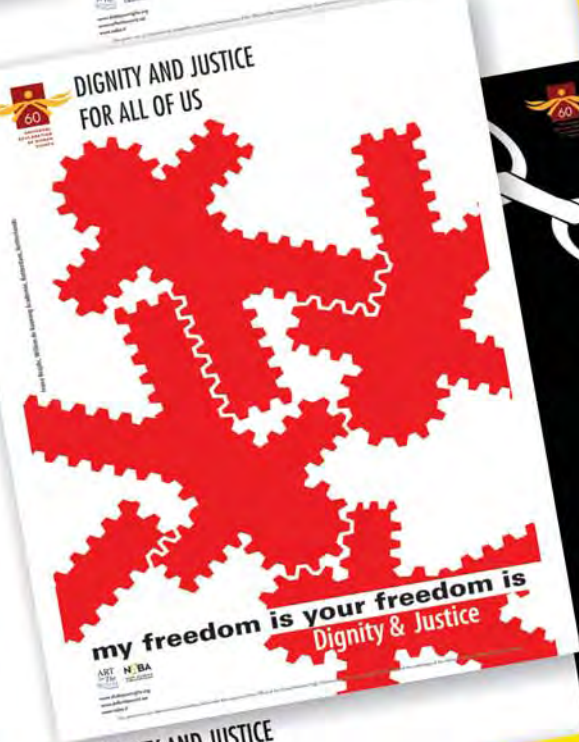
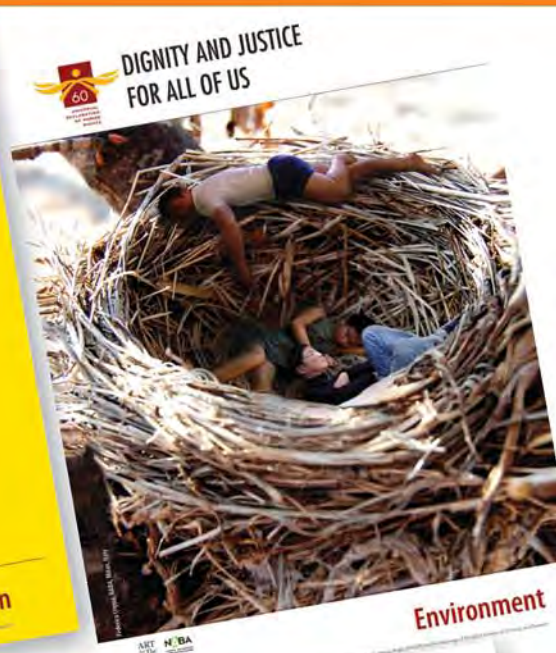
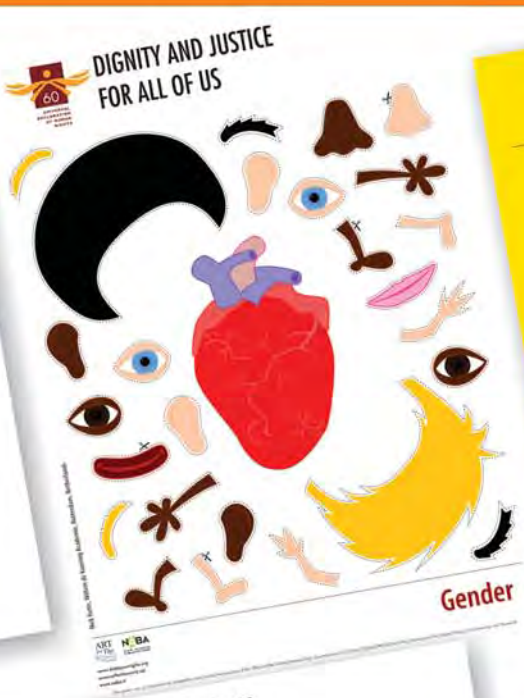
Voluntary contributions to OHCHR 2002-2008



