**Preliminary mapping of the work of OHCHR**

**on and with local and regional governments**

(TESPRDD/ DESIB/ HRESIS, 29 October 2021)

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# Introduction

In recent years, OHCHR and human rights mechanisms have been increasingly engaging with cities, local and regional governments through their work in the field and Headquarters. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted their critical role in protecting and promoting human rights at the local level.

In order to develop the work of the Office in this area and identify promising practices and needs, the focal point in HRESIS initiated an internal mapping.

On 15 April 2021, an All-Staff message was sent requesting colleagues to share their experience of engaging with local governments, lessons learnt and current or planned collaboration with these entities.

The message requested responses to the following questions:

1. Please indicate whether and if so when you (or your office) have engaged with regional, local and city authorities, including townhalls, local ombudspersons, public service providers, etc.
2. Please describe the nature of this engagement (themes, specific rights, groups or situation) and with what entity (ies) you interacted.
3. What was the outcome/lessons learned?
4. Are you (or your office) planning any engagement with regional, local or city authorities this year or near future? If yes, on what topic?
5. Your contact details.

A limited – but high quality – number of responses were received. We also conducted additional individual interviews with colleagues and requested information from the PPMES database.

We are envisaging the carry out an online survey and continue carrying out individual interviews when opportune.

Below is a summary of responses received from this initial phase.

# Field Presences

## **Madagascar**

Type of presence: Human Rights Adviser

Cities/regions: Several

#### Engagement with local governments

The Office conducted human rights capacity-building workshops for the benefit of 180 local authorities, including city mayors and community-based leaders within 7 cities of the country. Creation of the Human Rights Wing of the Ombudsman Library.

Training session on human rights for the benefit of the Ombudsman.

#### Nature of the engagement

Introduction to human rights; international, regional and national mechanisms of human rights protection; Introduction to Human Rights Based Approach; as well as the Role of local authorities in the promotion and protection of human rights. OHCHR offered technical support in drafting action plans which will allow them to inter alia uphold human rights standards in their daily activities, and to integrate human rights and gender principles into their local development plans

#### Lessons learned

Does not mention

#### Future engagements

OHCHR will enhance the Ombudsman’s capacity in protecting children’s rights while supporting the carrying out of a large campaign of information on the Institution’s mandate and mission within some regions of the country.

## **G5 SAHEL Project team**

Type of presence: Other

Cities/regions: Bassikounou, Nema, N’Bekeit Lawasch, Hodh el Chargui

#### Engagement with local governments

Capacity building activities.

OHCHR interacts with the Commissaire and the Regisseur monthly by phone to get information about arrests and community tensions. OHCHR works closely with the Comités villageois during monitoring activities. The Committees are 51 representatives from villages around the refugee camp, including villages near the Malian borders.

In Niger, OHCHR G5 Sahel has engaged with department authorities in Tera, regarding the follow-up of allegations of sexual violence committed by elements of the newly deployed Joint Force G5 Chadian 8th Battalion stationed in the area

#### Nature of the engagement

Several

#### Lessons learned

For the moment, the relation with local government authorities varies from country to country, depending on the different circumstances and the realities of each region, considering OHCHR constraints.

#### Future engagements

OHCHR hopes to strengthen relationships with Mauritanian local authorities in the upcoming monitoring missions in July, September and November and to include them as much as possible in all capacity-building activities

OHCHR G5 Sahel plans to start interacting with local authorities in Tibesti (Joint force G5 Sahel Chadian battalion area of operations) and to set up some local consultation discussions on the compliance framework

## **Haiti**

Type of presence: Human Rights Components in UN Peace Missions

Cities/regions: Tabarre Issa

#### Engagement with local governments

There were some interactions with the local authorities regarding recent incidents relating to the displacement of households, through the UNCT and protection group. In particular, there were initiative regarding the recent displacement of approximately 2500 people from a site occupied by IDPs since the 2010 earthquake (Tabarre Issa), as well as discussions surrounding assistance to roughly 400 households displaced from a Port-au-Prince neighborhood due to gang violence (Bel-Air).

The government with the support of OIM is about to relocate the IDPs from bel air while assessments are underway for the relocation of those from Tabarre Issa.

#### Nature of the engagement

NR

#### Lessons learned

NR

#### Future engagements

NR

## **Mexico**

Type of presence: Country Office

Cities/regions: Oaxaca, Coahuila, Mexico City, Querétaro, Jalisco, Tabasco, Chiapas, Campeche, Yucatán

#### Engagement with local governments

Multiple on several issues: Human rights indicators, Business and Human Rights, Person with Disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, Access to Justice, Enforced disappearances, use of force, women's rights, HR public policies, Democratic space, LGBT rights.

#### Nature of the engagement

Accompaniment, indicators, monitoring, consultations, technical assistance, technical cooperation

#### Lessons learned

Very insightful lessons learned at most levels of coordination with local governments. Refer to the Annex to see the full responses, being this an example: all local level actors have interest in establishing transparency and accountability mechanisms; they are interested in implementing OHCHR methodology and use it as a guiding instrument for measurement and evaluation of policies. The major obstacle however, for advancing with the generation of all defined indicators is the lack of statistical systems and resources for putting such systems in place. Furthermore, local governments require substantive time to propose and obtain budget for data collection, data processing and analysis.

#### Future engagements

In most areas

## **Uganda**

Type of presence: Country Office

Cities/regions: Kampala, Gulu, Acholi, Karamoja

#### Engagement with local governments

Yes, with the Office of the Prime Minister, local authorities, communities, Ugandan Human Rights Commission, Equal Opportunities Commission, National Council for Persons with Disabilities, UN agencies, Human rights desks of local districts, District local governments including heads of departments, technical officers and district/local councils

#### Nature of the engagement

localization of SDGs, capacity building and training, information spreading, awareness raising, technical guidance, gender issues, equality, non-discrimination,

#### Lessons learned

In Karamoja, coordination between OHCHR and local authorities has improved owing to the these training. This in turn has promoted a sense of trust in OHCHR and in certain districts the formulation of proactive strategies to address the human rights situation, which contributed to improvement in the general human rights situation.

Building relationships takes time and requires commitment from both sides to understand each other, including structural constraints. Working at the policy and technical level ensures ownership and can lead to successful implementation of the projects.

#### Future engagements

Not mentioned

## **Ukraine**

Type of presence: Country Office

Cities/regions: Kharkiv, Kyiv

#### Engagement with local governments

HRMMU’s field offices regularly interact with local authorities to advocate for the inclusion of a human rights agenda in the policies and development strategies. At the field office level, HRMMU is in regular contact with mayor’s office(s), provincial, district and village level local authorities, advocating for them to take a stronger role in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Engagement with: heads of Civil-Military Administrations, regional Departments for Social Protection on issues related to persons with disabilities; GBV;

advocacy on individual cases; with the representative of Ombudsperson’s office for the Luhansk and Donetsk regions on all human rights issues ranging from administration of justice to GBV; advocacy on individual cases; the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine’s eastern directorate on freedom of movement across the contact line; city-level employment centers on access to their services among the vulnerable groups of population; State-run healthcare facilities and their staff on the rights of medical workers to social protection, favorable conditions of work, persons with disabilities.

#### Nature of the engagement

HRMMU distributes relevant guidance notes to regional and local authorities. At the Kyiv level, HRMMU also invited regional and local authorities to relevant online public events, namely the public launches of the Briefing Notes on the impact of COVID-19 on homeless persons, persons with disabilities and healthcare workers and to a webinar on best practices to count homeless persons.

Advocacy.

#### Lessons learned

Direct engagement with regional, local and city authorities has proven to have impact. Shows concrete results (refer to the Annex to view the full list)

#### Future engagements

In light of the success of its engagement with regional, local and city authorities, HRMMU plans to continue this going forward:

• In Kyiv, advocacy will continue with national authorities, aimed at the adoption of a unified procedure for the opening and operation at the local level of heating points used by homeless persons during colder months; continue advocacy with the local authorities to fund shelters, and establish other social services for homeless people; advocacy with national and local authorities, to ensure collecting data on homeless people;

Field offices will also continue to work with local and city authorities on issues of key concern for HRMMU – such as better protection of IDPs, homeless persons and persons with disabilities, access to subsidies, utility prices, social security, employment opportunities for vulnerable groups of population, access to education for the most vulnerable.

Additional note:

The country Office has recently initiated a project on human rights budgeting for social protection with 10 municipalities in Ukraine. The project should be starting in 2022.

## **Uruguay**

Type of presence: Human Rights Adviser

Cities/regions: Montevideo

#### Engagement with local governments

Firstly as a focal point for the regional office, following up on Habitat 3, through the Cities Conference, inclusive cities and SDG 11.