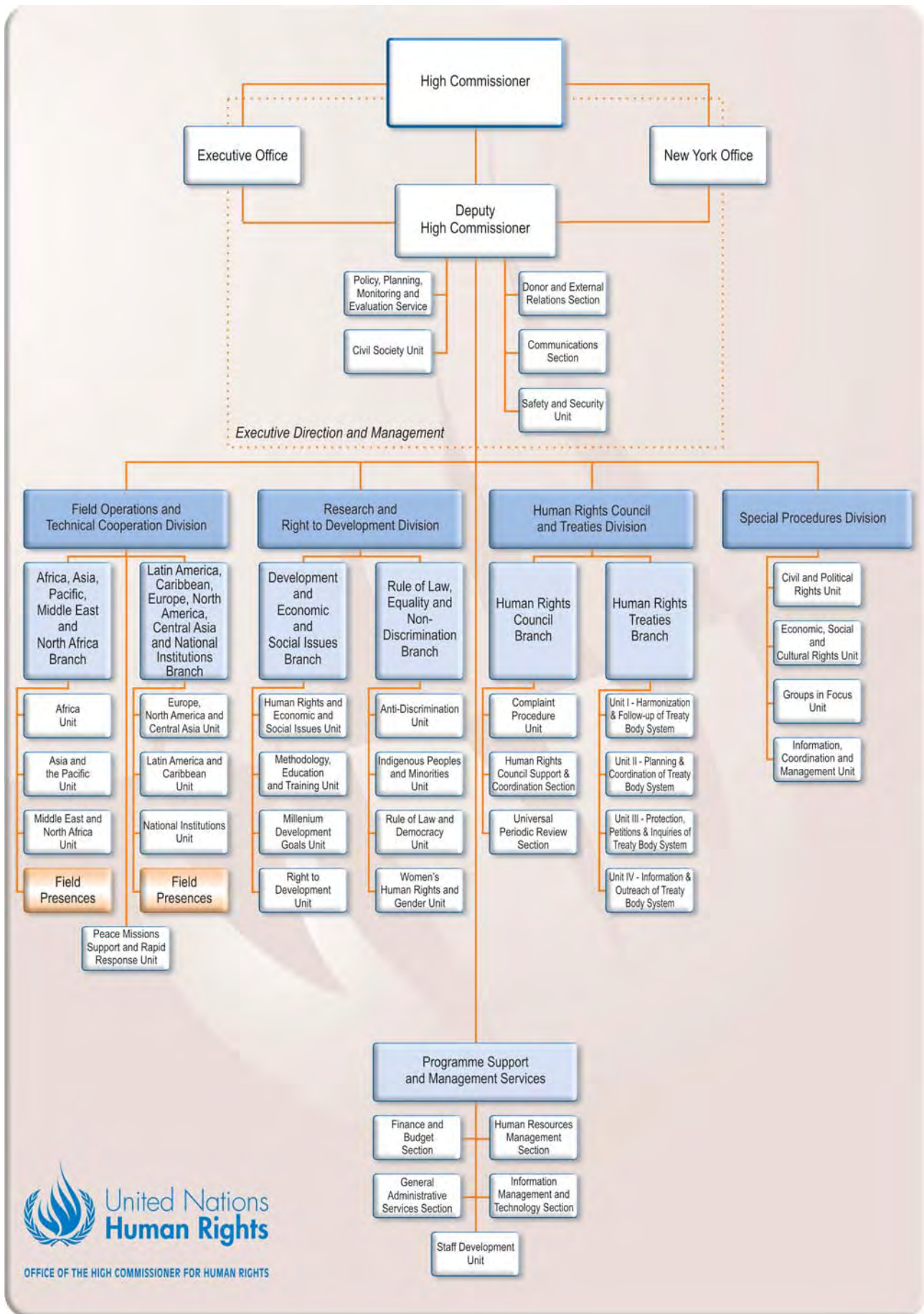
Selected posters from the "Shake your Rights" campaign celebrating the 60 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Over 200 students originating from more than 20 countries entered a competition spearheaded by the NGO Art for the World and the New School of Fine Arts in Milan, with the support of the Italian Ministry of University and Research and OHCHR. The designs were inspired by six themes inherent in the UDHR: culture, development, dignity and justice, environment, gender, and participation.



Annexes



Organizational Chart



OHCHR's Expected Accomplishments for 2008-2009 – Progress against indicators in 2008*