Then, having contact with the ombudsman of Montevideo. The closest work is with Montevideo, as it has half of the population. Campaign Free and Equal (2019 and 2020), now Leave No One Behind (2021), which will be transmitted in national television, unprecedented initiative.

However, there is no unique project working with local governments, rather engagement through other works.

#### Nature of the engagement

Conferences, capacity building on HRs standards related to HRA, dialogues, SDGs.

#### Lessons learned

With each new administration it is quite often that we need to start from scratch. It would be fantastic to make available the tool kit in Spanish and in a friendly version… also a possible short self managed course (online) could be great. We could support this. An introductory course to the RAH. Because very often, new decision makers have a very vague idea of Human Rights, for which it complicates the relationship with local governments. Capacity building is thus crucial in basic terms and Human Rights explanation. Formation facilitates a Human Rights approach in local governments.

#### Future engagements

on discrimination with other agencies and local governments. In particular HRs standards.

There is a collaborative work planned with UN Women and UNHCR, in topics like discrimination and Human Rights in general, but there is no resources.

## **Yemen**

Type of presence: Country office

Cities/regions: Aden

#### Engagement with local governments

Issues like freedom of peaceful assembly, security and others being discussed with local governments

#### Nature of the engagement

Meetings with governors on various issues

#### Lessons learned

In fragmented countries with weak central government, the governors hold at least as much power as Ministers and advocacy with them can pay off to intervene on small or large issues

#### Future engagements

We shall continue to seize opportunities and special attention would be given to the Governors as they are able to have impact, this is the less the case of District Directors whose mandate is more narrow and who have no resources either.

# Headquarters

## **Disability**

Headquarters, disability advisor

Cities/regions: Barcelona, Girona(Spain); Buenos Aires (Argentina)

#### Engagement with local governments

Barcelona’s focal point on disability; Buenos Aires focal point on disability, autonomy and independent life; Girona mental health and support services

#### Nature of the engagement

Barcelona: support the development of personal assistance services adopted in 2020

Buenos Aires: support the development of the independent living pilot project adopted in 2018. Worked with the Commission for the Full Participation and Inclusion of People.

Girona: practice evaluation on mental health territorial support. There was a good and stable work relationship. Tangible outcomes out of the joint work are starting to show up, legal and practices protecting persons with disabilities.

#### Lessons learned

The work carried out with local governments was mainly if it was crucial for the working program (if without the local government the issue could not advance).

In several issues, the work would mainly consist as an enabler, bringing parts together that would not meet otherwise. Facilitating dialogues and consensus.

Barcelona: the city adopted the personal assistance program, it was approved by the government and is currently in the inception phase

Girona: after evaluating and qualifying the practice as good practice, OHCHR developed a standing collaboration with the main service provider, the organization ‘SUPPORT’. This was the closest collaboration from the 3, as in Barcelona and Buenos Aires, the collaboration was based mainly for facilitating dialogues.

#### Future engagements

Yes, we are working on a strategy, ‘Community 2030’, to bring together under one platform all stakeholders that can deliver for ensuring the right to live in the community. The strategy has a global and a local dimension. The local community 2030 chapters are expected to be developed at municipality level, with connection to regional and national stakeholders depending on the scope of policy development. OHCHR entered in a partnership with the International Paralympic Committee to work collaboratively in cities where the Paralympic Games will be delivered.

It is the most relevant work so far, with a ten 10 working plan. The work with local governments will be very important, and strategies are developed to have talks with governments. For example, in Beijing the government will be approached throughout the “support technologies” issue, which would be attractive for them but which will then open doors to other issues.

# Human Rights Mechanisms

## **Special rapporteur on Cultural Rights**

#### Engagement with local governments

a.       Regularly during official country visits of the SR

b.       Through the UCLG activities relating to culture in sustainable development, through participation in their conferences and meeting, both as office and with the SR

c.       With the city of Geneva’s declaration on cities committed to the protection of cultural heritage, adopted in 2018 with the signature of the former HC, as office ([Déclaration de Genève | Ville de Genève - Site officiel (geneve.ch)](https://www.geneve.ch/fr/themes/geneve-internationale/declaration-geneve))

#### Nature of the engagement

With the SR, on cultural rights and local participation in cultural processes; interacted with mayors of cities and /or traditional authorities and their offices

Culture in sustainable development, interacted with representative of cities members of the UCLG and the coordination office

Cultural rights to access and enjoy heritage; interaction with the office of the Mayor of Geneva, as initiators of the projects

#### Lessons learned

No Response

#### Future engagements

No Response

# Annex 1

### Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine engagement with Local Governments

Through its six field offices, the Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) has had regular contact with regional, local and city authorities since its establishment in 2014, notably in relation to conflict-related human rights violations. In addition to this, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, HRMMU has increased its work on economic and social rights, focusing on groups in vulnerable situations, which in turn, has allowed it to expand its advocacy to new stakeholders, including amongst regional, local and city authorities.

More detail on these activities is provided below.

1. **Please indicate whether and if so when you (or your office) have engaged with regional, local and city authorities, including townhalls, local ombudspersons, public service providers, etc.**

HRMMU’s field offices regularly interact with local authorities to advocate for the inclusion of a human rights agenda in the policies and development strategies.

In the conflict-affected regions of Ukraine (the Luhansk and Donetsk regions), in order to fulfil its mandate, HRMMU regularly engages with heads of Civil-Military Administrations (which replaced locally-elected governments in settlements where local election did not take place due to the ongoing conflict); regional Departments for Social Protection; a representative of Ombudsperson’s office (Ukraine’s A-accredited national human rights institution) for the Luhansk and Donetsk regions; the State Border Guards Service of Ukraine’s regional directorate in Kramatorsk; city-level employment centres; state-run healthcare facilities and their staff; regional and settlement-level law enforcement bodies; and the judiciary. This take place through HRMMU’s field office in Kramatorsk and Mariupol.

In the rest of the country, through HRMMU’s field offices in Odesa and Kharkiv, HRMMU engages with

the regional Prosecutor's Offices and the national police on various issues, such as violations of Roma rights, LGBTI rights, rights of people with disabilities, investigations of torture and ill-treatment, including by law-enforcement agencies, pressure against civic space activists, including environmental rights' activists and people who promote gender and women's rights.

HRMMU’s human rights concerns are also communicated to regional penitentiary services, as well as regional State Security Services, notably on treatment of detainees, conditions of detention and cases of pressure being applied to self-incriminate. Similarly to the conflict-affected parts of the country, HRMMU is in regular contact with regional representatives of the Ombudsperson's Office, notably on issues relating to civic space, hate speech, gender and women's rights, as well as other various economic, social and cultural rights, in particular related to the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on vulnerable groups.

Lastly, HRMMU’s field office in Kharkiv has positive examples of successful advocacy vis-a-vis the Regional State Administration in Kharkiv, as well as various city councils on issues related to Roma rights, rights of IDPs and homeless people, including from a prevention and peacebuilding perspective.

From HRMMU’s head office in Kyiv, HRMMU has engaged with regional and local authorities, as described in further detail below.

1. **Please describe the nature of this engagement (themes, specific rights, groups or situation) and with what entity (ies) you interacted.**

Aiming to effect change at the regional and local level, HRMMU distributes relevant guidance notes to regional and local authorities. For example, from HRMMU’s head office in Kyiv, HRMMU distributed its four Briefing Notes on the impact of COVID-19 on groups in vulnerable situations ([Roma](http://www.un.org.ua/images/documents/4932/BN%20C19%20Roma%20ENG.pdf), [homeless persons](https://ukraine.un.org/index.php/en/106574-briefing-note-impact-covid-19-and-its-prevention-measures-homeless-people-ukraine), [persons with disabilities](https://ukraine.un.org/en/99869-briefing-note-impact-covid-19-pandemic-persons-disabilities-ukraine), and [healthcare workers](https://ukraine.un.org/index.php/en/124052-briefing-note-impact-covid-19pandemic-healthcare-workers-ukraine)) to the regional authorities and local authorities of cities with over 100,000 residents in Ukraine.

At the Kyiv level, HRMMU also invited regional and local authorities to relevant online public events, namely the public launches of the Briefing Notes on the impact of COVID-19 on homeless persons, persons with disabilities and healthcare workers and to a webinar on best practices to count homeless persons. The number of participants from local and regional level authorities across the country in these events clearly demonstrated their interest in human rights-related issues.

In the context of a potential escalation of a hate speech incident involving a communal enterprise in Ivano-Frankivsk on 18 November 2020, which carried a high risk of violence against Roma, HRMMU sought the intervention of the UN Resident Coordinator to speak to an advisor to the mayor of Ivano-Frankivsk city. HRMMU also sent an advocacy letter to the mayor about the incident, preventing an escalation of the situation and violence against Roma.