Expected Accomplishments	Global Level Indicators
1. Increased compliance with human rights standards by national institutions, laws and programmes.	1.1. Number of national human rights institutions by status, according to categorization established by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.
2. Increased compliance and engagement by governments with UN Human Rights Mechanisms and Bodies (Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures, Human Rights Council/Universal Periodic Review).	2.1. Number of countries that have issued standing invitations to special procedures.
	2.2. Number of countries which have allowed visits in response to all or most requests by special procedures.
	2.3. Percentage of special procedures communications substantially or fully replied to by Governments.
3. Increased ratification of international and human rights instruments and review of reservations.	3.1. Number of new ratifications of international human rights treaties.
	3.2. Number of countries that ratified one or more international human rights treaties.
	3.3. Number of countries that ratified one or both Covenants (the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights).
	3.4. Number of countries that removed one or more reservations to an international human rights treaty.
4. Justice and accountability mechanisms established and functioning in accordance with international human rights standards to monitor, investigate and redress civil and political, as well as economic, social and cultural human rights violations.	4.1. Number of countries where OHCHR has been engaged, that have functional mechanisms in place in accordance with international human rights standards to monitor, investigate and redress human rights violations.
5. Increased number of measures taken to improve access of marginalized and discriminated groups, and particularly women, to justice and basic services and to allow their participation in public policy, decision-making, and monitoring processes.	5.1. Number of countries where OHCHR has been engaged, that have introduced measures to allow participation of marginalized and discriminated groups, particularly women, in public policy, decision-making and monitoring processes.
	5.2. Number of countries where OHCHR has been engaged, that have introduced measures to improve access of marginalized and discriminated groups, particularly women, to justice and basic services.

* This table is based on the framework of expected accomplishments and indicators presented in the High Commissioner's Strategic Management Plan (SMP) for the 2008-2009 biennium (ref. page 24) and provides preliminary information on progress made at a global level during the first half of the biennium. More detailed information on the impact of OHCHR's work at a regional and national level is included elsewhere in this report, including in the chapter on OHCHR's work in the field. It should be noted that OHCHR is in the process of progressively implementing a performance monitoring system. In this context, the indicators proposed in the 2008-2009 SMP were subject to a thorough review in 2008 and some adjustments were made both in the framework and data collection arrangements. The table above therefore reports using most, although not all, the indicators proposed in the 2008-2009 SMP. Some additional indicators will be introduced in 2009 and 2010, by which time OHCHR will have in place all necessary elements of a comprehensive performance monitoring system.

Progress against indicators in 2008	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the end of 2008, 64 national human rights institutions had A-status (compared with 60 in 2007); 3 had A(R)-status (the same as in 2007); 13 had B-status (compared with 12 in 2007); and 8 had C-status (the same as in 2007). The A-status of one institution lapsed. The rigour and recognition of the accreditation process carried out by the International Coordinating Committee has increased over the past two years. The process is more transparent and participatory, taking into account input from civil society and others.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 63 countries issued standing invitations to special procedures in 2008, compared with 59 in 2007.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 49 countries received one or more requests to allow visits by special procedures mandate-holders, of which 32 responded positively to all or most such requests.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments replied to 34 per cent of communications sent by special procedures mandate-holders in 2008, compared with 32 per cent in 2007.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 ratifications were recorded in 2008, compared with 63 in 2007.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 64 countries ratified one or more treaties in 2008, the same number as in 2007.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 countries ratified at least one Covenant in 2008 (including 2 that ratified both), compared with 2 countries in 2007. One country ratified the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; 5 ratified the Second Optional Protocol.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 countries removed one or more reservations.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Africa: 13 (Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Mauritius, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Togo, Senegal, Somalia, Uganda, Zambia) Asia Pacific: 6 (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste). Europe, North America and Central Asia: 2 (Georgia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). Latin America and Caribbean: 12 (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Africa: 7 (Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda). Asia Pacific: 5 (Afghanistan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Timor-Leste). Europe, North America and Central Asia: 3 (Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan) Latin America and Caribbean: 6 (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama). Middle East and Northern Africa: 2 (Iraq, United Arab Emirates).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Africa: 5 (Cameroon, Comoros, Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius) Asia Pacific: 8 (Afghanistan, Australia, Cambodia, Nepal, New Zealand, Papua New-Guinea, Solomon Islands). Europe, North America and Central Asia: 3 (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). Latin America and Caribbean: 4 (Bolivia, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama). Middle East and Northern Africa: 2 (Egypt, Lebanon).