Similarly on 16 February 2021, HRMMU sent an advocacy letter to the National Police in Lviv, copying the Regional Ombudsperson’s Office to attract attention to incidents of online discrimination and hate speech that risked escalating and resulting in violence against Roma in that region.

HRMMU also translated and distributed the COVID-19 Guidance by the Special Rapporteur on the right to housing on the protection of homeless persons, the OHCHR guidance on COVID-19 and persons with disabilities and excerpts of the UN policy brief on the impact of COVID-19 on older persons with recommendations to the Ministry of Social Policy, which shared them with its regional departments.

From Kyiv, HRMMU sent advocacy letters to regional and city authorities to ensure access of homeless people to shelters and basic social services in fourteen regions throughout Ukraine. In addition, on 13 October 2020, HRMMU had a meeting with the Deputy Head of the Kyiv City State Administration on ensuring the rights of homeless people during the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular, the right to shelter, medical assistance, access to water and hygiene, and livelihood opportunities.

At the field office level, HRMMU is in regular contact with mayor’s office(s), provincial, district and village level local authorities, advocating for them to take a stronger role in the promotion and protection of human rights.  For example, during a meeting with representatives of Mariupol City Council on 15 January 2020 (held by the field office in Mariupol), HRMMU advocated for human rights protection and promotion to be included in Mariupol city’s Strategy of Opportunities up to 2030. HRMMU also increased the City Council’s awareness of the role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights by providing them with the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee’s *Final report on the Role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights*.

In conflict-affected eastern Ukraine (the Luhansk and Donetsk regions), HRMMU (through its field office in Kramatorsk and Mariupol) regularly engages with:

* heads of Civil-Military Administrations on issues related to preparedness for overall humanitarian and security situation in the settlements along the contact line, COVID-19 mitigation and preparedness measures, compensation for destroyed property, civilian casualties, damage to civilian objects due to the conflict;
* regional Departments for Social Protection on issues related to persons with disabilities; GBV; advocacy on individual cases;
* with the representative of Ombudsperson’s office for the Luhansk and Donetsk regions on all human rights issues ranging from administration of justice to GBV; advocacy on individual cases (which is also carried out by field offices outside of the conflict zone);
* the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine’s eastern directorate on freedom of movement across the contact line;
* city-level employment centers on access to their services among the vulnerable groups of population;
* State-run healthcare facilities and their staff on the rights of medical workers to social protection, favorable conditions of work, persons with disabilities.

**What was the outcome/lessons learned?**

Direct engagement with regional, local and city authorities has proven to have  impact. The following provide examples of where this engagement yielded concrete results:

* Following HRMMU advocacy, the Kyiv City State Administration (KSCA) established a Coordination Council with participation of civil society organisations to better coordinate assistance provided to homeless people in Kyiv, consisting of some 15 representatives of civil society.
* In January 2021, HRMMU’s advocacy (through its field office in Kharkiv) with the local authorities in Sumy facilitated the unfreezing of funds for the Center for Reintegration of homeless people, and restoration of its operations as a shelter. Currently, HRMMU continues it advocacy to ensure, in particular, that the centre complies with COVID-19 prevention measures, and provides homeless people with healthcare services.
* In February 2021, following HRMMU advocacy (by the field office in Mariupol), local authorities in Zaporizhzhia opened a municipal centre for the homeless providing decent conditions and potentially saving lives during the harsh winter months.
* In November 2020, as a result of advocacy by HRMMU’s field office in Kramatorsk, the employment centre in Toretsk (in Government-controlled Donetsk region) established a dialogue with a local Roma community, who previously were not able to access the services provided by the employment centre.
* Advocacy led by the field office in Kramatorsk with local authorities since 2018 contributed to the delineation of the grounds belonging to a school from the Ukrainian Armed Forces base in Muratove (in Government-controlled Luhansk region) in 2020.
* Advocacy led by the field office in Kramatorsk with the Ukrainian armed forces stationed on the contact line contributed to lifting of freedom of movement restrictions to/from the contact line settlement of Pischane (in Government-controlled Luhansk region), in March 2020.
* In 2020, multiple written enquiries and advocacy letters on the issue of homelessness were sent to the Kramatorsk City Council, which contributed to the development and adoption of a set of social protection measures for the homeless in 2021-2023 and the creation of a working group to implement these measures by the local authorities.
* Interventions by HRMMU and the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office regarding the Ivano-Frankivsk incident of hate speech against Roma in November 2020 are assessed as having contributed to preventing an escalation of the situation and violence against Roma by calling high-level attention to it. Furthermore, in response to HRMMU’s advocacy letter, Ivano-Frankivsk city authorities assured that the communal enterprise would no longer engage in actions perceived as discriminatory. Discriminatory posts and comments from a group directly associated with the municipal enterprise have also been removed from the internet as a result of HRMMU advocacy.
* As a result of HRMMU intervention in the case of online hate speech against Roma in Lviv in February 2021, the situation was de-escalated and the tension eased, hence, preventing violence against Roma.

1. **Are you (or your office) planning any engagement with regional, local or city authorities this year or near future? If yes, on what topic?**

In light of the success of its engagement with regional, local and city authorities, HRMMU plans to continue this going forward. More concretely, the following actions are currently planned:

* In Kyiv, advocacy will continue with national authorities, aimed at the adoption of a unified procedure for the opening and operation at the local level of heating points used by homeless persons during colder months; continue advocacy with the local authorities to fund shelters, and establish other social services for homeless people; advocacy with national and local authorities, to ensure collecting data on homeless people;
* Currently, HRMMU is conducting advocacy with the Kyiv City State Administration, concerning the planned reconstruction of a long-term care facility for women with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities to ensure that the city administration refrains from further institutionalisation of person with disabilities and redirects this funding to community-based housing and services for persons with disabilities in line with international human rights standards.
* Field offices will also continue to work with local and city authorities on issues of key concern for HRMMU – such as better protection of IDPs, homeless persons and persons with disabilities, access to subsidies, utility prices, social security, employment opportunities for vulnerable groups of population, access to education for the most vulnerable, access to services for residents of remote settlements along the contact line, freedom of movement across the contact line and to/from isolated villages, access to effective investigation.

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Prepared by HRMMU

4 May 2021

# Annex 2

### OHCHR Mexico work on and with local governments

As requested, please find below some OHCHR Mexico examples of local involvement. As Mexico is a federal state (with 32 states), OHCHR engages in the subnational level with state’s local authorities in our different prioritized areas of work.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Area of**  **work** | **Human Rights Indicators** | **Business & Human Rights** | **Persons with Disabilities** | **Indigenous people rights** | **Access to Justice** | **Enforced disappearances** | **Use of force** | **Democratic Space (HRD & FoE, FFA)** | **HR Public Policies** | **Women’s Rights** | **LGBTI Rights** |
| **Please indicate whether and if so when you (or your office) have engaged with regional, local and city authorities, including townhalls, local ombudspersons, public service providers, etc.** | On HR indicators for the adoption and implementation of OHCHR Methodology:  Mexico City Human Rights Commission; Judicial Power of Mexico City; all local Courts (32); Ministry of Public Security of Mexico City; Attorney General of Mexico City; Undersecretary of Penitentiary System of Mexico City.  For HR indicators in the context of HRAP:  Governments of the States of Oaxaca, Coahuila, Mexico City, Queretaro  VaW indicators  State of Jalisco  Evaluation mechanisms and indicators for Public Institutions´ Work Plans: Mexico City Council for Preventing Discrimination (COPRED) | Local ombudsperson | yes | From 2019 to 2021 OHCHR Mexico engaged with administrative authorities form Tabasco, Chiapas, Campeche, Yucatan, Quintana Roo, and also with the human rights institutions of those states |  | State prosecutors’ offices, state government officials, state congress. | OHCHR Mexico engaged in technical assistance projects with the government of Quintana Roo | The work of our unit "Democratic Space" implies liaising with local authorities on a daily basis. Most of the stakeholders we are in touch with include local Ombudsperson, Prosecutors, as well as local police and town hall officials. | OHCHR México developed a methodology for the drafting of local human rights assessments and plans. It required the participation of the three local powers (executive, legislative and judicial), local human rights institutions, academia and cso’s. OHCHR MEX accompanied several exercises (10), though not all successful. The most advanced one is in Mexico City. | OHCHR’s work on women rights and girls at the local level is framed under the accompaniment to gender alert mechanisms (GAM) in the states or to specific cases (mainly femicides).  On GAM we work with: governors’ office; prosecutors; secretariats of health; secretariats of finance; women’s rights secretariats or institutes; human rights commissions, academia and cso’s.  Furthermore, when related to specific cases of GBVaW, we relate mostly with the prosecution offices, rights of victims commissions, women’s rights secretariat or institutes; and the judiciary (local tribunal). | Ministry of health, Mexico City Council for Preventing Discrimination (COPRED; CSO’s  Specialized prosecutor office on femicide, on the work on transfemicide |