Expected Accomplishments	Global Level Indicators
<p>6. Increased number and diversity of rights holders and national human rights institutions and civil society actors acting on their behalf making use of UN Human Rights Mechanisms and Bodies (Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures, Human Rights Council/Universal Periodic Review).</p>	<p>6.1. Total number of submissions of substantive documents to UN human rights bodies.</p>
<p>7. International community increasingly aware, alert and responsive to critical human rights situations and issues.</p>	<p>7.1. Number of concrete actions by UN/regional intergovernmental bodies to address critical human rights situations and issues linked to OHCHR's work.</p>
<p>8. Increased integration of human rights standards and principles, including the right to development, into UN system policies and programmes with respect to development, humanitarian action, peace and security and economic and social issues.</p>	<p>8.1. Number and proportion of UN common country programmes and projects using in their programming treaty body, special procedures and Human Rights Council recommendations, as well as OHCHR guidelines.</p>
	<p>8.2. Number of relevant UN system agencies policy documents and key speeches of heads of UN agencies/departments which integrate human rights standards and principles with OHCHR support.</p>
<p>9. Enhanced coherence and consistency of UN Human Rights Mechanisms and Bodies.</p>	<p>9.1. Percentage of treaty bodies and special procedures recommendations taken up by the Human Rights Council in the context of the Universal Periodic Review.</p>
	<p>9.2. Number and proportion of countries which submitted common core documents in their most recent submission round.</p>
	<p>9.3. Number and percentage of the countries which submitted common core documents which conformed to the guidelines.</p>
	<p>9.4. Degree of progress made over preceding year in improving the level of coordination of special procedures mandate-holders' work as assessed by the mandate-holders.</p>
	<p>9.5. Degree of progress made over the preceding year in improving the level of harmonisation of treaty body work as assessed by treaty body chairs.</p>

Progress against indicators in 2008

- The total number of submissions: 5,676.
- Treaty bodies received and considered 461 documents from civil society organisations and 7 from national human rights institutions; as well as 156 admissible individual petitions out of 9,000 pieces of correspondence received.
- Special procedures received at least 911 communications from civil society organisations, national human rights institutions and individuals.
- During regular sessions of the Human Rights Council, NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC submitted 200 documents, whilst national human rights institutions submitted 11. In addition, the confidential complaint mechanism registered 3,270 communications in 2008. 91 of these were submitted by civil society organisations; the remaining 3,169 from individual authors, the majority in the form of mass communications.
- In the context of the Universal Periodic Review, 654 submissions were received from civil society organisations and 16 from national human rights institutions.

- 8 special events, discussions and panels in the framework of the Human Rights Council on integrating a gender perspective; human rights voluntary goals; missing persons; intercultural dialogue on human rights; the human rights of women including violence against women and maternal mortality; the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and the draft UN guidelines for the appropriate use and conditions of alternative care for children.
- 3 special sessions of the Human Rights Council on human rights violations emanating from Israeli military incursions in the occupied Palestinian territory; the situation of human rights in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and the right to food (the Council's first thematic special session).
- The High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness adopted the "Accra Agenda for Action" which ensures consistency with international human rights commitments of donors' aid and development policies.
- The International Task Team on HIV-related Travel Restrictions issued recommendations on monitoring the human rights impact of HIV-specific restriction on entry, stay and residence.
- OHCHR also addressed other events organized by inter-governmental bodies to instill a human rights perspective, including on climate change (such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference in Poznan, the International Organization for Migration Conference on Climate Change and Migration) and the food crisis (the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Special Rapporteur on the right to food to Food and Agriculture Organization's High-level Conference on World Food Security; and Special Rapporteur's address to the Economic and Social Council's Special Session on the Global Food Crisis).

- UN country teams in 7 Common Country Assessment/UN Development Assistance Framework roll-out countries included references to relevant recommendations from UN human rights mechanisms and bodies. In addition, OHCHR field presences were involved into mainstreaming human rights in the work of UN country teams and individual agencies, where required.

- 10 major policy documents, position statements and guidelines integrating human rights concerns were adopted by other UN and multilateral development agencies.

- Approximately 30 per cent of recommendations were referred to by members and observers of the Human Rights Council in the context of the Universal Periodic Review.

- 5 countries submitted common core documents in 2008, compared with 4 in 2007.

- 4 of the 5 common core documents submitted conformed to the guidelines, as determined by treaty bodies.

- A revised Manual of Special Procedures and an Internal Advisory Procedure on practices and working methods was adopted at the annual meeting of the Coordinating Committee.
- Special procedures issued 177 press statements in 2008, of which 25 jointly by two or more mandate-holders; in 2007 154 press statements were issued, of which 59 were issued jointly.

- 3 treaty bodies adopted treaty-specific guidelines, which complement the existing guidelines for the common core document. This will help States Parties that have submitted a common core document to prepare targeted treaty-specific reports.
- During 2008 two inter-committee meetings of human rights treaty bodies were convened. In this context, agreement was reached on priorities for harmonization and on the establishment of a working group on follow-up.

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