| **Please describe the nature of this engagement (themes, specific rights, groups or situation) and with what entity (ies) you interacted.** | Indicators on the right to fair trial and justice: with Local Courts and Attorney General were developed.  With public security forces, the indicators defined include the right to not be submitted to torture, safety and security; use of force; liberty and life.  With the Penitentiary Undersecretary, a set of indicators on all rights of imprisoned persons was contextualized.  In all cases and with all institutions, indicators have been disaggregated by all relevant population groups as to reflect ODS principle of leaving no one behind and serve as a basis for designing targeted policies.  With local governments, the major focus of the work was in designing indicators for the Local HRAP.  In Jalisco, the focus was on gender based violence indicators. | The local Human Rights institution has been helpful in carrying out a process of accompaniment to a community that seeks reparation for the damage done by a company of the mining sector that has impacted their right to housing and health, among others. | With state DIF, government agency in charge of monitoring the proper functioning of service providers of care to children and adolescents who do not have parental care and people with disabilities. We have made a commitment to DIF Guanajuato to provide technical assistance in order to strengthen its capacity to monitor homes care, prevent acts of violence, and promote respect for the human rights of these two populations in internalization context.  In a research of monitoring about access to heath for people with disabilities in Mexico city in COVID 19 context, OHCHR had conversations with the institution which provides health services and another who is on charge to coordinate the government actions on pwd rights. | The engagement with those local institutions was during the consultations for indigenous communities about the Mayan Train Project, sharing observations about the process based on the international standards | With judicial authorities, we have committed to provide technical assistance on international standards on human rights that may be applicable in the cases under their knowledge. On the other hand, in the Judicial Branch of Coahuila, we have contributed in the organization of academic activities in order to disseminate international standards. | We have engaged with state legislators to advance better legislation regarding enforced disappearance and disappearance by non-state agents, particularly in the realm of victims’ rights. We have accompanied victims’ groups and associations in their demands for truth and justice in cases of enforced disappearance and disappearance by non-state agents. Especially, in their demands for significant progress in criminal investigations and forensic identification processes, as well as in the strengthening of state capacity for the search of missing people. | OHCHR Mexico is working with authorities to address police brutality by improving the human rights training program for state and municipal police in the topics of use of force, gender and gender-based violence, assemblies and protests, human rights defenders and journalists, transparency and accountability and freedom of expression. The goal of this cooperation project is to improve the training for police forces, but mainly to improve how they interact with the population on a daily basis and move from a repression approach to one based on human rights. | Most of our interactions will local authorities aim at gathering information on cases related to killed or disappeared journalists and human rights defenders (HRDs), in particular, identifying whether the killing/disappearance could be related to their human rights work. In addition, our unit has been engaging with local authorities (security forces, police in particular) at the State and municipal levels to provide them with the skills and tools to better incorporate human rights standards in their daily work. Activities included: technical assistance such as reviewing/drafting protocols concerning police interventions or providing local authorities with specific trainings in several areas such as the management of peaceful protests or issues related to better policing and greater protection to journalists and HRDs at risk, guidance for action related the right to freedom of expression, etc. | Technical cooperation involves the coordination of the process for installing this multi-actor body in charge of the assessment and plan; approaching human rights norms and standards on each of the topics of the assessments/plans; advising on the formats for public planning and budgeting; drafting indicators; mediating between CSO’s and State; poltically support these processes through time, amongst other. | Technical cooperation involves: - assisting states in developing women’s rights public policies in line with HR norms and standards (i.e. drafting of local programmes on the access to legal abortion and its protocol; drafting of local protocols for the search of missing women and girls; drafting protocols for the investigation of femicide, etc); - politically and technically accompany participatory processes where CSO’s, victims and the State could dialogue and agree upon; mediate when necessary.  Themes: GBVaW (femicide, disappearances, sexual violence) SRHR (abortion, maternal mortality, obstetric violence) | Technical cooperation to advance the guarantee of the right to health for LGBTI persons in the context of the pandemic, especially trans persons.  With the prosecutor’s office we work on strengthening the human rights and gender due diligence for the investigation of transfemicide |
| **What was the outcome/lessons learned?** | As a positive outcome we should stress that all local level actors have interest in establishing transparency and accountability mechanisms; they are interested in implementing OHCHR methodology and use it as a guiding instrument for measurement and evaluation of policies. The major obstacle however, for advancing with the generation of all defined indicators is the lack of statistical systems and resources for putting such systems in place. Furthermore, local governments require substantive time to propose and obtain budget for data collection, data processing and analysis. | Working in a coordinated manner with the institution allows us, on the one hand, to generate a space of neutrality and trust in the dialogue table between the company and the community, as well as to achieve the necessary support and assistance for the community since we are not all the time on the ground, the participation of the local Human Rights institution allows us to have another approach and to activate other mechanisms that help the community in achieving its demands. | DIF is a government agency with the potential to promote respect for the human rights of children and adolescents in institutionalized contexts. However, it´s powers are limited.  About access to health. There is a clear disarticulation in the care measures for people with disabilities in Mexico City, which has to do with the design of the health system itself. Even in the pandemic, failed to establish an information collection system to identify the profiles of people who require services, even less to provide them. On the other hand, information among pwd on priority care measures is very scarce, which prevented them from exercising their rights. | The local authorities and Human rights institutions increased their knowledge and capacities on the rights of indigenous people to free, prior and informed consultation-consent | In some cases, the standards sent has been taken into account in the judges' discussions and in their sentences | Achieving trust between the actors involved is key.  Achieving progress many times requires identifying state agents that are willing to cooperate.  Capacity-building in the areas of criminal investigation and search of missing people continues to be one of the main challenges. | The commitment of authorities and the will to appropriate the collaboration projects with OHCHR is fundamental to guarantee long-term results within institutions.  OHCHR technical assistance is not limited to theoretical issues. It is fundamental to ensure that there is a change in reality and a measurement of the impact of our work.  It is important that authorities provide information to civil society and other relevant actors on their collaboration with OHCHR. | The outcomes are mixed. Experience shows that political will from local entities is one of the main components for success. Relating to liaising with local authorities on specific cases of killings or disappearances, local authorities in charge of investigation often display poor diligence. Nevertheless, it is highly probable that the UN s intervention in such cases increase the potential action from local authorities. More often than not, success depends on individuals 'willingness to act. In terms of trainings, the format needs to be adapted to the local needs and that there is no standard response for each case. In addition, it can be challenging to measure our impact on the short and long-term.  Usually working with local human rights commissions is positive, in the sense that they are open to cooperate, nevertheless it is hard to have concrete answers or solutions from them. On the other hand, working with local authorities such as police units is harder, as they are less willing to cooperate with the office and give away relevant information about investigations or similar. | There is an important need for political will in order to these processes to be successful, additional to an imperative necessity for public officials to increase their knowledge and capacities on human rights.  Furthermore, these processes brought together different actors building on the possibilities for dialogue, which are very relevant. | We have had important outcomes depending on the states we work at.  I referred some already before.  It is relevant to assert that the presence of OHCHR in these processes has been most welcomed both by CSO’s and authorities for we approach HR standards and political mediation and certainty. | Both are processes recently initiated but we consider having great opportunities for impacts in guaranteeing HR for LGBTI persons, specifically trans persons. |
| **Are you (or your office) planning any engagement with regional, local or city authorities this year or near future? If yes, on what topic?** | Yes. Additionally to those established in the work plan, the office is collaborating with all local institutions interested in establishing accountability mechanisms. | YEs on the same topic | With DIF's and ombudsperson in order to capacity building to protect the rights of people with disabilities in institutionalization context.  Collaboration with the institution that provides health services may be sought in order to strengthen its capacity in the care of pwd. | The technical assistance with the local authorities during the consultations on the Mayan Train will continue during this year |  | Yes, state prosecutors’ offices and local commissions for the search of missing people in some states. Both of them regarding enforced disappearances and disappearances by non-state actors. | Several capacity-building projects are being developed. One specific project with the Quintana Roo State authorities, which has already, includes providing capacity-building trainings, technical expertise related to police conduct during assemblies, including on the use of force, police conduct related to journalists, HRDs, all including a gender perspective. Other projects include providing capacity-building to law enforcement officials in Mexico city on the management of peaceful assemblies.  We are expecting to engage with local entities in the next future. | For example, in the state of Oaxaca we are trying to establish a plan for the protection of a particular community which has been victim of violence in the past months. For that, we plan to bring together the local community, ombudsperson and police authority of the state to design a security plan. | The Ministry of Interior is now leading these processes, and has asked for OHCHR MEX assistance. So far, no new local plan is being drafted but there are possibilities in near future. | Yes, these are continuous activities. | Yes, through this year and onwards. |
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